

**May 3, 2018**

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

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

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

**COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

President Russell reminded council members to file their financial disclosure statements.

The agenda will be re-arranged a little this evening to allow for presentations first.

Mayor Closser read and presented a Proclamation to the American Legion 105, proclaiming May 11-12 as Remembrance Day. Present to accept the Proclamation were Bev Whitelow, Cheryl Homier, Linda Stire, Stephanie Cunningham, and Jill Boggs.

Mayor Closser addressed those present regarding how "Access Cowling Park" came about. Please see attached presentation.

He presented Amy Rees and Jennifer Hagimeir with a plaque expressing the city's grateful appreciation for the work they have done with this project.

Amy Rees, Administrative Assistant, addressed the audience explaining how the project came about just two years ago to where it is now. (Presentation attached). She thanked everyone for coming out this evening to celebrate.

She thanked the City of London, the Parks and Recreation Department and Tammy Braskett. She thanked city council for their support, graciously allowing them to barge in and give the park a makeover.

She thanked Senator Hackett for supporting and campaigning their proposal, pushing for state capital funding securing \$200,000!

She thanked the Madison County Board of Developmental Disabilities and Susan Thompson her assistance and their generous donation of \$50,000.

She thanked Dave Kell, executive director of Madison County Future Inc., for assisting with the financing running monies through the CIC, a 501(c)3 corporation.

She also thanked Tony Shadwick, account manager with Penchura, the recreation products company that provided equipment and design for Access Cowling.

Tony gave her the idea of a permanent donor recognition list by creating a "donor tree" The different color leaves, butterflies, birds, and stones will represent the level of donation.

Jennifer addressed the audience at this time. She explained that her family wanted to do a memorial for their infant son who died unexpectedly. The memorial has turned into a lasting benefit for the entire community and county for disabled and able children. She expressed her gratitude to all who have helped make this possible.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None

**CITY OFFICIAL REPORTS:** Mayor Closser gave his administration update at this time. (Attached).

**AUDIENCE CONCERNS:** Larry Ellie, Trotwood, Ohio, addressed city council. He is running for Ohio Democratic Governor.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Councilman Smith attended the Board of Public Utilities meeting. He commented that it was a good meeting.

Councilman Peters announced that the next public service meeting is May 10, 6:00 p.m.

Councilman Hayes announced that the next safety meeting is May 8, 7:00 pm. He congratulated the London softball team for winning the Ohio Division.

Councilman Castle attended the city properties meeting on April 23. They toured the new city building currently under renovation. He added that the offices will be really nice.

The next finance committee meeting is May 7, at 6:00 p.m.

The city property meeting is May 23, 7:00 p.m.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

ORDINANCE 114-18 Sponsored by: AN ORDINANCE VACATING AN ALLEY Motion by Russell to place on 4<sup>th</sup> reading, second by Hitt. Clerk read. Councilman Russell explained the alley vacation request and that those property owners involved are in favor of the closing. There is a public hearing at the May 17 council meeting.  
**LEFT ON 4<sup>th</sup> READING.**

ORDINANCE 121-18 Sponsored by: Brenda Russell AN ORDINANCE AMENDING 1022 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES Motion by Hitt to place on third reading, second by Comer. Clerk read. Councilwoman Russell explained that this takes the membership down from six to four on the committee. This may help eliminate hardship in finding members.

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

**ADOPTED**

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

RESOLUTION 124-18 Sponsored by: Josh Peters A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT Motion by Hays to place on first reading, second by Comer. Clerk read. This allows the city to participate in state bids for a better rate.

Motion by Hays to suspend rules, second by Peters. Roll to suspend: Russell, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Peters, yes; Smith, yes; Comer, yes; Castle, yes. **SUSPENDED**

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

RESOLUTION 125-18 Sponsored by: Josh Peters A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO PARTICIPATE IN CONTRACTS OF THE STATE OF OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION Motion by Hitt to place on first reading, second by Comer. Clerk read.

Councilman Peters explained that this is to purchase salt for next year.

Motion by Hays to suspend rules, second by Comer. Roll to suspend: Hitt, yes; Peters, yes; Smith, yes; Comer, yes; Castle, yes; Russell, yes; Hays, yes. **SUSPENDED**

Motion by Russell to adopt, second by Hays. Roll to adopt: Peters, yes; Smith, yes; Comer, yes; Castle, yes; Russell, yes; Hays, yes. **ADOPTED.**

RESOLUTION 126-18 Sponsored by: Anthony Smith A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BPU TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT Motion by Russell to place on first reading, second by Hitt. Clerk read.

Councilman Smith asked that council move on this evening, authorizing BPU to go into contract now to take advantage of 0% interest for five years. This is a nutrient removal project. It has been priced matched, and is down to \$198,000. This is for the engineering phase.

Dan Leavitt, sewer plant superintendent, explained that it will take one year to design. The next phase will be the actual upgrade, a \$3.5 million dollar project, which includes cost of designs and planning.

Motion by Comer to suspend rules, second by Peters. Roll to suspend: Smith, yes; Comer, yes; Castle, yes; Russell, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes. **SUSPENDED**

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

**ROUND TABLE:** Councilman Comer thanked everyone for coming in this evening. "Access Cowling Park" is a great thing! Wonderful to see how it developed from such a small idea to this. Glad to see the city is spearheading a park that is going to accommodate all kids!

Councilman Castle thanked everyone for coming in this evening. He congratulated everyone involved in making "Access Cowling" happen! The city will be very proud to have such a park.

He reminded that the finance committee meets May 7 and the properties meeting is May 23.

He hoped we could look in to ways to reduce costs so we won't have to keep raising utility rates, as other projects are coming at us.

Councilwoman Russell thanked everyone for coming out. She personally felt that everyone's hearts, coming to together will become one, and then our minds will become one. "Just thrilled that everything is coming together. Give a little and the residents will fill in the gap! Thank you Tony for all your help!"

Councilman Hays stated that the playground is just "icing on the cake". It will draw tremendous groups of people to the city. He expressed his sympathy for the loss of Jennifer's child and said that God works in mysterious ways.

Mayor Closser added that with "Access Cowling", the new hospital being built, improvements at the pool, the church coming down, basketball courts, fields looking good, the city has a lot to be proud of. Garfield Avenue is going to be completely redone with curbs, gutters, and sidewalks. It's going to be highly impressive driving down Main Street in about a year.

He thanked city council for believing in them and allowing them to follow their dreams and visions.

Councilman Hitt thanked everyone for the donations for the park project. He thanked the Mayor for all his efforts he's provided for the improvements to the city.

Councilman Peters thanked everyone for coming in this evening. "Excited to see the finished project there at Park Avenue. Nice feature for the city of London."

Councilman Smith thanked everyone for coming in this evening. He said that Access Cowling will also attract businesses here. A repair shop owner is currently looking for a location in London to open up his business. "I'm hearing great things!"

President Russell congratulated Amy, Jennifer, and everyone in involved in the project for making it such a success. As a former lobbyist for the county board of developmental disabilities, a lot of people have approached him talking about this park. People realize that this is a beacon of hope for many disable kids who will now be able to play with the siblings. "This city is moving in the right direction!"

Amy Rees also thanked President Russell and Trint Hatt, registered lobbyist, for lobbying for them.

**ADJOURN:** Motion by Russell to adjourn.

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Arlene Duffey, Clerk of Council

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Joe Russell, Council President