

President Joe Russell 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.

**CLERK ROLL CALL:** Trint Hatt, present; Rex Castle, present; Brenda Russell, present; Rick Hays, present; Lora Long, present; Josh Peters, present; Henry Comer, present.

**MINUTES** of the previous meeting were approved as received.

**COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:** President Russell noted that Councilman Comer is switching to public safety and Councilman Hays to public service.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None

**AUDIENCE CONCERNS:** None

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Councilman Hatt attended the public safety meeting. Ryan Davis has been hired as the newest, fulltime police officer. The police cruiser involved in accident at Walmart, should be fixed by next month. The Police Department is recruiting new officers. Applications are due January 26.

The committee viewed the police department's new software program. He encouraged everyone to check it out. It has a GPS tracking system of all the city vehicles. You can watch cars live. It's a good enhancement for the department.

The police department will need to budget for new cars.

Councilman Castle attended the January 8 finance committee meeting. The auditor's department gave a report. They need to close out the year. Clemmons & Nelson has been contracted to close out the end of the year.

A city credit card has been tabled until a new auditor is hired.

Bill Beathard attended the finance committee meeting and said new sanitation trucks will need to be purchased. They discussed needs for the truck types.

Mr. Beathard also happened to have a folder of the storm water utilities proposal. The committee will analyze the information.

Elected officials' salaries were also discussed. It was decided that a group of citizens act as a panel to work with council. He has one person interested in serving on the panel and needs four more. "Get a committee together for recommendations."

Councilman Hays attended the finance committee meeting. He was taken back by what needs to get done!

He also attended the January 11 public service meeting. He was taken back by salaries he saw. The recreation department director has a lot on her shoulders, yet does an incredible job. Need some help for her. Need to bring up salaries in the summer. "Just my thoughts! My first meeting."

Councilwoman Long attended the finance, public and safety service meetings. She highly suggested that council members see the new police department software. It is money that was definitely well spent.

Councilman Peters attended the public service meeting. All Christmas lights are down. Christmas trees are being disposed of. A new employee was hired. Snow removal is ongoing.

There are three more weeks of basketball. There is no heat in community center. The fence is up at the horse shoe pits at Cowling Park.

The next public service meeting is February 8, 6:00 p.m.

Councilman Comer attended the public safety meeting, and echoed what was said about the new police department software program. It is more than just a GPS system. It is a nice tool to be able to integrate with paperwork, allowing the department to be a lot more efficient. A smarter, more efficient police force.

Councilman Hatt added that the program was purchased with capital funding from last year.

Councilwoman Russell added to the recreation committee report that the old armory, the Vineyard and First Baptist churches are allowing them to use their gyms. This is just a temporary solution.

Councilman Peters also shared that the schools are allowing them to use their gym next two Saturdays.

Mayor Closser thanked all who are helping out. They've been trying to figure out what is wrong with the boiler system.

**CITY OFFICIAL REPORTS:** Mayor Pat Closser gave his administrative update at this time. (attached)

Mayor Closser thanked Councilman Hatt for his service to the city of London. He will be vacating his seat on city council effective January 21<sup>st</sup>. He will be missed on council and also as a citizen of London. He wished him good luck in the future and all his endeavors.

Mayor Closser will be contacting the party to fill the seat by March 7. It is Ward 1.

He also stressed that council members please make sure they are here to conduct business, with Trint's resignation.

President Russell commended the street department as the snow came in fast and furious!

He asked about an emergency snow plan.

Mayor Closser explained that the city does have a plan in place. Vehicles are to be off the main streets if there are two inches or more of snow. There are a lot of signs in the downtown area.

President Russell asked if there are any concerns with more flooding once the snow starts to melt.

Mayor Eades responded that they are anticipating a slow melt before it rains. It should be okay if there is no rain.

Councilman Castle asked about a sidewalk ordinance.

Mayor Closser said there is one in place and that businesses and residents are to clear and maintain their walks.

Mr. Castle said he asked because the sidewalks going out East High Street are not clear, except for Stanley. There was a walker in the street at dark that he almost hit.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

RESOLUTION 168-17 Sponsored by Dick Minner AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ELECTED OFFICIALS AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS WAGE

**TABLED**

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

RESOLUTION 103-18 Sponsored by: Josh Peters A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AUDITOR TO TRANSFER FUNDS AND INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS Motion by Long to place on first reading, second by Castle. Clerk read. Councilman Peters stated that this is need to be sent out by the end of the month.

Councilman Peters motioned to amend the resolution to read "auditor's office" (not Auditor), second by Castle. Roll to amend: Castle, yes; Russell, yes; Hays, yes; Long, yes; Peters, yes; Comer, yes; Hatt, yes. **AMENDED**

Motion by Peters to suspend the rules, second by Castle. Roll to suspend: Russell, yes; Hays, yes; Long, yes; Peters, yes; Comer, yes; Hatt, yes; Castle, yes. **SUSPENDED**

Motion by Russell to adopt, second by Hatt. Roll to adopt: Hays, yes; Long, yes; Peters, yes; Comer, yes; Hatt, yes; Castle, yes; Russell, yes.

**ADOPTED.**

ORDINANCE 104-18 Sponsored by: Lora Long AN ORDINANCE FOR STRENGTHS ON JOB DESCRIPTIONS. Motion by Hayes to place on first reading, second by Comer. Clerk read.

Councilwoman Long noted that four departments needed changes to the strength ordinance. The street and fire departments each need one added, and police department needs two added to their forces. The recreation department is adding a new maintenance position.

Councilman Castle stated that this needs to be studied closer. The budget does reflect the changes and money has been approved.

Mayor Closser said it will probably be 2019 before the police department can fill their positions. The department is currently not a full strength right now.

Councilman Castle commented that the police department's want ads on Facebook are very good.

Councilman Comer noted that the police department has 11 officers with two being assigned as investigators. The two new positions will put 11 officers on patrol.

It is recommended by the FBI that there are at least 1 ½ to 2 officers per 1000 residents. Even asking for two more will put us at was is recommended or the safety of the city.

Mayor Closser said the city population is growing and our services and recreation will need to also.

Councilman Hays asked how many new homes are planned at Shevington.

Mayor Closser replied 149 are planned, but they will phase in as demand calls for it. They ran into issues with the property owner passing away and are resolving the problems. They have a list of people wanting to build. He guessed that 40 or 50 will be built this Spring.

## **LEFT ON FIRST READING.**

## **ROUND TABLE:**

Councilman Hitt stated, as noted, that he will be resigning his position as councilman effective January 21. His house sold sooner than expected and he will be moving closer to Columbus to his employment.

He thanked the citizens for electing him and stated that it has been a privilege serving the city for the past four years.

He wished everyone future success and the best.

Councilman Castle shared that he had attended the ribbon cuttings for the two businesses, La Carreta Mexican restaurant and the laundry mat. He said the food was excellent!

Mayor Closser added that La Carreta had a "soft" opening. They had to resubmit their liquor license request as there was a mistake on the first one. A second request will be coming to council needing voice approval. Once they get their liquor license, the business will advertise more and probably pick up more.

They also have one other location in Delaware. They are not a chain restaurant.

Councilman Castle reminded everyone of the January 24 city properties meeting and February 5 finance committee meeting.

Councilman Hays told Mr. Hatt that he will miss him and wished him good luck.

Councilwoman Long also told Mr. Hatt that she will miss him.

She thanked the street department for their long hours. They did a good job on the snow removal.

Councilman Peters thanked Mr. Hatt for his service on city council and wished him luck.

He also thanked the street department for the good job they did.

Councilman Comer told Mr. Hatt it was good working with him for two meetings! He wished him the best as he is sure he is going to do good things on a larger scale.

Mr. Comer agreed with Councilman Castle that the food was good at La Carreta, the staff is very friendly, and are ready to serve the community.

Councilman Hays added "Kudos to the street department! Thank you!"

President Russell wished Councilman Hatt good luck.

**ADJOURN** Hatt

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Arlene Duffey, Council Clerk

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Joe Russell, Council President