

President Henry Comer called the regular, zoom, meeting of the London City Council to order.

Due to the COVID-19 virus, council will continue to meet via zoom until we can meet in person. Mayor Pat Closser, Safety Service Director Joe Mosier, and City Treasurer Sue Mosier were also present during the zoom meeting.

CLERK CALLED ROLL: Brenda Russell, present; Josh Peters, present; Bryan Robinson, present; Rich Hays, present; Andrew Hitt, present; Carla Blazier, arrived later after roll call; Anthony Smith, present.

MINUTES: Motion by Hays to approve the minutes as received, second by Russell. All were in favor by responding "aye".

COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

AUDIENCE CONCERNS: President Comer said that a citizen had reach out regarding flooding in her neighborhood.

Councilman Robinson shared that Kelly Colopy, and Mike and Kim Ballenger had reached out concerning the extreme flooding on Marimont and Graceland Avenues. On March 29, there was a huge flood causing lots of property damage to both their properties.

President Comer spoke with Mrs. Ballenger also. He understood it is an issue that's been ongoing for quite awhile. The city put in new drainage at the front of the properties. The flooding is coming from behind the private properties. This is a civil matter and neighbors needs to get in touch with those property owners and handle it civilly. He gave Mrs. Ballenger Law Director Hitt's information.

Councilwoman Russell asked if they were new in the area. Bill Long, administration, and a representative from the state dealt with the issue last year. The city did all they could do. She suggested directing them to Mr. Long.

Councilman Robinson replied that the Copoly's moved into the area in 2018. The Ballenger's have gone through a couple of floods over the past six years. The Copoly's wanted to exhaust every option before getting a lawyer and filing a civil suit. They have reached out to the landowners with no luck. "I just wanted to do my due diligence and pass it on."

President Comer shared that he had spoken with Mr. Long who said they had two phases planned to fix the drainage in the front of the properties. Phase one took care of the problem. There was no need for a second phase. The city has done all we can do.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilwoman Russell reported that the finance committee had met and there is legislation on the agenda tonight as a result of that meeting.

Councilman Smith informed that the Board of Public Utilities is in the process of securing bids for a new trash truck, hopefully tomorrow.

Trash in-take is way up due to residents being home because to the COVID-19 virus. It shouldn't affect anything other than the Rumpke bill will more than likely be way up for the month.

Dan Leavitt, wastewater superintendent, will be retiring soon. The Board of Public Utilities is accepting applications for the position. Zach BeDard is applying for the position. He currently is the wastewater foreman.

He also informed that the freshwater project is at a standstill right now due to the virus. The EPA can't meet with anyone to get the testing done.

CITY OFFICIAL REPORT: Mayor Pat Closser, reporting from the oval office, shared that the 7:00 p.m. live city "check-ins" are going well. He is keeping everyone in the city updated. There are a reported 23 COVID-19 cases in Madison County, with three deaths. Ohio has over 8,400. It is a huge jump from yesterday's numbers.

The governor hopes to slowly start opening the state back up May 1st.

The CARES Act has been initiated due to tax collections being down next year and businesses not being open. But it only helps cities with over 500,000 residents. That only helps out Columbus in Ohio. He shared that he had reached out to Representative Steve Stivers and Senator Bob Hackett. They are pushing to incorporate more towns and cities in the funding.

Administration has met with the finance committee and they are watching closely over the city's finances the rest of this year, so we won't have to cut budgets next year. Tax collections are estimated to be down 10-30% for the year.

Safety Service Director Mosier reported that there has been a delay in the Park Avenue project with the pouring of the footers. "We don't know if we will be able to open the pool, but the splash pad is coming along nicely!"

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION 134-20 Sponsored by: Brenda Russell A RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS
Motion by Hays to place on first reading, second by Hitt. Clerk read.

Councilwoman Russell explained that Chief Nicol would like to use these funds in his department, as needed. The collections are from forfeited property.

Motion by Russell to suspend rules, second by Hays. Roll to suspend: Peters, yes; Robinson, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Smith, yes; Russell, yes. **SUSPENDED.**

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

RESOLUTION 135-20 Sponsored by: Brenda Russell A RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS
Motion by Hays to ready, second by Russell. Clerk read.

Councilwoman Russell explained that Chief Nicol wants to transfer \$4,000 out of the \$9,000 to their education line. The funds will be used to perform blood/urine tests. The money is from alcohol fines and court costs.

Motion by Russell to suspend rules, second by Hays. Roll to suspend: Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Smith, yes; Russell, yes; Peters, yes; Robinson, yes. **SUSPENDED**

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

It was pointed out that the emergency clause was not on the resolution as thought.

Motion by Hitt to amend to add the emergency clause to Resolution No. 135-20, second by Russell. Roll to amend: Smith, yes; Russell, yes; Peters, yes; Robinson, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes. **AMENDED.**

RESOLUTION NO 135-20 (continued)

Motion by Hays to adopt Resolution No. 135-20 as amended, second by Smith. Roll to adopt as amended: Russell, yes; Peters, yes; Robinson, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Smith, yes.

ADOPTED.

RESOLUTION 136-20 Sponsored by: Brenda Russell A RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS
Motion to read by Hays, second by Robinson . Clerk read.

Councilwoman Russell explained that this is to pay Clemons and Nelson for handling the city's payroll services. There is no employee acting in that capacity right now. They are our human resource people.

Motion by Hays to suspend rules, second by Smith. Roll to suspend: Peters, yes; Robinson, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Smith, yes; Russell, yes. **SUSPENDED.**

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

RESOLUTION 137-20 Sponsored by: Brenda Russell A RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS
Hays read, Hitt second. Clerk read.

Councilwoman Russell explained this transfer is necessary to make payments on equipment, the transport vehicle, and the HVAC in the old street department building.

Motion by Hays to suspend rules, second by Hitt. Roll to suspend: Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Smith, yes; Russell, yes; Peter, yes; Robinson, yes. **SUSPENDED**

(Councilwoman Blazier arrived at this time.)

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

ORDINANCE 138-20 Sponsored by: Andrew Hitt AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 3.02 OF THE CITY POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL (exhibit) Motion by Hitt to place on first reading, second by Hays. Clerk read.

Councilman Hitt explained that this amendment adds the chief deputy auditor to the policy and procedure manual. The position is non-union, exempt from over time.

Motion by Hitt to suspend rules, second by Hays. Roll to suspend: Blazier, yes; Smith, yes; Russell, yes; Peters, yes; Robinson, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes. **SUSPENDED.**

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

ORDINANCE 139-20 Sponsored by: Andrew Hitt AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE "FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT" POLICY (attachment) Motion by Hitt to place on first reading, second by Hays. Clerk read.

Councilman Hitt explained that this allows the city to adopt the Families First COVID-19 virus act. It addresses sick time, family leave, etc.

Motion by Hitt to suspend rules, second by Hays. Roll to suspend: Russell, yes; Peters, yes; Robinson, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Blazier, yes; Russell, yes. **SUSPENDED**

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

ROUND TABLE

Councilman Robinson thanked everyone for watching the council meeting. He reminded everyone to check on neighbors.

Councilman Hitt thanked everyone for watching and second Mr. Robinson's comments.

Councilwoman Russell encouraged everyone to continue to be safe!

Councilman Smith thanked President Comer for putting in the effort to have this zoom meeting and putting it out live on Facebook.

This is the perfect opportunity for humanity to shine its brightest!

Councilwoman Blazier reminded everyone of rules while in stores. One person per grocery cart and keep your distance. This is not a time to relax. Please follow the rules to keep us safe. Enjoy spending time you're families without the hustle and bustle!

Councilman Hays thanked all the city employees for jobs well done. He thanked administration for a job well done. He congratulated Sargent Keith Akers on his retirement effective May 2. He is retiring after 30 years with the police department. "Job well done! Thank you!"

He thanked everyone for their prayers for his wife's recovery.

President Comer noted that even though these are tough times, we do need to remain vigilant! It is tough for some people to just stay home. We will preserve! Stay healthy! We will get through this!

Councilman Hitt reminded everyone of the safety committee meeting May 12, 6:00 p.m. and the city properties meeting May 27, 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURN Motion by Councilman Hays to adjourn.

Arlene Duffey, Clerk of Council

Henry Comer, Council President