

February 18, 2016

President Jennifer Hitt called the regular meeting of the London City Council to order. She let those present in Pledge of Allegiance and observed a moment of silent reflection.

ROLL CALL: Trint Hatt, present; Rex Castle, present; Brenda Russell, present; Dick Minner, yes; Lora Long, present; Josh Peters, present; Megan Douglas, present.

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

COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS: President Hitt read a request from the Ohio Department of Liquor for a renewal for London Gas & Food Inc, 157 South Main Street, London, Ohio. Council members were in favor of the approval by responding "aye".

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

AUDIENCE CONCERNS: Traci Tate, co-owner of EliteFTS, 2333 Pawnee Drive, London, addressed council. Mrs. Tate explained that she and her husband are seeking a 60% tax abatement to build a new \$1.5 million facility on the edge of town on Rt. 665.

She gave some history of their business saying that her husband, David Tate, started the business at home in a spare bedroom, moved to South Main Street, and then to their current location on Maple Street. Their business continues to expand and they are in need of a larger building. They plan to build on Chuck Duvall's property located across the trail off Rt. 665. Access to the property is adjacent to the London Baptist Church.

Dave Kell, Director of the Madison County Chamber of Commerce and Community Improvement Corporation, shared that the schools are not required to sign off on the abatement at this level. However, they are aware of it and are in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Castle attended the budget and finance committee meeting on February 10. Capital budget expenditures were brought forward. They were given a semi-updated report from recreation department.

The next finance committee meeting is March 9, at 6:00 p.m.

The first city property committee meeting was held February 17. They reviewed what needs to be done to the old primary building and toured it.

The next meeting is March 2 at 6:00 p.m.

Councilwoman Russell attended the finance and public service meetings.

Councilman Minner attended the finance and cities property meetings.

Councilwoman Long attended the finance and city properties meetings.

Councilman Peters attended the public service, street and recreation department meetings.

The next public service meeting is March 10, 6:00 p.m.

Councilwoman Douglas attended the public safety and BPU meetings.

President Hitt reiterated upcoming committee meeting dates:

March 2 – city properties

March 8 – public safety

March 9 – finance

March 10 – public service

CITY OFFICIAL REPORTS: President Pat Closser congratulated Councilman Hatt on the birth of his new baby girl!

He reminded all the committee secretaries to drop their meeting minutes off in the conference room.

President Closser presented numerous updates to council. (attached)

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION 108-16 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA AGREEMENT (attachment)
Sponsored by: Trint Hatt Motion by Hatt to place on first reading, second by Peters. Clerk read.

Councilman Hatt explained that this request is for a 10 year abatement at 60%. The company has been here since the mid-90's and currently has 14 employees. They are looking to expanding their services. Their company attracts individuals from all over the United States.

Mayor Closser added there are no specs buildings around London to rent. We want to be business friendly. The company has been willing to work with us and a compromise was reached on the amount of the abatement. They are nationally known doing about \$.5 million business. He noted that there was a nice article in the paper about EliteFTS They do a lot of good things in the community, including "Grant a Wish".

Mayor Closser shared that EliteFTS has been looking outside of the London to expand their business and but prefer to stay local. "I guarantee, they will leave if not approved."

Dave Kell, Director of the Madison County Chamber of Commerce and Community Improvement Corporation, echoed Mayor Closser's comments. He asked that council please consider this and added that the schools are supportive. **LEFT ON 1ST READING.**

RESOLUTION 109-16 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RETIRED TAXPAYERS EXEMPT FROM MUNICIPAL INCOME TAX RELIEF FROM MANDATORY FILING OF RETURNS Sponsored by: Lora Long (attachment) Motion by Douglas to place on first reading, second by Hatt. Clerk read. Councilwoman Long noted that it is self-explanatory and retirees shouldn't have to file.

Mayor Closser read a letter from Amy Marsh of the tax department in favor of this legislation. They would like to see this in effect prior to this year's filing date.

Councilwoman Douglas shared that resident Shirley Litchfield contacted her and asked that handicapped individuals being given the same consideration.

Mayor Closser said that piece of legislation is being worked on. It will be a little more difficult.

Motion by Castle to suspend rules, second by Hatt. Roll to suspend: Castle, yes; Russell, yes; Minner, yes; Peters, yes; Long, yes; Douglas, yes; Hatt, yes.

Motion by Minner to adopt, second by Hatt. Roll to adopt: Russell, yes; Minner, yes; Peters, yes; Long, yes; Douglas, yes; Hatt, yes; Castle, yes. **ADOPTED**

RESOLUTION 110-16 A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NECESSITY TO LEVY A TAX IN EXCESS OF THE TEN MILL LIMITATION FOR GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES Sponsored by Rex Castle Motion by Peters to place on first reading, second by Hatt. Clerk read. Councilman Hatt explained that this is a tax renewal, except the wording is wrong and the timing is pre-mature. Law Director Siddiqi recommended that the rules be suspend and legislation defeated. A new piece of legislation will submitted at the appropriate time and with correct wording.

Motion by Castle to suspend rules, second by Long. Roll to suspend: Minner, yes; Long, yes; Peters, yes; Douglas, yes; Hatt, yes; Castle, yes; Russell, yes.

Motion by Castle to adopt, second by Hatt. Roll to adopt: Peters, no; Long, no; Douglas, no; Hatt, no; Castle, no; Russell, no; Minner, no. **DEFEATED.**

RESOLUTION 111-16 A RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS Sponsored by: Rex Castle Motion by Douglas to place on first reading, second by Castle. Clerk read.

Councilman Castle shared that this was discussed at the finance committee meeting. This bucket truck will save the street department \$45,000 compared to the one they were looking to purchase. The current one is a 1997 and \$10,000 alone in repairs has been spent over the past three years.

Mayor Closser added that this price also includes it being equipped and stickered with London emblems. The current one will be sold on gov.com for hopefully \$6,000-\$8,000.

Motion by Castle to suspend rules, second b Hatt. Roll to suspend: Peters, yes; Douglas, yes; Hatt, yes; Castle, yes; Russell, yes; Minner, yes; Long, yes.

Motion by Long to adopt, second by Peters. Roll to adopt: Douglas, yes; Hatt, yes; Castle, yes; Russell, yes; Minner, yes; Long, yes; Peters, yes. **ADOPTED.**

RESOLUTION 112-16 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE DEMOLITION OF PROPERTY Sponsored by: Trint Hatt Motion by Hatt to place on first reading, second by Castle. Clerk read. Councilman Hatt explained that there is urgency to passing this legislation as the building is leaning more every day and could fall towards the bank and there are electrical wires involved.

Motion by Peters to suspend rules, second by Hatt. Roll to suspend rules: Hatt, yes; Castle, yes; Russell, yes; Minner, yes; Long, yes; Peters; yes; Douglas, yes.

Motion by Hatt to adopt, second by Peters. Roll to adopt: Castle, yes; Russell, yes; Minner, yes; Peters, yes; Long; yes; Douglas, yes; Hatt, yes. **ADOPTED.**

PROCLAMATION LONDON CITY COUNCIL RECOGNIZES MADISON HEALTH FOR ITS DONATION TO THE MADISON COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL DISTRICT. Sponsored by: Lora Long Motion by Douglas to place on first reading, second by Hatt. Clerk read. Councilwoman Long spoke on this.

President Hitt recommended letting it go for three readings for public recognition. **LEFT ON 1ST READING.**

ROUND TABLE

Councilwoman Douglas thanked everyone for coming in this evening.

Councilman Peters thanked the street department for their great job on snow removal during the last snow.

Councilwoman Long thanked everyone for coming in this evening.

Councilman Minner said it would be nice if all council could come to the community center meetings.

Councilwoman Russell thanked everyone for coming in this evening.

Councilman Castle reminded everyone of the March 2 properties committee and March 9 finance committee meetings

Councilman Hatt reminded everyone of the March 8 public safety meeting.

He also thanked Dave Kell, Chuck Duvall, and administration for working together with EliteFTS. He stated that this is the perfect type of entrepreneur you want in your community – someone who is attached to the community and wants to grow, just looking for a little bit of help to expand their services.

President Hitt echo sentiments. She thanked everyone for their hard work keeping them here in the community.

ADJOURN Motion by Councilman Minner to adjourn.