London City Council

20 S. Walnut Street, London, Ohio 43140

November 7, 2024 at 6:30pm

Minutes

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

Present – *President Peters, Councilman Eades, Councilman Hays, Councilman McDaniels, Councilman Hitt, Councilman Stahl, Councilman Norman, Councilwoman Treynor*

Absent

Minutes – Approval of October 17, 2024 minutes, approved by unanimous vote

Public Hearing

Motion to exit regular meeting and enter into Public Hearing by Councilman Norman, 2nd Councilman Stahl. The motion carried by the following vote

Absent:	**0-**	
Affirmative:	**7-**	**Eades, Hays, McDaniels, Hitt, Treynor, Stahl, Norman**
Against:	**0-**	

ORDINANCE 184-24 Sponsor: Brent McDaniels An ORDINANCE creating a designated outdoor refreshment area.

Motion to exit Public Hearing and enter into regular meeting by Councilman Norman, 2nd Councilman Stahl. The motion carried by the following vote

Absent:	**0-**	
Affirmative:	**7-**	**Eades, Hays, McDaniels, Hitt, Treynor, Stahl, Norman**
Against:	**0-**	

Communications/Announcements – none

Audience Concerns

Michael C Norman at 188 South Oak Street, and the first thing he wanted to bring up was the ordinance mentioned last meeting to assist with fixing of tree damage

to our sidewalks. And as a citizen, one of his concerns is whether or not we'll be able to put regulations forth into that ordinance that would cause it to be some sort of offense to have either tree limbs hanging a certain distance from the sidewalk or road. He took a personal walk about through the first three wards of London, and the one that concerned him the most was Ward two, being that He is only six feet tall, there's a lot of trees that get in the way of the pedestrian experience. However, He was thinking about using, or whether he wouldn't use the money, but the money from fund 230 the street department for Construction, maintenance and roads. That fund today has about $300,000 left in it before it dips below the average percentage of money. He has requested the records over the last five years to whether or not we'd be able to provide a service to for trees to deal with the damage to the sidewalks, the overhanging limbs, and just general maintenance of the pedestrian experience. His second concern was, after pulling the public records for the several departments of London, the first thing he noticed was the emergency services departments are incredibly low. He interviewed a few department heads, and the police department specifically listed that. Or rather, He took the quote that the income tax rate was lower than 2%, which is what the person reported when it's not. We're not up to snuff with municipalities our size. We're a little lower. When he went to interview the department heads of the fire department, he asked them whether or not if they were granted some sort of tax levy, and whether or not they'd be able to use that money, and he was given a resounding yes, because on average, every year, the fire department spends 97% of its budget, and he can almost tell by looking at it that they don't stop spending because they want to. They do it because they have to. And when he saw the surplus money in other departments, he wondered why there hasn't been some sort of budget cut for the departments that have more money when the departments that need money don't have it.

Councilman McDaniels responded that our income taxes are on are on par with just about everybody in the state at two, two and a half, because we also pay a 1% income tax of the school.

Michael C. Norman responded with that is fantastic here on his end, the more important issue for him, as opposed to the income tax level, because being unemployed that doesn't exactly affect him. What's more important to him is the departments city wide, they don't use all of the money they have, and they consistently get a lot of the amount of funding a year that he hears in other situations such as the Street Department should be using funds and or redistributing them back into the city to other departments that would use them. He didn’t know how we would go to approach that,

Councilman Norman responded that when you did your research, if I'm understanding what you're saying is, your concern is the fire department uses 97% of their budget every year, but giving them only 3% and so what you're saying is, when you did your research, other departments have more than 3% left ove

Michael C. Norman again responded that Oh, they have far more than 3% that was the most. The police department isn't doing much better. They usually have, and he took the average over the last five years, He sent emails to everyone on counter. He

believes the police department uses about 89% every year. The fire department, 97 that leaves them with 3% and 11% respectively. The street department usually has upwards of 50% left, or whatever percentage it be, so it's the police department only having 11% of their budget left. The other departments he researched with the public records request double that amount of surplus, easily, Thank you. He also noticed when he reviewed the agenda tonight that there are several resolutions regarding appropriations of funds and whatnot. One put forward, He believed, by Greg Eades, was the police department needs a new server, and when asked, both the department's fire and police said that their number one upkeep cost is maintenance and upgrades to keep up with basically technological advancement and whatnot. Thank you.

Committee Reports — *(Department reports are attached to committee meeting minutes.)*

Councilman Eades stated the Budget, personnel, and Finance Committee met on October 21 here are a couple things we'll share of the overall revenue for the year, $14.8 million the overall expenses were about 18.2 however, if you take out the $6,143,000 that we transferred out with the water and the sewer departments and gave that to mid-Ohio. Our expenses are just a little over $12 million so we are ahead for the year. We have several things that we're going to discuss tonight, all, almost all those new businesses. He stated that just about everything is going to be addressed in new business. However, the next finance meeting is going to be held on Monday, November 18, at 530pm. He expected we're going to have a first look at the budget at that time. He also expects to have conversations about new tax increment funding agreements and a new community authority agreement that are currently being reviewed by the law director. The Law director will be giving an overview of these documents and will be able to ask questions for clarification. He thinks it's going to be important that everybody goes to that meeting so you can understand what these items are.He stated that he thinks you'll learn a lot at that meeting about these new items that are going to come before us as a council later on. He stated that we should also be able to decide, hopefully, if we're going to pursue bonds to pay for the new police department, or where they're going to stay with the loan. There's a discussion that occurred about that, that we may be able to get bonds at a rate very similar to what the loan would be, but if we get the bonds, we can start construction earlier. The loans may take quite a while to come through, so I hope we have that discussion also. So again, that'll be Monday, November 18, 530 next door.

Councilman McDaniels stated that next public service meeting is Tuesday, the 12th at five o'clock next door. He stated that we're going to be tackling the sidewalks. Public Safety is at six.

Councilman Hays stated that public safety meeting is Tuesday, 12th at six o'clock in the conference room.

Councilman Hitt had nothing to report

Councilwoman Treynor had nothing to report

Councilman Stahl also had nothing to report

Councilman Norman with nothing to report

City Official Reports

Mayor Closser report attached

Councilman Eades inquired about the ongoing community survey, noting that approximately 180 surveys had been returned at one point, but now over 200 responses have been received. He referenced a conversation with Kim Littleton, who mentioned that a typical expectation would be a response rate of about 10% of the community. He highlighted that this goal is still far from being achieved. He stated that it sounds like we're just relying on social media and the city website. He suggested sending a postcard out to get the actual feedback. There are a lot of people that aren't on Facebook. They don't go to the city website all the time unless they need something, and he thinks we can do a little bit better in trying to reach those people who haven't been on there yet. He is open to discussion on topic.

3rd Reading

ORDINANCE 184-24 Sponsor: Brent McDaniels An ORDINANCE creating a designated outdoor refreshment area

Councilman mcDanels said this was discussed earlier during in public hearing. He thinks this will be good thing for downtown London

President Peters asked if this was something that council would like to amend

Councilman Eades would like to discuss a couple of points that he brought up during the last meeting. He didn't know if there was an interest in moving down to the old hotel, but we don't know what's going on there. He thinks that's probably if we're going to create the area then we should include that area too. We're already at the railroad tracks, and the other tracks are abandoned at this point, 99.9% of the time they're not used. He did think crossing the railroad tracks would be an issue, but we're already there. People are going to be right beside it, Jim's bars is right there. It's going to be part of the DORA anyway. The other thing that he brought up that he would like to at least have a discussion about is if we decide to limit those hours, instead of being 11am to 10pm every day, other places have more limited hours. He suggested Monday through Thursday, from 4pm to 10, Friday and Saturday, 11am to 10pm and then no DORA on Sundays, unless exceptions were made by council. He believes that we as a Council or the administration can work with us to limit those hours, as suggested, at least for the first year, and see how it works. And if you have a day, if you say no to Sundays, if there's an event that's going to be on Sunday, Council can agree to extend that for the day, or we can change the hours moving forward. So he did want to bring that up as a discussion point. He did comment on understanding the concerns that Miss

Branson brought forth. However, from his personal experience, it seems to be a social environment, and he thinks the hardcore drinkers stay in the bar, but he thinks people that want to go out and enjoy London, he thinks they'll do that, and they'll probably do that responsibly in most cases.

Mayor Closser commented on being downtown and having a business down there for 22 years. He can understand the time frame and what Greg's talking about. But we also need to realize that a lot of people work third shift, and so their night time is 10 or 11am. It's like their dinner time, and then they have a couple drinks. They come through the carry out, go to gyms, whatever, in the morning, and then go home, and they go to bed, and then they get up and go to work at 10 or midnight or whatever they do. He stated there's more people than you may think.

Councilman Norman asked a question, because, Ms. Branson did bring up some pretty good statistics with her. He asked if we had looked at other DORAs and did a comparison before and after.

Mayor Closser responded that we have not but Eve and himself have spoken to people in Hilliard and other DORAs. He stated that he understood what Ms. Branson was saying but also stated that just because there is a DORA, people are still going down there in bars and restaurants and things drinking.

Councilman Norman asked if in the future that we find that this isn't working for us, will this be able to be retracted?

Mayor Closser responded with he would assume so

Councilman McDaniels moved to extend the DORA down to the second set of tracks on Main Street.

Motion to amend RESOLUTION by Councilman McDaniels, 2nd Councilman Eades. The motion caried by the following vote:

Absent:	**0-**	
Affirmative:	**6-**	**Hays, Hitt, McDaniels, Stahl, Treynor, Eades**
Against:	**1-**	**Norman**

Councilman Eades moved to change the hours to 4pm-10pm Monday through Thursday, 11am-10pm on Fridays and Saturdays, and No DORA on Sundays

Motion to amend RESOLUTION by Councilman Eades, 2nd Councilman McDaniels. The motion caried by the following vote:

Absent:	**0-**	
Affirmative:	**5-**	**Hitt, Norman, McDnaiels, Eades, Hays**
Against:	**2-**	**Treynor, Stahl**

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

Absent: **0-**
Affirmative: **6-** **McDaniels, Stahl, Treynor, Eades, Hays, Hitt**
Against: **1-** **Norman,**

2nd Reading

RESOLUTION 185-24 Sponsor: Brent McDaniels A RESOLUTION authorizing the Auditor to increase appropriations and transfer funds. The street department is in need of a new dump truck

Councilman McDnaiels said this is for street department and need to dump truck to fix the roads

Councilman Norman asked how many trucks will we have in use after we purchase this one. He said he thought we just purchased another truck.

Mr. Castle said this truck would be for tight street/side roads vs. the previous trucks was for main roads.

Councilman Hays asked if this would have plow on it?

Mr. Castle said that he plans to plow snow with it so would assume yes

Councilman Norman asked if we would need to pay for additional expenses on accessories.

Mr. Castle reponded that he should be able to purchase any accessories that he may need out of his own budget.

Motion to suspend the 3-reading rule by Councilman Hays, 2nd Councilman Norman. The motion carried by the following vote:

Absent: **0-**
Affirmative: **7-** **Eades, Hays, McDaniels, Hitt, Treynor, Stahl, Norman**
Against: **0-**

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

Absent: **0-**
Affirmative: **7-** **Eades, Hays, McDaniels, Hitt, Treynor, Stahl, Norman**
Against: **0-**

ORDINANCE 186-24 Sponsor: John Stahl An ORDINANCE declaring the necessity for planting, maintaining, trimming, and removing shade trees in and along the streets of the City of London, estimating the cost thereof and providing for the levy of special assessment

Councilman Stahl provided a historical overview of the Tree Commission. He

recounted the challenges with trees downtown in the mid-1980s, specifically issues with birds nesting in the old trees. During this time of year, the birds created a mess on the sidewalks, requiring daily cleaning. The Fire Department eventually addressed the problem by spraying water to deter the birds. This situation led to the establishment of the Tree Commission. At its inception, Mayor Eades supported the idea but required the commission to secure its own funding. Councilman Stahl explained that funding was derived from an ordinance in surrounding cities related to trees, which has remained a resource for tree management over the years. He noted that the ordinance is reviewed every two years, with funds typically allocated to ongoing tree maintenance and planting. However, due to this year's drought, which has left the area 10 inches below normal rainfall, no fall plantings are planned to avoid the additional strain of watering. Funds are being conserved for use next year. Over the years, the commission has worked to balance tree removal and planting, addressing issues such as tree stumps in the early years. Recently, several old trees were removed, improving safety during this year's high winds, with no significant incidents reported. Councilman Stahl concluded by inviting questions from the council.

Leave for 3rd Reading

RESOLUTION 187-24 Sponsor: Brent McDaniels A RESOLUTION authorizing the Safety Service Director to enter into contract. The street department would like to purchase a dump truck.

Councilman McDaniels stated this will allow Mr. Castle to purchase the dump truck.

Motion to suspend the 3-reading rule by Councilman Hays, 2nd Councilman Norman. The motion carried by the following vote:

Absent:	**0-**	
Affirmative:	**7-**	**Treynor, Eades, Hays, Hitt, Norman, McDaniels, Stahl**
Against:	**0-**	

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

Absent:	**0-**	
Affirmative:	**7-**	**Eades, Hays. McDaniels, Hitt, Treynor, Stahl, Norman**
Against:	**0-**	

New Business

RESOLUTION 188-24 Sponsored by: Greg Eades A RESOLUTION increasing appropriations. The Police Department is in need of a new server.

Councilman Eades stated the police department needs a new server, and this will be transferred to the new police department. The money is within budget and has emergency clause

Motion to suspend the 3-reading rule by Councilman Norman, 2nd Councilman Eades. The motion carried by the following vote:

Absent: 0-
Affirmative: 7- Treynor, Eades, Hays, Hitt, Norman, McDaniels, Stahl
Against: 0-

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

Absent: 0-
Affirmative: 7- Eades, Hays. McDaniels, Hitt, Treynor, Stahl, Norman
Against: 0-

RESOLUTION 189-24 Sponsored by: Shannon Treynor A RESOLUTION increasing appropriations. The tax refunds have exceeded the original budget.

Councilwoman Treynor said this and next resolution are from a transition from the prior firm managing the city's income tax withholding to the new payroll service. During this transition, there was an overlap that resulted in some withholding payments being duplicated, causing the city to pay twice. As a result, the budget for withholding payments has been exceeded. The city will work to rectify this by repaying the affected departments for the erroneous duplicate withholding payments.

Motion to suspend the 3-reading rule by Councilman Treynor, 2nd Councilman Norman. The motion carried by the following vote:

Absent: 0-
Affirmative: 7- Treynor, Eades, Hays, Hitt, Norman, McDaniels, Stahl
Against: 0-

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

Absent: 0-
Affirmative: 7- Eades, Hays, McDaniels, Hitt, Treynor, Stahl, Norman
Against: 0-

RESOLUTION 190-24 Sponsored by: Shannon Treynor A RESOLUTION increasing appropriations. The tax refunds have exceeded the original budget.

Councilwoman Treynor said this is the same problem, but this is the fire department. Taxes overpaid by mistake. They would like to put the money back into their budget.

Motion to suspend the 3-reading rule by Councilman Treynor, 2nd Councilman Norman. The motion carried by the following vote:

Absent: **0-**
Affirmative: **7-** **Treynor, Eades, Hays, Hitt, Norman, McDaniels, Stahl**
Against: **0-**

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

Absent: **0-**
Affirmative: **7-** **Eades, Hays, McDaniels, Hitt, Treynor, Stahl, Norman**
Against: **0-**

RESOLUTION 191-24 Sponsored by: Shannon Treynor A RESOLUTION increasing appropriations. To comply with the next phase of the contract for the architecture of the police building.

Councilwoman Treynor said they are in the next phase, and this is relevant to the architect and construction manager, and work on the building will stop if they must wait for the funds. Motion to borrow money from the general fund to cover design elements, environmental studies, and certain technical drawings. There is a request for emergency funding.

Councilman Eades stated that this money will be repaid back to general fund with the funds coming in

Motion to suspend the 3-reading rule by Councilman Treynor, 2nd Councilman Norman. The motion carried by the following vote:

Absent: **0-**
Affirmative: **7-** **Treynor, Eades, Hays, Hitt, Norman, McDaniels, Stahl**
Against: **0-**

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

Absent: **0-**
Affirmative: **7-** **Eades, Hays. McDaniels, Hitt, Treynor, Stahl, Norman**
Against: **0-**

RESOLUTION 192-24 Sponsored by Andrew Hitt A RESOLUTION authorizing the Auditor to increase appropriations and transfer funds. The basketball courts and skate park needs to be milled and filled.

Councilman Hitt said this is to mill down and resurface the basketball courts and skate park.

President Peters asked if this could be done this fall?

Councilwoman Treynor said that it couldn't happen until spring.

Mayor Closser said we are going to put money into parks and playground. That money will roll into next year and we can plan ahead and get a bid early to get this done

Councilman Eades said that this was recommended by multiple department heads. The original amount was 135K asked. We had a discussion because they have 130k in account now, and we didn't want to drain that in case something else came up, so we came to 75k. Then, they will still have money in the account if needed.

Councilwoman Treynor said this is for 2 projects but lumped together to get a group discount. This is to transfer money so they can get a jump on it whenever they are able to get it done.

Councilman Eades said that this does not need passed tonight, they just want it transferred before the end of the year

Leave for 2nd Reading

ORDINANCE 193-24 Sponsored by Greg Eades An ORDINANCE for strengths on job descriptions.

Councilman Eades said, foremost, this would allow the fire department to have a supervisor at both stations. The difference in cost was only like 700 dollars a year to change to lieutenant vs. officer of the day. This will also remove the water and sanitary sewer department, which we no longer have. This is not an emergency

Leave for 2nd Reading

ORDINANCE 194-24 Sponsored by Greg Eades An ORDINANCE amending ORDINANCE 230-23 to reflect a range of salaries of Department Heads and Non-union personnel.

Councilman Eades stated that department heads are not not given raises automatically. This is a me too action to allow those to have raises, and thus they will be paid more than their employees. He mentioned that you don't really want your police chief being paid less than his sergeants. These raises are not guaranteed, and It's up to the council to decide to approve the amount percentages. The document for 2025, 2026, and 2027 mirrors what the contracts for union employees are for three years. It also mirrors the percentages of 6%, 4%, and 4% that are in contracts that have already been approved. It is up to the council if you want to approve a three-year plan or not; He stated that we don't have to do a three-year plan.

Mayor Closser stated that some of you might have been on council when we tried to get the gap between employees and the department heads, because we started to see that there would be an issue where someone could not be a department head and not have all that responsibility and be very close to department head money. We were able to increase that, and since then, we've been keeping that gap by giving or adjusting these to the same amount, same percentage as the union

contract. We knew it would be 6%, then 4%, and 4%, so we thought we would make it easier on the council and make this 3 years as well. The gap will entice people to want to work towards being a department head and get paid accordingly for that. This is the first time we've done all three. If you don't do all three, we'll come back next year and try to get four, because we want to keep that gap,

Councilman Norman stated that this doesn't change the process. This is only changing is the range. The department heads will still be reviewed every year. This also doesn't mean just because you're a department head then you will be at top of range. It does mean that if your not making that minimal amount then you will automatically be increased whether your performance deserves it or not.

Mayor Closser said yes to Mr. Norman. He also said if you are at minimum amount and it went up 6% then you would automatically go up. He stated that he doesn't believe anyione is at minimum amount. He said if anybody leaves then this will help that that our pay ranges are from here to here. This might entice people to want to come here and be a department head, or, have someone move up internally

Councilman Eades asked if this changes the floor. 6% was added to the floor and top. This document also states that our Tax Director could be paid as little as $11,414.

Mayor Closser stated that we could amend that because that is from when we didn't have a Tax Director, and there was discussion about hiring a part-time one. He also said just like any legislation, you could pass a three year and then come back next year and want to lower it. We thought it would just be easier on the council. It has an emergency clause so that it will be in effect for 2025.

Leave for 2nd Reading

RESOLUTION 195-24 Sponsored by Shannon Treynor A RESOLUTION authorizing the Safety Service Director to enter into a collective bargaining agreements between the City of London and the London Firefighters Local 3509 IAF.

Mayor Closser said that once they signed off on it, we sent off the contract for your review.

Councilwoman Treynor stated that the contract resulted in 6,4,4, and similar to the previous union contract we reviewed.

Councilman Eades said he did review, but there were very few changes overall besides rates. He said that we have 30 days to ratify and if we don't then it ratifies automatically.

Mayor Closser said that you should be able to go one more reading.

Councilman Eades stated that we left the other for 2 readings.

Leave for 2nd Reading

RESOLUTION 196-24 Sponsored by Shannon Treynor A RESOLUTION adopting the recommendations of the Planning Commission. London Landing at Brooksedge Phase IV

Councilwoman Treynor reported that Phase 4 of the project was approved by the Planning Commission after a public hearing where no opposition was presented. She noted that the final plan for Phase 4 was approved and a public hearing for has been scheduled

Councilman Norman inquired about Phase 3, asking if there were any statistics on how quickly the homes sold and the percentage sold.

Wes Smith, representing Paul Gross, Nick Coughlin, and Tom Coughlin, clarified that construction for Phase 3 has not yet begun but is set to start in the coming week. He noted that Phase 2, where Arbor Homes is the builder, is moving quickly due to high demand, with homes selling faster than they can be built. The average price of homes is $350,000, but the number of people per household is currently unknown.

Councilman Norman asked for clarification on the high demand

Wes Smith confirmed that homes are selling rapidly.

Councilwoman Treynor followed up by asking if the majority of buyers were relocating to the area.

Wes Smith stated that 84% of buyers in London Landing are coming from outside the county.

Mayor Closser remarked on the visible growth of the development, noting frequent inquiries from the community about who is moving in and the positive economic impact, including increased disposable income, as evidenced by residents giving out full-sized candy bars during Halloween.

Councilman Eades asked how many homes had been sold or occupied.

Wes Smith responded that only one home remains unsold in Phase 1, and Phase 2 is nearly sold out.

Councilman Norman sought clarification on the size of Phase 3, asking if it was smaller than other phases.

Wes Smith confirmed that Phase 3 includes 70 lots, while Phase 4 will have 74 lots.

President Peters asked about plans for a road connecting Phase 4 to Route 56.

Wes Smith confirmed that the road would connect through the bowling alley and that this alignment is consistent with the findings of a previous traffic study.

Public Hearing scheduled for December 19, 2024 during the regular Council meeting

Leave for 2nd Reading

RESOLUTION 197-24 Sponsored by Greg Eades A RESOLUTION authorizing the Mayor to enter into a collection agreement with the Ohio Attorney General. The City has delinquent debts that they are unable to collect.

Councilman Eades introduced a discussion regarding the process for addressing unpaid taxes, noting the extensive steps currently required by the city attorney and tax department to pursue delinquent accounts. He explained that the Ohio Attorney General's Office (OAG) has an established team to manage such collections more efficiently. The OAG charges a percentage fee for this service, though the city does not incur debt for utilizing it. Instead, the OAG retains its fee from the collected funds. Additionally, the OAG has the authority to intercept state tax refunds—and possibly federal refunds—to recover unpaid taxes, a capability the city does not currently have.

Councilwoman Treynor further elaborated on the current process, describing it as labor-intensive. The tax director must sign a complaint for each case of delinquent taxes, and the city law director is required to take the matter to small claims court. Delinquent taxpayers must then attend court, present their arguments, and often enter agreements, which still lack enforceable collections measures. She emphasized that the OAG's tax intercept program offers a more effective solution, as it can access both state and federal tax refunds for collections. The OAG collects a 10% fee, with the remaining 90% of recovered funds returned to the city. She concluded by highlighting the program's widespread adoption among other municipalities and recommended moving forward with the agreement, describing it as a "win-win" for the city.

Councilwoman Treynor emphasized that there is no rush to finalize the process for addressing delinquent tax collections.

Councilman Norman inquired about the current workload of the city's legal team and how much of a burden this process removes from their responsibilities.

Councilwoman Treynor explained that while delinquent tax cases tend to come in batches of about 15 to 20 every couple of months, they still require significant time and resources. The process includes paying filing fees, processing paperwork, meeting with delinquent taxpayers, and attempting to negotiate payment agreements. However, without additional enforcement mechanisms, pursuing collections becomes both time-consuming and costly.

Councilman Norman then asked whether the Ohio Attorney General (OAG) would follow the same steps as the city's law director. Specifically, he questioned if delinquent taxpayers would still have opportunities to resolve their issues with the city's tax department before the OAG takes over.

Councilwoman Treynor clarified that before the OAG becomes involved, an internal

process must occur to certify the delinquent taxes. Taxpayers are given opportunities to dispute amounts, penalties, or interest during this certification stage. Once the delinquency is certified and handed over to the OAG, enforcement begins. The OAG uses various tools, including tax intercepts, which allow them to recover unpaid taxes directly from state or federal tax refunds. In addition, the OAG contracts with external attorneys, who collect the same 10% finder's fee for delinquent amounts.

Councilman Norman expressed concern about ensuring delinquent taxpayers have adequate opportunities to resolve their debts. He emphasized the importance of maintaining a system that allows taxpayers to engage with the tax department and law director before the OAG takes over.

Councilwoman Treynor reassured him that the OAG's tax intercept is just one tool in their enforcement arsenal and is generally used as a last resort. The OAG also offers payment plans and other options similar to the city's current process, ensuring taxpayers still have opportunities to resolve their obligations before more aggressive collection measures are employed.

Leave for 2nd Reading

Round Table

Councilman Norman expressed gratitude to everyone who attended and acknowledged that Ms. Branson raised valid concerns. He shared his unease about the DORA extension beyond the railroad tracks, noting the lack of barriers in some areas. While he appreciated the atmosphere of DORAs like Hilliard's, he expressed concern about safety near the tracks, particularly for individuals who may lose balance. He clarified that his sole reason for voting against the DORA was the extension; otherwise, he would have supported it. He also highlighted the success of recent events like the London Eyeball and Palooza calling it one of the best community events in a while. He noted the large number of children in attendance and expressed hope for even greater participation next year.

Councilman Stahl voiced his optimism about the DORA, stating that it would be a great addition and acknowledging that accidents could happen anywhere. He also commented on the hospital, though his remarks were unclear.

Councilwoman Treynor provided updates on the upcoming Old Fashioned Christmas (OFC) event, which is well underway. She detailed the planned activities, including new attractions, signage, photo opportunities, a historic fire truck, a tree lighting, elf-on-the-shelf activities, and many shops participating. The event is scheduled for December 1, from 2–7 PM, and she encouraged everyone to mark their calendars.

Councilman Hitt stated that he had nothing to add.

Councilman Hays thanked city employees for their hard work and congratulated the local football team for their 11-0 record, urging residents to fill the stadium or listen

to the game on 105 FM. He expressed optimism about the country's direction following recent events and predicted positive changes and growth in town. He also emphasized the importance of honoring veterans on Veterans Day, suggesting gestures of gratitude such as a handshake or buying them a meal to acknowledge their sacrifices. Lastly, he reminded everyone of the upcoming safety meeting on Tuesday, November 13, at 6 PM.

Councilman McDaniels highlighted the need to address the city's broken sidewalks now that the DORA is established. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Councilman Eades thanked attendees and paid tribute to his father and grandfather for their military service. He specifically honored Joshua McDaniels, who gave the ultimate sacrifice in service to the country. He noted that Joshua was his son's best friend, shared his personal commitment to never forgetting those who lost their lives serving the nation.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:08 pm

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

Matthew Edgington, Council Clerk	Joshua Peters, Council President
Date	Date