

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

LONDON CITY COUNCIL Meeting

Casto & Harris Inc. Form S-301 E1412692LD

Held

JULY 7 20 22

London City Council
20 S. Walnut Street, London, Ohio 43140
July 7, 2022 at 6:30pm

Minutes

Council President, Henry Comer, called the regular meeting of the London City Council to order at 6:30pm. He led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance and observed a moment of silent reflection.

Council members present: Henry Comer, Rich Hays, Andrew Hitt, John Stahl, Anthony Smith, Bryan Robinson and Greg Eades

The minutes of the June 16, 2022 meeting were approved as written

COMMUNICATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS – none presented

AUDIENCE CONCERNS

Anita Likens – 157 E. First Street. London, Ohio 43140

- Read excerpts from the Constitution

Stan Kavy – 412 Graceland Avenue, London, Ohio 431401

- Thanked City Council and the Administration for working to help alleviate the flooding in the Mariemont/Graceland neighborhood and stated that this will raise surrounding home values
- Stated that the landowner of the property at the end of the street removed trees and fixed a tile but did not seed the area so that grass could grow. This is causing muddy water to flow into the neighborhood and the storm sewers when it rains

Elizabeth Branson – 500 Graceland Avenue, London, Ohio 43140

- Stated her approval of Ordinance 148-22 and that this will help alleviate the flooding in the Graceland/Mariemont neighborhood
- Stated that the landowner of the property at the end of the street removed trees and fixed a tile but did not seed the area so that grass could grow. This is causing muddy water to flow into the neighborhood and the storm sewers when it rains

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Greg Eades – Public Service

- Read an email from Michael Norman asking if the water capacity for the city is adequate then why are residents being asked to voluntarily conserve water and the splash pad turned off, and why there is a need for legislation that could ban nonessential water use. He also questioned the ability of the Water Department to service additional housing developments
 - Mayor Closser explained that the legislation is proactive to help in times of emergencies such as extreme drought conditions. He also stated that the current levels in the water towers have decreased due to lack of rain but were not so low as to cause an emergency. This is the reason that the voluntary conservation request was asked of the citizens.
 - Mayor Closser also stated that the potential 250 homes being planned for an upcoming development will be built over an eight-year period and the City does have the capacity to accommodate growth
 - Safety Service Director, Rex Castle, explained that it was incorrectly believed that the splash pad used more water than it does. Once the correct information was known, the splash pad remained open
- Reported on Street Department activity:
 - Looking into the ownership of a ditch in the Amherst neighborhood to understand who is required to maintain the property
 - It will cost approximately \$64,000 to pave Sheffield and Oxley Boulevards
 - The St. Rt. 56 paving project has started but has been postponed until after the Madison County Fair has ended
 - The Graceland/Mariemont storm sewer project is moving forward

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- ChoiceOne Engineering is researching options to improve/repair the storm sewer on the City's south side. A potential \$2.5 million loan for the project could be paid for with funds in the storm sewer utility fund. Ohio Public Works Commission grant funds may be sought
- Solar powered crosswalk signs are being researched. It would cost an estimated \$300,000 for signs to be installed at 12 intersections
- Utilized the storm sewer inspection camera at four locations
- Repairing several sinkholes

Bryan Robinson - Public Service Committee Chair

- Reported on Parks & Recreation Department activity:
 - Landon McKenzie is gradually learning the new position
 - Adam Smith has been hired as a full-time Assistant Director
 - The pool has received 75% of projected 2022 revenues and the pool concessions has received 85% of the projected 2022 revenues
 - Have sold 70 pool passes, an increase from 2021
 - Swim lessons are being offered
 - Two after-hour pool parties have taken place and seven more are scheduled
 - Merri Mac playground and surveillance cameras are being installed. A ribbon cutting will take place in August.
 - Thirteen of the fourteen lots of the community garden are occupied
 - Volleyball league registration will begin soon
 - The next Public Service Committee meeting will take place August 3, 2022 at 6:00pm

Rich Hays – Public Safety Committee Chair

- The next Public Safety Committee meeting will take place July 12, 2022 at 5:00pm

Anthony Smith – Board of Public Utilities Representative

- Reminded the public that June water and sewer usage is being estimated and this could affect future bill amounts

CITY OFFICIAL REPORTS – Mayor Closser reported on current city events and issues (report attached)

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance 146-22 – Sponsored by Anthony Smith – An Ordinance amending section 1048.05 of the Codified Ordinances

Motion by Hays to place on second reading, seconded by Stahl

Councilman Smith stated that more information is being sought regarding project costs. There has also been issues with drilling a new well due to weather and difficulties in getting parts to repair the drill. A replacement drill company is being sought.

Motion by Smith to table the legislation, seconded by Hitt

Roll call to table: Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Stahl, yes; Smith, yes; Robinson, yes; Eades, yes

TABLED

Ordinance 147-22 – Sponsored by Anthony Smith – An Ordinance amending section 1042 of the Codified Ordinances

Motion by Hays to place on first reading, seconded by Stahl

For the same reasons stated during the discussion regarding 146-22, Councilman Smith motioned to table the legislation, seconded by Hitt

Roll call to table: Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Stahl, yes; Smith, yes; Robinson, yes; Eades, yes

TABLED

Resolution 148-22 – Sponsored by Josh Peters – A Resolution of necessity for a special assessment for improvements to the system of storm or sanitary sewerage for the Graceland/Mariemont project

Motion by Hays to place on second reading, seconded by Stahl

Legislation was left on the agenda for a third reading

A public hearing regarding this legislation was scheduled to take place during the July 21, 2022 City Council meeting

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Resolution 149-22 – Sponsored by Anthony Smith – A Resolution authorizing the Safety Service Director to advertise for bids and enter into a contract for improvements to the storm water system
Motion by Hays to place on second reading, seconded by Stahl
Legislation was left on the agenda for a third reading

Resolution 150-22 – Sponsored by Josh Peters – A Resolution increasing appropriations
Motion by Hays to place on second reading, seconded by Stahl
Legislation was left on the agenda for a third reading

Ordinance 151-22 – Sponsored by Rich Hays – An Ordinance amending official zoning map
Motion by Hays to place on second reading, seconded by Stahl
Legislation was left on the agenda for a third reading
A public hearing regarding this legislation was scheduled to take place during the July 21, 2022 City Council meeting

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance 152-22 – Sponsored by Bryan Robinson - An Ordinance amending section 1040 of the Codified Ordinances
Motion by Hays to place on first reading, seconded by Stahl
Motion by Hays to suspend, seconded by Stahl
Roll call to suspend: Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Stahl, yes; Smith, yes; Robinson, yes; Eades, no
Legislation was left on the agenda for a second reading

Ordinance 153-22 – Sponsored by Josh Peters – An Ordinance to increase the municipal income tax by forty hundredths of one percent (0.40%) per annum for a continuing period of time, commencing January 1, 2023, of which increase (I) one quarter of one percent (0.25%) per annum shall be used for the purposes of providing funds to pay costs of acquiring, constructing, furnishing, equipping, improving, maintaining, and repairing municipal fire department facilities, to pay general operating expenses of the fire department facilities, and to pay any expenses and debt service charges for the debt incurred in connection therewith, and (II) fifteen hundredths of one percent (0.15%) per annum shall be used for the purposes of providing funds to pay costs of acquiring, constructing, furnishing, equipping, improving, maintaining and repairing municipal police department facilities, to pay general operating expenses of the police department and to pay any expenses and debt service charges for debt incurred in connection therewith, and declaring an emergency
Motion by Hays to place on first reading, seconded by Stahl
Legislation was left on the agenda for a second reading

Resolution 154-22 – Sponsored by Josh Peters – A Resolution to place the issue of increasing the municipal income tax by forty hundredths of one percent (0.40%) per annum for a continuing period of time as provided in Ordinance No. 153-22, on ballot at the election to be held on November 8, 2022, and directing the Board of Elections of Madison County, Ohio to conduct such election, and declaring an emergency
Motion by Hays to place on first reading, seconded by Stahl
Legislation was left on the agenda for a second reading

ROUND TABLECouncilman Eades

- Thanked everyone for their attendance
- Stated that the railroad company has been notified of the deteriorating road by the tracks
- Thankful for the recent rainfall

Council Robinson

- Thanked everyone for their attendance
- Thanked the Administration for the successful July 4th parade and challenged the local baseball teams to participate next year
- Promoted the upcoming Madison County Fair and encouraged everyone to attend and support the 4-H children
- Announced that the next Public Service Committee meeting will take place August 3, 2022 at 6:00pm

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Councilman Hays

- Thanked Anita Likens for reading the Constitution
- Thanked God for July 4th and recognized veterans
- Personally participated in the July 4th parade by driving the police pick-up truck
- Thanked everyone for their attendance
- Expressed his happiness the Graceland/Mariemont project is moving forward
- Stated that this is exciting times for the City

Councilman Hitt

- Thanked everyone for their attendance
- Excited about the potential new housing developments in the City

Councilman Stahl

- Thanked everyone for their attendance
- Attended the Finance and Safety Committee meetings
- Promoted the upcoming Madison County Fair

Councilman Smith

- Thanked everyone for their attendance
- Stated he was happy that Roe vs Wade was overturned and promoted the LifePoint Family Center on Main Street in London that helps expecting and new parents
- Thanked the Merri Mac Park Miracle Project Committee for their work on constructing the new playground

Council President Comer

- Thanked City Council for their hard work
- Happy to see the City growing
- Thanked everyone for their attendance
- Thanked Michael Norman for his dedication and wished more citizens would become involved in current issues

Motion by Hays to adjourn at 7:49pm



Amy Rees, Clerk



Henry Comer, City Council President