

April 19, 2018

President Joe Russell called the regular meeting to order. He led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance and observed a moment of silent reflection

CLERK ROLL CALL: Henry Comer, present; Rex Castle, absent; Brenda Russell, present; Rich Hays, present; Andrew Hitt, present; Josh Peters, absent; Anthony Smith, present.

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

COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

AUDIENCE CONCERNS: Doug Pyles, 303 Bishop, London, addressed council. He shared that he, and others he has spoken to, are in favor of proposal storm water. He questioned if next year, when BPU determines that it is not enough money, are rates going to be increased. Condominium association residents paid to correct the Wheeler Ditch and have been assessed by the Madison County Engineer's office. The association maintains everything.

BPU rates have gone up 15% over the past several years to cover operating cost of the water plant. There is \$11 million in the new water plant and tower. If the BPU is behind now, and more money is need, he was concerned that water fees will be raised. The average rate of utilities is \$60-\$75 per month now.

He asked who is going to pay for the \$300,000 truck.

He said he was just alerting council to be aware of extra charges.

Mr. Pyles stated, "I've been coming here for 10 years. I research legislation before coming to council. I bring strong arguments. All I get is "thank you Mr. Pyles" But you don't take into consideration what I say. I will continue to review legislation and attend meetings. I hope to "plant a seed"."

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Councilman Smith reported that he is looking forward to attending his first BPU meeting next Thursday. He stated that as far as he knows, there would not be any legislation to buy a truck. He is looking forward to getting solution for the community.

Councilman Hitt attended the public safety committee meeting. He reported that Sargent Nichols ordered two new cruisers. Two new mobile data terminals have been purchased with a grant. They will be meeting with Sheriff Sabin to discuss streamlining 911 services to help expedite service to citizens.

There are currently four positions open within the police department.

The fire department has participated in several community endeavors. They have been giving tours of the firehouse. They have instructing hands-on CPR training for high school juniors and seniors. Firemen have also been attending trainings.

Councilman Hays commended the fire department for expeditiously putting out the fire at Wendy's. "Kudos to the fire department!"

Councilwoman Russell attended the public service meeting. The recreation department is looking at 4.8 acres of land on Rt. 38 north of the London middle school for a dog park. It looks promising.

Mrs. Russell reported the updates at the pool. Recreation director Tammy Braskett completed her school certification. Additional water features are being considered for the pool. She's looking to extend a grant through ODNR. Summer leagues are being formed. The community center is still be utilized.

Safety Service Director Mosier added that the furnace work has been completed at the community center.

Mrs. Russell also reported that the street department has been busy cleaning up city streets, pothole repairs, and mowing. They are looking at a utility truck.

The storm sewer project has been completed in the "Y" at Elm and High streets.

Potential storm water problems are being checked into.

Councilman Comer attended the safety, service, and finance committee meetings.

He commented that Access Cowling is awesome for our city!

Councilman Hitt attended the finance committee meeting. They discussed waiving the storm water utility fee for poverty level income families. The new truck was also discussed during the meeting.

Those in attendance received a brief training from the auditor's office on how to read financial reports.

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

Mayor Closser stated that Mr. Pyles is right. He does do his homework and is the voice for the community. He very much appreciates Mr. Pyles coming in and his comments.

Councilman Smith asked about the Wings and Rings.

Mayor Closser shared that studies of population and traffic flow of London have been done. They are seriously looking at coming to London. They just need someone to open the franchise in London. Washington C.H. and Urbana area also being considered. It would be huge for our town!

Councilman Smith wondered if it would be beneficial to rally people and have them send emails to the company to show our support and interest in having Wings and Rings here in our community.

Mayor Closser replied there is no need to rally as they are just looking for someone to purchase a franchise. He suggested sharing the article out through Facebook.

Safety Service Director Mosier gave committee dates: property- April at 7:00 p.m.; finance May 7, 6:00 p.m.; public safety- May 8, 7:00 p.m., and public service May 10, 6:00 p.m.

Auditor Long reminded everyone to file their financial disclosure statements. She also shared that her staff member, Kathy Hafsey, saved the city \$1,285.17 in late fees for one of the accounts.

OLD BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE 113-18 Sponsored by: Rex Castle AN ORDINANCE SETTING A MONTHLY STORM WATER UTILITY FEE Motion by Comer to place on third reading, second by Hays. Clerk read. Councilman Hitt shared that Councilman Castle presented forms to use for those who would qualify for exemption from fees. Proof of income would be required through tax forms. The group also discussed how much it would affect revenue.

Councilwoman Russell stated everyone agreed to move forward with this legislation and discuss the other issue later. "We need to move on this."

Councilman Comer reminded members of his concern of passing the fees onto residents. He has heard from Mr. Pyles, representing the voice of the community, who is in favor of this utility fund. He wished more residents would come in and voice their opinion. "It sounds like we will go with it."

Motion by Russell to adopt, second by Comer. Roll to adopt: Russell, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Smith; yes; Comer, yes.

ADOPTED.

ORDINANCE 114-18 Sponsored by: Brenda Russell AN ORDINANCE VACATING AN ALLEY (attachment) Motion by Hitt to place on second reading, second by Smith. Clerk read. Councilwoman Russell shared that the neighbors are all in agreement to close this portion of the alley that is not used.

A public hearing is scheduled for the May 17 city council meeting.

LEFT ON 2ND READING.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION 118-18 Sponsored by: Brenda Russell A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AUDITOR TO TRANSFER FUNDS AND INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS Motion by Comer to place on first reading, second by Hays. Clerk read. Mrs. Russell explained that this is just giving the auditor permission to transfer funds to the storm water utility fund. Legislation was passed to create fund.

LEFT ON 1ST READING.

RESOLUTION 119-18 Sponsored by: Andrew Hitt A RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CITY OF LONDON'S CAPITAL NEEDS Motion Comer to place on first reading, second by Hitt. Clerk read. Councilman Hitt explained that this involves transfers from operating to capital funds. The legislation was approved last year and noted that the emergency clause has been added.

LEFT ON 1ST READING.

RESOLUTION 120-18 Sponsored by: Brenda Russell A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AUDITOR TO TRANSFER FUNDS Motion by Hitt to place on first reading, second by Hays. Clerk read. Motion by Hitt to place on first reading, second by Hays. Clerk read.

Councilwoman Russell explained that this transfer would allow Tammy Braskett, recreation director, to order all the playground equipment at once. BST runs to Minnesota every two weeks and has agreed to pick up the equipment and store it until its ready to be installed.

The grant will be release after July 1 and the city will be totally reimbursed by September. This is not an appropriation. We are just “fronting” the money until we receive it from the state.

President Russell added instead of holding up the project until all the money is received, funds are just being transferred.

Safety Service Director Mosier had hoped this could be suspended and voted upon as the ordered needs to be placed tomorrow.

Councilwoman Russell suggested a special meeting to get this one and couple other pieces of legislation moved on.

President Russell said a special meeting is tentatively scheduled for next Tuesday, April 24, 7:30 p.m. Once this is confirmed with Councilmen Peters and Castle, he will contact the newspaper. Only legislation needing immediate attention will be addressed.

LEFT ON 1S READING.

ORDINANCE 121-18 Sponsored by: Brenda Russell AN ORDINANCE AMENDING 1022 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES. Motion by Hays to place on first reading, second by Comer. Clerk read. Councilwoman Russell explained that this is cutting the number of tree commission members from six to four. It's very hard to fill seats on the commissions. Taking it down to four may make it easier.

LEFT ON 1ST

RESOLUTION 122-18 Sponsored by: Brenda Russell A RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS Motion by Comer to place on first reading, second by Hitt. Clerk read. Councilwoman Russell explained that the police department has a “donation/sponsor” fund. Monies starts out in general fund and are moved to their donation line. Chief Nicol is requesting this transfer.

LEFT ON 1ST READING.

RESOLUTION 123-18 Sponsored by: Brenda Russell A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AUDITOR'S WARRANT FOR PAYMENT Motion by Hitt to place on first reading, second by Hays. Clerk read. Councilwoman Russell explained all the documents are in order and the bill just needs paid.

President Russell noted that the emergency clause needs to be added.

Motion by Russell to amend to add the emergency clause, second by Hays. Roll to amend: Hitt, yes; Smith, yes; Comer, yes; Russell, yes; Hays, yes.

LEFT ON 1ST READING.

ROUND TABLE

Councilman Comer thanked Mr. Pyles and the Press for coming in this evening. He asked to “put a bug” in community to come in and let us hear their wishes.

Councilwoman Russell ask Auditor Long to give a special thanks to her employee for saving the city money.

Councilman Hays thanked everyone for coming in his evening.

He shared that at his condo association meeting, they had discussed the storm water utility fund and nine out of ten are in favor of it. This is something that should have been done a long time ago.

Councilman Hitt stated that he felt good about the police and fire departments being involved in active shooter trainings considering all the shootings taking place. It is important to be involved. They have been conducting drills and trainings at the various schools and MATCO, areas that would be considered “soft” targets.

Councilman Smith said he is looking forward to attending his first BPU meeting and anxious to get involved in helping solve the trash issue.

EMT Chief Robert Owen shared that Zak Antle, Dustin Farrell, and Adam Zimmerman will be receiving the Star of Life award to be presented May 22. This is the squad's second year in a row and the first time ever in the State of Ohio that this award has been given twice. Firemen Mark Foster and Jake Rowe will also be recognized.

ADJOURN: Motion by Councilwoman Russell to adjourn.

Arlene Duffey, Clerk of Council

Joe Russell, President