

**May 5, 2016**

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 ROLL CALL:** Trint Hatt, present; Rex Castle, present; Brenda Russell, present; Dick Minner, absent; 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:** Margie Cooper, 175 New Hampshire Avenue, addressed council. She shared that she's been in a wheel chair for 30 years. She wanted to know when city is going to become more handicapped accessible. There are only two buildings in town that are handicapped accessible and those are Walmart and Kroger.

She gave an example that Huntington bank's doors are too narrow, there's two sets of doors to get through and their too heavy to open.

She pointed out that there are no sidewalks on Sweatland Avenue or New Hampshire. Many sidewalks around town are broken up and can throw her wheelchair off balance. When she has to travel on the road, people yell at her.

If residents can't afford to fix the sidewalks, she asked that the city consider it and then place the repairs on their tax bills.

She said it's not fair that it's such an everyday struggle for her and others in wheelchairs to get around town.

Mrs. Cooper also noted that that New Hampshire is not wide enough for two way traffic. Residents park on both sides of the street making it almost impossible for a fire truck or squad to get through.

When Downing Circle condos were built, they weren't allowed to park on the backside on New Hampshire, but they do. It's hard to get up and down the street creating a safety issue.

President Hatt thanked her for coming in and bringing this to everyone's attention.

Safety Service Director Mosier gave Mrs. Cooper his business card and said he would like to discuss this with her in more details of the roads she mentioned.

Mayor Closser acknowledged that a lot of the roads don't have sidewalks. He shared that London received a grant for sidewalks and will be working that.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Councilman Hatt attended the finance committee meeting.

Councilman Castle attended the city properties committee meeting. The bid was awarded to DESIGNnetwork from West Jefferson to conduct the community center building needs survey.

The next properties committee meeting is May 11 at 7:00 p.m.

The next finance committee meeting is May 16 at 6:00 p.m.

Councilwoman Long attended the city properties committee meeting.

Councilman Long reported the next public service meeting is May 12.

Councilwoman Douglas attended the Board of Zoning meeting.

**CITY OFFICIAL REPORTS:** Mayor Pat Closser thanked Mrs. Cooper for coming in this evening. He admitted that there are a lot of things that people don't see when it doesn't affect them directly.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

ORDINANCE 119-16 sponsored by Trint Hatt AN ORDINANCE VACATING A STREET Motion by Hatt to place on third reading, second by Peters. Clerk read. Councilman Hatt noted that the property owners are in favor of the closing and reminded there is a public hearing at the next council meeting.

**LEFT ON 3<sup>RD</sup> READING**

RESOLUTION 121-16 Sponsored by: Josh Peters A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ENGINEER TO ISSUE PERMITS FOR HAULING OVERWEIGHT AND OVERSIZE LOADS ON ROADS WITHIN THE CITY OF LONDON Motion by Peters to place on third reading, second by Douglas. Clerk read. Councilman Peters explained that this gives the county engineer authority to authorize permits for the city of London. The engineer's office currently issues permits for the rest of the county.

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

RESOLUTION 123-16 Sponsored by Rex Castle A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NECESSITY TO LEVY A TAX IN EXCESS OF THE TEN MILL LIMITATION FOR GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES Motion by Douglas to place on third reading, second by Russell. Clerk read. Councilman Castle explained the importance of this level. If it is not passed, residents will lose the state "roll back" and it will cost them more.

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

ORDINANCE 129-16 Sponsored by: Megan Douglas AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 101-16 FOR STRENGTHS ON JOB DESCRIPTIONS Motion by Russell to place on first reading, second by Long. Clerk read.

This is only a change in the wording of the department's strength ordinance. It will allow them flexibility in the staffing. They will be able to have one department head, one foreman, and five workers or one department head and six workers. They are not adding a position.

The department is currently short staff with a retirement and an employee off on disability.

Councilman Castle asked how the previous strength ordinance was worded.

Mayor Closser replied that it was one department head, one foreman, and five workers and reiterated that this is only a change in the wording.

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

**ROUND TABLE:** Councilwoman Douglas thanked everyone for coming in this evening and wished all mothers a "Happy Mother's Day".

Councilman Peters thanked everyone for coming in. He commented on how nice the trees look at the Bicentennial Park.

Councilwoman Long thanked everyone for coming in and wished everyone a "Happy Mother's Day".

Councilwoman Russell thanked everyone for coming in this evening. She commented on how nice Bicentennial Park is looking and thanked administration for getting the building demolished beside Stinger's.

Mayor Closser shared that the archway is almost completed at the Bicentennial Park. The park looks really nice with the new trees and picnic tables.

Councilman Castle thanked everyone for coming in this evening. He thanked Mrs. Cooper for coming in this evening. He understood exactly what she was saying. He challenged council members to stroll around the town at night. Some sidewalks are in very bad shape.

He thanked the street and water departments for making repairs to the water line.

He reminded everyone of the May 11 properties meeting and May 16 finance committee meeting.

Councilman Hatt reminded everyone of the May 10 public safety meeting.

He thanked Mrs. Cooper for coming in this evening. He appreciates residents coming in and telling the council these types of problems.

**ADJOURN:** Councilwoman Russell motioned to adjourn.

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Arlene Duffey, Clerk of Council

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Jennifer Hitt, President of Council