

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

President Comer noted that the Clerk was not present this evening and proceeded with the roll call.

ROLL CALL: Brenda Russell, present; Josh Peters, present; Rich Hays, present; Andrew Hitt, present; Carla Blazier, present; Anthony Smith, present; Bryan Robinson, absent.

MINUTES of the previous meeting were approved as received. All were in favor by responding "aye".

PUBLIC HEARING: President Comer stated there were no public hearings scheduled this evening. However, he announced a corrected public hearing date for 108-20, 147-20 and 149-20. The correct date is Thursday, August 6. The original date was not a full 30 day notice for the public.

President Comer also noted the council rules change. The clerk no longer tape records. Notes are handwritten and video-taped. The change will make clear that the council clerk will turn on the machine to video tape the council sessions or a council member.

Council members were in favor of the change by responding "aye".

Marla Farbacher, 930 Glad Run Road, West Jefferson, addressed city council. She announced that she is running for Madison County's prosecuting attorney as an independent candidate. Marla gave her credentials. She shared that she was approached to run for the position as people were not confident with the current prosecutor. She would like to serve as the county's prosecuting attorney and is seeking support.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Smith reported on the Board of Public Utilities meeting. Some progress has been made on the ammonia situation at the new water plant. He will continue to report updated results.

Jerry Ussher, wastewater superintendent, has been doing a great job. He's been conducting spot checks around town.

The wastewater department is continuing to work with the farm science review on the animal waste project. The city will receive good revenue from this venture.

Councilman Peters announced that the next public service meeting is July 8, 1:00 p.m.

Councilwoman Blazier announced that the next finance committee meeting is July 6.

CITY OFFICIAL REPORT: Mayor Pat Closser gave his report at this time. He congratulated Councilman Brian Robinson on his new baby girl.

The Park Avenue bridge is open. The installation of sidewalks is ongoing near the Madison Health area.

The pool opened yesterday with the new splash pad. Pool guidelines are on the city's website. He challenged city council members to volunteer at the pool when they can. "Eyes" are needed to help with social distancing. Volunteers will help keep the payroll down too.

The firework display will take place tomorrow night at the London High School. He asked that residents please abide by mass social distancing guidelines. He asked residents to watch from their homes if possible. Spectators need to remain in their cars, if parking at the high school, and leave a parking space in between them. Music will be coordinated with the event on the city's local radio station 105.5 FM.

He thanked council for appropriating funds for the fireworks.

He congratulated Donovan Cooper on his promotion to Police Sergeant.

He thanked the police department for their hard work, remaining professional, and keeping the city safe.

Mayor Closser noted that there is a petition to keep the London Red Raider mascot. The school board will be meeting to decide on the best name.

The citizens have indicated that they have enjoyed his (and Maddox) 7:00 p.m. COVID-19 check-ins. He's been giving nightly updates for 60 days. It's been a great way to keep in touch with citizens.

He encouraged residents to call his office if they have any concerns. "We are here to answer questions!"

AUDIENCE CONCERNS:

Brian Sollars, 66 Flax Drive, addressed council. He is an employee of the city sanitation department. He shared his concern of safety for himself and co-workers. The current sanitation trucks and equipment need to be updated. He cited incidents of safety issues. He asked for council's consideration in passing the legislation to purchase new, updated trucks.

Todd Adelsberger, 35 Elm Street, sanitation employee, addressed council. He explained that the current trucks are falling apart and are just money pits trying to maintain them. He's worked for the department for 12 years and would like to retire from there. He asked for council's support in purchasing new trucks.

Dan LeValley, 304 Muirwood, addressed council. He also asked council to consider purchasing new trucks. The new trucks will cut down on worker's compensation incidents. Current trucks are outdated, breakdown frequently, and are basically falling apart. He shared numerous incidents with the trucks breaking down.

Les Geyman, sanitation superintendent, addressed council. He shared that he has a great bunch of guys who are hard working and do a good job. The current trucks are in dire need of repairs. He asked for council's support to purchase new trucks. New trucks will help keep employees safe and save the city money on constant repairs.

He discussed the trade-in value. They not worth trading in. They may be able to get some money for them on government.com. There will be a good warranty with the new trucks. The new trucks will require less trips to the dumps station throughout the day's pick-ups.

There was discussion on the current condition of the fleets. They are way overweight, won't be able to travel over the new bridges and can't travel outside the city limits.

President Comer thanked the employees for coming in and sharing their concerns. They are very much appreciated and do a really great job. He also appreciated Mr. Geyman's leadership.

OLD BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE 147-20 Sponsored by: Rich Hays AN ORDINANCE VACATING AN ALLEY Motion by Hays to place on third reading, second by Russell. President Comer read. The alley is beside the fire department, running from High Street to 4th Street.

A public hearing will be held at the August 6 council meeting.

LEFT ON 3rd READING.

RESOLUTION NO. 108-20 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ANNEXATION OF LAND CONTIGUOUS TO THE CITY OF LONDON, OHIO Motion by Hays to place on second reading, second by Blazier. President Comer read.

A public hearing will be held at the August 6th council meeting.

LEFT ON 2ND READNIG.

RESOLUTION NO. 148-20 Sponsored by: Brenda Russell A RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING FUNDS AND INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS Motion by Hays to place on second reading, second by Russell. President Comer read.

Councilwoman Russell explained that these funds just need to be transferred to municipal street fund. These funds are a reimbursement from OPWC for the Park Avenue Street project.

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

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

ORDINANCE NO. 149-20 Sponsored by Rich Hays. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING OFFICIAL ZONING MAP. Motion by Hays to place on second reading, second by Hitt. President Comer read.

Councilman Hays explained that Mr. Bill Cain is requesting a zoning change from R-3 to B-2.

There is a public hearing at the August 6th city council meeting.

LEFT ON 2ND READING.

ORDINANCE 150-20 Sponsored By: Henry Comer A RESOLUTION TO REQUEST RELIEF PURSUANT TO THE CARES ACT Motion by Hays to place on second reading, second by Hitt. President Comer read.

President Comer explained that the city will be able to apply for their share of the CARES ACT from the county coronavirus relief distribution fund.

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

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

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION NO. 151-20 Sponsored by Anthony Smith. A RESOLUTION DECREASING APPROPRIATIONS. Motion by Hays to place on first reading, second by Hitt. President Comer read.

LEFT ON 1ST READING

RESOLUTION NO. 152-20 Sponsored by Anthony Smith A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES TO APPLY FOR A LOAN. Motion by Smith to place on first reading, second by Hays. President Comer read.

Councilman Smith explained that he had contacted the auditor's office to see if \$700,000.00 is free and clear and could be used for the purchase of the trucks. They are looking into seeing if they money is available and will get back with him. He wanted to make sure it is totally free and clear before everyone got excited about it.

He stated that Steve Lelonek and Steve Adams, Merchant's Bank, have done an excellent job with the financing package.

He noted that he sent pictures of the truck and reports to all council members for their review.

Councilman Smith explained all the financial scenarios that went into planning to purchase the new dump trucks.

He did say that that this legislation is not officially "linked" to the finance committee as they have not had an official meeting to discuss this. But, three members on the BPU committee are also on the finance committee. However, this legislation is time sensitive.

He said the trucks come with \$20,000 in free warranties. The costs of the new trucks are \$317,000.00. There is no way we will need the full \$660,000.00

Mr. Smith said that Councilman Robinson is also very impressed with the quality of the trucks, the price, and the warranties the city will be getting.

The committee feels the trucks will be easily affordable and sees no reason to raise cost for sanitation services. They maybe even looking into lowering costs.

There should be enough money to pay off three trucks in less than five years.

The new trucks will be able to handle the constant stop and go.

The current trucks are costing way too much on upkeep alone. There maintenance issues every day. There is a hole in one of the trucks!

The sanitation department will be able to go after commercial accounts having two new trucks. If we go and get their business, we want them to be happy with us. Commercial business will bring in revenue.

Councilman Smith said if this passes this evening, he will contact Rumpke to renegotiate their fees.

Councilman Peters asked if there was a plan of action to get commercial business back that have outsourced.

Councilman Smith replied that London is a "closed" city. We are not going to force businesses to use us. We will work with them. It's not fair to force them to use us and then pay more!

A lot of businesses are not recycling. If we can get them to recycle, we will save us even more money. The city can recycle as much as we want and it doesn't cost us anymore.

Councilman Smith thanked Merchant's bank for the interest rate they are able to offer.

He thanked sanitation department employees for coming in this evening and sharing their thoughts and concerns on the condition of the current fleet of trucks and the need for new ones.

Currently, the dump station is open 2:30 to 4:00. They would like to offer more services. There is currently free curbside service for our senior citizens.

He noted that the city's trash bill is up due to COVID as everyone is cleaning!

Councilman Hays thanked Councilman Smith for all his research and effort he put into working with the sanitation department and Board of Public Utilities committee to get the best price and warranties on these trucks for the city.

Mr. Hays had reviewed all the same figures and Mr. Smith is right on the money.

Councilman Hays motioned to approve the trucks and suspend three readings, second by Russell. Roll to suspend: Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Blazier, yes; Smith, yes; Russell, yes; Peters, yes. **SUSPENDED**

Council members all agreed that the safety of the employees is the city's main concern.

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

RESOLUTION 153-20 Sponsored by Anthony Smith. A RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS. Motion by Hays to place on first reading, second by Russell. President Comer read.

Councilman Smith noted that this is for the down payment for the new sanitation trucks.

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

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

ROUND TABLE:

Councilman Smith thanked council members for their support in passing the legislation to purchase the new trucks. He appreciated them all being present this evening to take care of this. He thanked Mayor Closser for his support.

He also thanked all the sanitation employees who came in this evening and spoke with council.

The trucks will be maintained and washed daily. "We will be watching Les!"

Councilwoman Blazier thanked the sanitation department for the great job that they do. They are unsung heroes!

She reminded everyone to continue to be safe, social distance and wear masks. "Be kind!"

Councilman Hitt complimented Councilman Smith on all the research he did and a job well done. He thanked everyone who came in and presented their cases for new trucks.

He thanked the police department for taking care of the city.

Councilman Hays thanked all city employees for the good job that they do. "We don't know what we would do without you!"

He also thanked the sanitation department employees for coming in this evening.

"Just love each other, take care of each other, keep prayers going, and God Bless!"

Councilman Peters thanked the sanitation department employees for coming in. He thanked Councilman Smith for all his work. He is excited to see the new trucks.

He reminded that the next public service meeting is July 8th.

Councilwoman Russell thank Mr. Geyman for returning her call and for all the hard work his department does. She thanked employees for showing up and their presentations. We will be moving forward and keeping our men safe.

She also thanked Marla Farbacher for coming in this evening.

The next finance committee meeting is July 6.

President Comer thanked the sanitation department for coming in this evening. He appreciated their comments.

President Comer gave the following speech:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

The world is experiencing a global movement focusing on the eradication of Racial inequality, Police Brutality and Systematic Racism.

Freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom to peaceably assemble and the freedom to petition the Government. These are freedoms that are afforded to all American Citizens and should be upheld by the Branches of Government. These are the first Amendment Rights of all Citizens regardless of age, color creed, religion, sexual orientation and gender. As Government bodies it is our job to defend the rights of all of our citizens and not to be insensitive and immature as well as culturally incompetent to the rights of all Citizens. They have elected us to protect their rights while being culturally competent and showing maturity and competence while doing so.

We are experiencing a global shift in the views and policies that have allowed systematic racism to continue. Often times, these systems have been able to perpetuate because of silence and/or the threats of retaliation. The first Amendment ensures that as Citizens you do not have to be silent. It is your right to peacefully voice your views without being bullied or mocked by Government and or threatened with violence as a result of expressing your right to do so.

We are fortunate in our city and county to have law enforcement that is diligent and operate with integrity daily. I commend them along with our city council and hope that other cities, counties and states can see them and us as an example of what integrity looks like.

As the highest form of government in this city it is our job to legislate and to be sure that those items of legislation are followed through by all facets of those under our leadership. Now is the time for all leaders across the country to display empathy and to understand the viewpoints and ideas of our citizens even though they may not be in line with your own personal viewpoints and opinions. We should strive to uphold all freedoms Including the first the second the third amendments and so on. Not just the freedoms that we hold more dear to our hearts. In this time of change in the world be the light that helps guide our country to peace. May God be with us all. And happy Independence Day

ADJOURN: Motion by Russell to adjourn.

Arlene Duffey, Council Clerk

Henry Comer, Council President