

April 6, 2017

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

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS: President Hitt read two request from the Board of Liquor control. Two new liquor licenses have been applied for. Hiponomous LLC, DBA Gizzy's Corner, 165 E. Center Street and Shans Bar & Grill LTD, 18-20 E. High Street Council members approved the requests with no public hearing necessary.

AUDIENCE CONCERNS: Rick Hays, 620 Brandon Street, presented the city with 20 new US flags. Mayor explained that he always donates. Flags donation are made by Woodman of the World Life Insurance. Mr. Hays shared that two, 5x8 flags are being donated for the Bicentennial Park.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: ORDINANCE 116-17 Motion by Castle to adjourn to public hearing, second by Russell.

Mr. Stan Kavy went over figures, provided by the Auditor, in front of council members. He explained how the Auditor came up with the figures. They were one man short, totaling about \$75,000 in salary and benefits for one year. They are back up to full staff now.

BPU will be negotiating new hauling contract. There have been wage increases. He brought a recycle cart to council for everyone to see. He said that he had checked around with 50 people who said they'd much rather have the cart than bins. The cart keeps trashed contained. BPU is continuously buying new bins. They will spend approximately \$200,000 on the recycling carts.

The BPU determined the city is better off keeping our own equipment and facilities. He shared that Rumpke has increase their fees by 50% in Columbus. There is no control over private hauling costs.

Mr. Kavy went over department expenditures and noted grants that they have been able to take advantage of in the past. They need to be pro-active in purchasing capital assets, with just a five year life expectancy.

The sanitation department plans to install a drain for the transfer station runoff, instead of it seeping into the ground.

Current carry over will be lowered by purchasing the recycling bins.

He asked that this ordinance be tabled. The BPU will present a 10 year capital budget plan explaining how the money will be spent on buildings, equipment, etc. There has been no spending of capital funds for the past few years.

Councilman Castle asked if the BPU was going to purchase the carts regardless if council passed this or not.

Mr. Kavy said they were, but can't plan a 10 year recovery.

Councilman Castle said that council members needed the 10 year plan when this legislation was first presented. It would have been easier to pass knowing how the \$300-\$400,000 in generated revenue was going to be spent. BPU should have had their "ducks in a row" at the beginning. Council members need time to review the plan.

Mr. Kavy apologized for the delay. There was a transition in the department. He commented that council "do what they wish to do."

Audience member Mr. Doug Pyles, addressed council. He said that many of his concerns had already been addressed by Mr. Kavy. Mr. Pyle opinioned that all this piece of legislation does is raise money. He expected to see a difference in the level of service. Only the trash side has been addressed by raises prices and using smaller bags.

He suggested sending it back to the BPU for an evaluation of the area. The condo community could get away with using small trash containers. He suggested providing a "menu" of service level to choose from. A family of four needs are different than a single, or older person.

The condo community appreciate being able to have their trash pickup at the garage, for a small fee. It would be even easier for them to wheel a small cart around, instead of a bag.

He said if the city got rid of the bags, he'd be willing to pay more per month for trash pickup service. He didn't think the city would get rid of the bags because it's a big revenue maker.

There have been no proposed improvements to the level of service, only raises.

Councilman Minner asked if the city did away with the bags, how much more would Mr. Pyles be willing to pay.

Mr. Pyles replied "\$15.00 for the service."

Mr. Jim Boyd, East First Street, addressed council. He opinioned that privatization of trash service would be a more efficient, less expensive for a community our size. The city would only be subcontracting, not turning it over to a vendor. The city would continue to take care of the billing, while the vendor supplies everything else.

Employees could possibly be relocated or those salaries could be used it for other things. "We are not here to provide jobs for people, but to provide a service."

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

President Hitt reminded that there will be a public hearing at the next meeting for Resolution No. 122-17.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Councilman Hatt attended the public safety committee meeting. Ken Reffitt has been hired as a part-time dispatcher. Officer Combs will be the handler of the K-9 unit. Everything should be in place by Thanksgiving with the K-9 unit.

He cautioned drivers to be aware of "drugged" drivers and to drive defensively as there seems to be an increase in the problem during the day.

Mr. Hatt reported that the fire department will begin hydrant flushing soon. There have been interviews for part-time firemen and full time employees are having their annual evaluations.

Councilman Castle attended the March 22 city properties meeting. Remodeling is planned for the Brightway school building. They will be offering classes soon.

There was ongoing discussion of the old primary building.

The next finance meeting is April 17.

The next city properties' meeting is April 22.

The next public service meeting is April 13.

The next public safety committee meeting is April 18.

CITY OFFICIAL REPORTS: President Closser addressed council with his administrative report.

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

Councilman Castle said that council will need time to discuss this once the 10 year budget plan proposal is submitted.

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

DEFEATED

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

Councilman Hatt explained that this website will allow the city to be totally transparent with their financial transactions, allowing the citizens of London to engage. "Transparency is a good thing." It cost the city absolute nothing.

Councilman Peters asked how often the website has to be updated and how time consuming it would be.

The information can be uploaded whenever we want, weekly, monthly, quarterly. Typically, it is done quarterly and should take about 15 minutes.

Auditor Szabo stated that he was personally against it. He didn't feel it was necessary to have a website to be transparent. He does not receive very many public records request. His office has never been "dinged" for not providing information. "It won't help us be any more transparent."

Councilman Hatt pointed out that budget sheets don't explain expenditures and didn't understand why Mr. Szabo was against it. It would be much simpler to have the information on the website.

Auditor Szabo stated that "if" he gets a public records request, it just as easy.

Councilman Peters felt it sounded like since we don't want to do it, we are hiding something.

Councilman Hatt said the website would just make it easier for taxpayers to see the city's finances.

Councilman Castle said that he likes to be able to go to other city's websites for comparisons. He personally feels guilty for having to call and bother the auditor's office for information that could be available online. Residents may not know exactly what to request and there is an Ohio law allowing government offices to decline a request if it is too board. The online website would allow for residents to research the information they are looking for.

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

ORDINANCE 122-17 Sponsored by: London Planning Commission. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING 1268 OF THE ZONING CODE Motion by Long to place on second reading, second by Douglas. Clerk read. A public hearing is scheduled for April 20.

LEFT ON 2ND READING.

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

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

SUSPENDED

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

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION 126-17 Sponsored by: Rex Castle A RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CITY OF LONDON'S CAPITAL NEED Motion by Russell to place on first reading, second by Douglas. Clerk read. Councilman Castle explained that this resolution replaces the one they just defeated, but with the fund transactions being how the Auditor preferred.

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

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

RESOLUTION 127-17 Sponsored by: Rex Castle A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AUDITOR'S WARRANT FOR PAYMENT Motion by Russell to place on first reading, second by Hatt. Clerk read.

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

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

RESOLUTION 128-17 Sponsored by: Josh Peters A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO FILE A NATUREWORKS GRANT. Motion by Douglas to place on first reading, second by Castle. Clerk read. The grant application is due May 1st.

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

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

RESOLUTION 129-17 Sponsored by: Brenda Russell A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FORMATION OF A PARTNERSHIP WITH MADISON COUNTY AND AUTHORIZING MADISON COUNTY TO ACT AS THE OFFICIAL GRANTEE FOR THE PY 2017 COMMUNITY HOUSING IMPACT AND PRESERVATION PROGRAM. Motion by Long to place on first reading, second by Douglas. Clerk read.

Councilwoman Russell explained that this is for the CHIP program, at no cost to the city. The county administers it.

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

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

RESOLUTION 130-17 Sponsored by: Brenda Russell A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NECESSITY AND INTENT OF THE CITY OF LONDON TO APPROPRIATE CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY IN FURTHERANCE OF THE MUNICIPAL POOL (attachment) Motion by Douglas to place on first reading, second by Minner. Clerk read.

Councilwoman Russell explained that this is for the old church building behind the pool. It has been an abandoned eye sore since 2000.

Mayor Closser shared that a donation has been made to tear it down.

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

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

ROUND TABLE: Councilman Hatt stated that he is a little disappointed that the Resolution 121-17 didn't pass. It would have given residents a "tool box", free to the city.

Councilman Castle thanked everyone for coming in this evening.

He was disappointed that the resolution didn't pass and agreed with Mr. Hatt that it would have been a useful "tool" for residents.

He reminded everyone that the next finance committee meeting is April 17 and the city properties' meeting is April 26.

Councilwoman Russell thanked Mr. Hays for the flag donation.

She thanked Administrative Assistant Amy Reece for being instrumental in her work with "Access Cowling Park" grant.

Councilman Minner said that maybe BPU should address using little containers instead of bags.

He would like to move on the demolition of the old church building by the pool.

Councilman Peters reminded that the next public service meeting is Thursday, April 13th.

Councilwoman Douglas thanked everyone for coming in this evening.

She thanked Mr. Pyles for expressing his concerns and shared that she had the same. Residents need a "menu" selection of trash services.

Mr. Kavy commented that the biggest problem with that would be accounting.

ADJOURN: Motion by Long to adjourn.

Arlene Duffey, Clerk of Council

Jennifer Hitt, President