

May 4, 2017

President Pro-Temp Rex Castle called the regular meeting of the London city council to order. He 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. All were in favor by responding "aye"

**COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None

**AUDIENCE CONCERNS:** Doug Pyles, 323 Bishop Drive, London, addressed council. He said he was sent an anonymous letter regarding the Madison County EMS. The letter eluded that paper work has been started to form EMS services within the London Fire Department. The letter stated that the fire department had questioned the care provided by the paramedics and negligence on the part of Chief Owen. The fire department spoke with the safety service director about starting the process of having their own EMS.

Mr. Pyles asked if council had heard about this. "The Fire Department plans to start their own EMS department which could affect everyone!"

Mr. Pyles reminded that years ago, council approved a strength ordinance that allowed for the hiring of paramedics. Mayor Closser was council president at that time and had to vote to break the tie. He voted for the ordinance. The contract in place, allows the fire department to hire as many paramedics as they want. He reminded that he campaigned in support of the fire department for fire protection.

He asked if they would have their own vehicle.

President Pro-Temp Castle replied that he has heard nothing about this.

Mr. Pyles said that the letter states that the safety service director and mayor are aware of it!

Mr. Bill Long, city representative sitting on the EMS board, asked who signed the letter.

Mr. Pyles replied "no one".

Mr. Long pointed out that those allegations are detrimental to the squad board. He shared that he's been on the EMS board for eight years now and there has always been discussions of "pulling numbers" regarding the city leaving the EMS district. He stated that it is the city's job to do what is best for the taxpayers and serve them with the best service we can. "I'm saying that we are pulling out, just looking at all options."

"It is only a rumor! No paper work has been signed by anyone."

Mayor Closser appreciated Mr. Pyles coming in. He stated that he did give the vote for paramedics within the fire department. "I felt that it was best for the city and safest."

He stated that no process has been started. This discussion is not new to the city. Numbers have been "pulled" through the years. Discussions have been internal only. A "fact finding" mission".

Chief Owen asked, "Was the comment made that I have been neglectful?" He also pointed out that he's tried to schedule a meeting with the Mayor.

Safety Service Director Mosier responded that when concerns were brought to their attention, we asked Mr. Long to check it out. "It's our responsibility. I can't say those were the exact words. There have been question as to have things been done."

Mr. Olwin agreed that it is administrations responsibility to look into matters, but asked "Was my name brought up as being neglectful?"

Mr. Moser responded that he couldn't recall the term "neglectful", but there were questions asked to why things were being done the way they are.

Chief Olwin responded by call the statement "libelous".

Mr. Chris Cook, Madison County Health Department's, RS, addressed council. He shared that he has met with city administration and spoke of expectations of working together.

He said that the agency is studying infant mortality rates in Madison County, (which is ranked number 14 in Ohio), healthy lifestyles, and drug use.

"No wrong door" training is being introduced to all employees and what we do.

The department is looking for ways to improve customer service and have recently done away with the automated phone service.

The department is working with the National Guard providing a free health care service day on Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup>. All kinds of health care services, free, for anyone in Ohio.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** President Pro-Temp Castle attended the city properties meeting. He commented that the state is "twisting the city's arm" to purchase the old state highway garage on Rt. 42. The committee is looking at concerns to be addressed.

Renovation of old primary building is still being discussed.

Councilwoman Long attended the board of public utilities meeting.

Councilman Peters reminded that the next public service meeting is May 11<sup>th</sup>.

President Pro-Temp Castle reminded that the next finance committee meeting is May 15<sup>th</sup>.

The next cities property meeting is May 24<sup>th</sup>.

**CITY OFFICIAL REPORTS:** Mayor Closser expressed his condolences for Chris Carter's family.

He also stated that he has never turned down a meeting.

He asked that council suspend rules this evening for Resolution 136-17 so things can be purchased for the dog park.

He thanked Mr. Cook for coming in this evening. The city is happy to partner with the health department.

Mayor Closser stated that he has never turned down a meeting.

Mayor Closser gave his administrative update at this time. He declared May 7-13 as public service appreciation week and read a proclamation.

Safety service director Joe Mosier announced that the upcoming planning commission meeting was cancelled due to no business to discuss.

There was vandalism at Cowling and Merrimac Parks, but repairs have been made and camera put back in place.

The pool coming along. Hopefully lights will be fixed in pool so we can fill it.

Mr. Mosier also pointed out that the downspouts and gutters are up on the administrative building!

## **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.**

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

RESOLUTION 134-17 SPONSORED BY: REX CASTLE A RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS. Motion by Long to place on first reading, second by Minner. Clerk read. Mayor Closser explained that this needs to be passed as he needs to get the movie viewing rights three weeks in advance.

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

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

ORDINANCE 135-17 SPONSORED BY: TRINT HATT AN ORDINANCE AMENDING 1244 OF THE ZONING CODE Motion by Rusell to place on first reading, second by Douglas. Clerk read.

Councilman Hatt explained that this deals with amount of time to hold a public hearing. The time frame goes from 45 to 60 days.

A public hearing will be held at the June 15<sup>th</sup> council meeting.

**LEFT ON 1<sup>ST</sup> READING.**

RESOLUTION 136-17 Sponsored by: Rex Castle A RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS Motion by Hatt to place on first reading, second by Russell. Clerk read.

Mayor Closser said that this needs to be approved to purchase new grills for Cowling park and "doggie waste" trash cans.

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

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

## **ROUND TABLE**

Councilwoman Douglas thanked everyone for coming in this evening.

President Pro-Temp Castle thanked everyone for coming in. He reminded everyone of the May 15<sup>th</sup> finance committee meeting.

The next city properties meeting will be announced.

Councilwoman Russell thanked everyone for coming in this evening.

She also commended the Police Department for participating in the Job and Family Services Department Carnival. It was great PR for Officer Laura Wilson to participate in line dancing!

Councilman Hatt reminded everyone of the May 16 public safety meeting.

**ADJOURN:** Motion by Councilman Hatt to adjourn.