

March 16, 2017

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

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

MINUTES of the previous meeting were approved as received.

COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

PUBLIC HEARINGS: Motion by Hatt to adjourn to a public hearing for Ordinance No. 112-17, second by Russell. Roll: Castle, yes; Russell, yes; Minner, yes; Long, yes; Peters, yes; Douglas, yes; Hatt, yes.

The request is being made for the hospital expansion. No one was present in the audience. Council was in favor of the request.

REGULAR MEETING: Motion by Castle to reconvene the regular meeting, second by Russell. Roll: Russell, yes; Minner, yes; Long, yes; Peters, yes; Douglas, yes; Hatt, yes; Castle, yes.

AUDIENCE CONCERNS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Hatt attended the finance committee meeting.

Councilman Castle reported on the finance committee meeting. The committee revisited the proposed BPU rate increases and discussed "Access Cowling Park" donations.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 17, 6:00 p.m.

Councilwoman Russell attended the finance, parks and recreation, and public service committee meetings.

Councilwoman Long attended the finance and public service committee meetings. The street department is conducting sign maintenance repairs, alley repairs, pothole filling, and bike trail branch trimming to name a few projects. They purchased a new, used pick up. The street sweeper will be out on the road next month.

Parks and Recreation held volley ball sign up. Work is being done at pool. New equipment is planned for Merrimac Park with community assistance.

The next public service committee meeting is April 13th.

The next safety service meeting is Tuesday, March 21st.

The next city property's meeting is March 22, 7:00 p.m.

CITY OFFICIAL REPORTS: Mayor Pat Closser gave his administrative report.

Auditor Szabo reported that the state audit team has completed their first round of auditing and will be back in a few months.

Mr. Bill Long, EMS board liaison, addressed an article that was in the paper. The EMS Board consists of the city and six townships. They have 16 full time and 27 part time employees. They had 3,337 runs in 2016. They provide coverage festivals, fair, farm science review, football games and other events as needed.

The department also established a program for Narcan for the local departments, police, sheriff, state highway patrol, at no cost to the departments.

They are looking into a new vehicle for the chief and plan to use the old one for the Outreach program and to travel between future medic substations.

Four employees will be receiving the "Star of Life" award for participating in saving a life on 70.

The EMS board meetings are held the first Wednesday of every month and are open to the public

OLD BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE 134-16 AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS IN THE AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED \$1,550,000 FOR THE PURPOSE OF RENOVATING AND IMPROVING AN EXISTING FACILITY FOR MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES, INCLUDING SITE IMPROVEMENTS AND APPURTENANCES THERETO; FURNISHING AND EQUIPPING THE SAME; AND ACQUIRING LAND AND INTERESTS IN LAND AS NECESSARY IN CONNECTION THERETO; AND AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING RELATED MATTERS IN CONNECTION WITH THE ISSUANCE OF THE BONDS Sponsored by: Rex Castle

TABLED.

ORDINANCE 106-17 SPONSORED BY: LORA LONG AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND EDITING AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AS PARTS OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION AND PUBLICIAIOTN OF NEW MATTER IN THE UPDATED AND REVISED CODIFIED ORDINANCES; REPLEARING ORDINANCES IN THE CONFLICT THEREWITH; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Motion by Long to place on fourth reading, second by Douglas.

Roll to adopt: Minner, yes; Long, yes; Peters, yes; Douglas, yes; Hatt, yes; Castle, yes; Russell, yes.

ADOPTED.

ORDINANCE 112-17 Sponsored By: Planning Commission AN ORDINANCE AMENDING OFFICIAL ZONING MAP Motion by Russell to place on fourth reading, second by Long.

Roll to adopt: Long, yes; Peters, yes; Douglas, yes; Hatt, yes; Castle, yes; Russell, yes; Minner, yes.

ADOPTED.

ORDINANCE 116-17 Sponsored by: Megan Douglas AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1060, SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF LONDON (attachment) Motion by Long to place on third reading, second by Russell.

A public hearing is scheduled for the April 6 council meeting.

Mr. Bill Beathard, Board of Public utilities member, addressed council. He discussed the discrepancy that was pointed out at the last meeting. The fact is BPU did make money, according to the 2016 budget. There was an increase of \$84,000 due to the 2015 auditor not funding one position. With a going rate of \$70,000, for that position's salary benefits, training, etc. is where the increase in revenue came from. That positon is now filled and d the money will be spent this year.

He spoke with finance committee the other night. The auditor provided figures from the revenue and expense side for the past five years.

All figures are open to interpretation. The bottom line is, math is accurate, but accounting is not constant.

The department's Capital expenditures are almost nonexistent. Extra trash is being picked up and the department is down one position down causing everyone to be on the trucks.

The department has an aging fleet of trucks with high mileage and need of repairs. Infrastructures are aging and in need of repairs and updates.

A drain, sewer line and pump need to be installed to take the transfer station "juice" away to the sanitation treatment station, instead of running into open water ways.

The department needs to be in a positon for new rates for trash hauling and bid process in 2018. They are currently in the middle of three year cycle contract with Rumpke.

Rates have gone up for hauling trash: 2014- \$43.69/ton; 2015 \$51.88/ton; 2016 \$54.89/ton. They don't know what 2019 will be, but need carry over ready.

Recycling is going up because no one bids against Rumpke. He shared that they've increase Columbus rates by 50%. They are private and do as they chose.

The department will be spending money of their carry over for capital expenses. A new packer truck will need to be purchased in 2018. Costs run between \$200,000-\$300,000.00

The trash carts will be \$50.00 a piece for a total of approximately \$180,000 to \$200,000 coming out of carryover.

The city has no control over independent haulers. Rumpke is charging more than the city around the county and Lake Choctaw. "We need to be ahead of problem, not behind."

Rates are 12 years old, never having a rate increase. The rate proposals are tolerable at only .25 cents per bag, \$2.20 per month per household.

The money will be used for capital expenditures on infrastructure and equipment.

He asked that council please consider proposal.

Councilman Minner asked where the department got the money to owe \$300,000. "How did the BPU get \$300,000 behind?" Did you take it from another fund? How was it paid out?

Mr. Beathard wasn't aware of any money owed. All trash trucks paid for, building paid for.

Councilman Castle determined that Mr. Minner was referring to losses over past five years totaling \$314,000.00.

Mr. Beathard explained that carry over took care of those "shortages". We do have carryover.

Auditor Szabo reported that the carryover for 2016 is \$997,000.00.

Mr. Beathard said they'll spend \$200,000 just on trash carts. The department will be looking into grants for curb side recycling to help with costs.

LEFT ON 3RD READING.

RESOLUTION 117-17 Sponsored by: Rex Castle STRONGLY OPPOSING THE STATE OF OHIO GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED 2017-2018 BUDGET, WHICH PROPOSES CENTRALIZED COLLECTION OF NET PROFIT TAX RETURNS AND OTHER PROVISIONS RELATED TO THE MUNICIPAL INCOME TAX WHICH WILL CAUSE A SUBSTANTIAL LOSS OF REVENUE NEEDED TO SUPPORT THE HEALTH, SAFETY, WELFARE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS OF OHIO MUNICIPALITIES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY Motion by Long to place on third reading, second by Douglas. Clerk read.

Councilman Castle explained that this will give the Mayor support, along with his letter, to send to the Governor, against the proposed legislation to take away local city tax departments ability to collect our own taxes.

Mayor Closser felt that this is just the first "domino" to fall. The city will lose revenue generated from our own taxes. It will take our tax collection away from us.

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

ADOPTED.

Councilman Hatt explained he abstained due to the fact that tis a conflict of interest.

RESOLUTION 118-17 Sponsored by: Brenda Russell A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL (attachment) Motion by Russell to place on second reading, second by Castle. Clerk read.

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

SUSPENDED

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

ADOPTED.

RESOLUTION 121-17 Sponsored by: Trint Hatt A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING OHIOCHECKBOOK.COM Motion by Castle to place on second reading, second by Douglas. Clerk read.

Councilman Hatt said that a representative from the state treasurer office gave a presentation, creating a website with our current data and what it would look like. The website is: London.ohiocheckbook.com The site can be looked at and is extremely user friendly. Our auditor can determine how often to upload information to the website.

LEFT ON 2ND READING.

NEW BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE 122-17 Sponsored by: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING 1268 OF THE ZONING CODE Motion by Russell to place on first reading, second by Douglas. Clerk read. A public hearing is scheduled for the April 20th meeting.

This proposal will extend the length of time to one year to switch out signs.

LEFT ON 1ST READING.

RESOLUTION 123-17 Sponsored by: Josh Peters A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT (attachment) Motion by Douglas to place on first reading, second by Minner. Clerk read. Councilman Peters shared that the street department superintendent asked that this be suspended to the city can get on the contractor's work scheduled.

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

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

RESOLUTION 124-17 Sponsored by: Rex Castle A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AUDITOR'S WARRANT FOR PAYMENT Motion by Douglas to place on first reading, second by Russell. Clerk read. Auditor Szabo explained that there was no open purchase order for this.

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

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

RESOLUTION 125-17 Sponsored by: Rex Castle A RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS Motion by Russell to place on first reading, second by Douglas. Clerk read.

Councilman Castle explained that these funds will be used for "Access Cowling" and was recommended by finance committee to invest \$25,000 into project.

Auditor Szabo advised that the resolution is incorrect.

Auditor Szabo spoke with Law Director Siddiqi regarding the park fund, who is in agreement with him, that a new piece of legislation will be needed. Funds will need to be transferred first out of general fund, and then appropriations increased into the parks and recreation line.

Councilman Castle asked if permission needs to be given from the parks and recreation department.

Mayor Closser didn't think so as these funds are not currently a part of their line item.

Councilman Hatt asked why the city can't spend money on the park.

Auditor Szabo said the city can, but based on ORC, he has asked that the money be transferred from general to the parks and recreation fund.

Mayor Closser further explained that the legislation says "general to parks and recreation miscellaneous". It's the not the "cleanest" way to do it. Auditor Szabo would like to see the money go into general to 237 parks and recreation fund, then appropriate money out of their fund to pay it. It's just putting it in a different budget line. It's not original 237 fund monies; it's just being put there.

Hatt asked if this will be the fund that upgrades will go through.

Auditor Szabo replied that based on ORC, any donations, just like for the movies, will do in on the revenue side.

Mayor Closser would like all the donations to go in at once.

Auditor Szabo said it depends on the length of time the donations are in the office "blue" book. There's only a certain period the money can sit, then it has to be cashed.

LEFT ON FIRST READING.

ROUND TABLE: Councilwoman Douglas thanked everyone for coming in this evening. Be safe tomorrow night as it is St. Patty's Day!

Councilman Minner shared the Dick Gerard had away and expressed his condolences to the family. Mr. Gerard served on city council for eight years and was a good councilman.

Councilman Castle thanked everyone for coming in this evening.

ADJOURN: Motion by Hatt to adjourn.

Arlene Duffey, Clerk of Council

Jennifer Hitt, Council President