

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

**CLERK CALL ROLL:** Trint Hatt, present; Rex Castle, present; Brenda Russell, present; Dick Minner, present; Lora Long, present; Josh Peters, absent; Megan Douglas, present.

**MINUTES:** Councilman Hatt noted that “not” needed to be added to Mr. Long’s statement. “I’m **not** saying that we are pulling out, just looking at options.”

Also Ordinance No. 135-17, Councilman Hatt noted that the time frame goes from 40 to 60 days (not 45).

All members were in favor of accepting the minutes as amended by saying “aye”.

**COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:** none

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None

**AUDIENCE CONCERNS:** Lucie McMahon, Madison County Fair housing program, addressed council. She passed out an information brochure.

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

Councilman Castle attended the finance committee meeting. Reported that the committee was in favor of legislation being presented this evening to hire a firm to assist with the bid packets for the renovation of the old primary building and to purchase equipment for the street department.

The next finance committee meeting is June 12 and the city properties meeting is May 24.

Councilwoman Russell attended the finance committee and public service committee meetings. She reported that the street department has been busy removing yard waste, mowing, pulling weeds on the trail and duro patching roads.

Nate Ernst, street department head, attended the safety training at the engineer’s office.

Legislation is being presented this evening for a skid steer and front end loader the department would like to purchase.

Mrs. Russell also reported on the recreation department. The hospital will be utilizing the pool for therapy. Pool pass information is being finalized. Pool staffing is under way. Pool opens May 27<sup>th</sup>.

Private donations made purchased fencing down at Merrimac Park. A grant was awarded from ODNR.

First moving night is June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The next recreation meeting is June 8<sup>th</sup>.

**CITY OFFICIAL REPORTS:** Mayor Pat Closser addressed council at this time with his administrative update (attached).

Safety service director Joe Mosier congratulated Jennifer Hitt, Joe Russell, Sargent Cox and officer Gibson in their new positions. The next phase of “Access Cowling Park” is to remove the old equipment.

Nate Ernst, street department head, announced that road work would be taking place on Madison, Oak, Liberty, and Logan streets with traffic being maintained. The project will take about a week.

Auditor Szabo congratulated Joe Cox with his promotion to sergeant.

**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

Motion by Russell to remove from the table, second by Castle. Roll: Castle, yes; Russell, yes; Minner, yes; Long, yes; Douglas, yes; Hatt, yes.

Motion by Castle to read, second by Russell. Clerk read.

Motion by Castle to amend to \$1,600,000.00, second by Hatt. Roll to amend: Russell, yes; Minner, yes; Long, yes; Douglas, yes; Hatt, yes; Castle, yes.

Councilman Castle explained that if council decides to do this, it would be mean replacing two occupied buildings that date back as far as 1910 and 1920. These current city owned buildings are in of repairs that could total of half million dollars of unrecovable monies.

The old primary building is the newest of the three buildings constructed in 1960. It is structurally sund and will help generate revenue.

All city offices will be under one roof.

It would be a cost savings in utiliteis to have all city offices in one building.

There was much dicussion of pros and cons of funding this project.

Auditor Szabo shared his concerns. Revenue and expense trends over the past few years were discussed. He didn't dispute that it needs to be done, that the city is not broke, just need to maintain a carryover. He wanted to make sure that council took a good look at the expense side too.

Councilman Minner felt it would be a good investment.

Councilman Hatt pointed out that the only two options are tomove forward and consolidate city offices or stay in separate buidings. Investing in current buidings would just put the "under water". The buildings are valued less than what it would cost to repair them.

Councilman Mlinner noted that surrounding township halls and other cities have new buiding. "What do we have? We'll never have anything if we don't venture out.

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

#### **ADOPTED.**

ORDINANCE 135-17 SPONSORED BY: TRINT HATT AN ORDINANCE AMENDING 1244 OF THE ZONING CODE Motion by Hatt to place on second reading, second by Castle. Clerk read. Councilman Hatt reminded that there is a public hearing June 15. The proposed change is from 40 to 60 days.

#### **LEFT ON 2<sup>ND</sup> READING.**

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

RESOLUTION 137-17 Sponsored by: Rex Castle A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT. Motion by Russell to place on first reading, second by Douglas. Clerk read.

Councilman Castle explained that it was decided that it would be beneficial if professionals were hired to assist in refining the bid package and reviewing incoming bids. Administration would like to move on this. The old broiler needs to be replaced with a new heating system.

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

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

RESOLUTION 138-17 Sponsored by: Rex Castle A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO SECURE FINANCING THROUGH MADISON COUNTY TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT. Motion by Russell to place on first reading, second Hatt. Clerk read.

Nate Ernst, street department head, explained that it is cheaper to finance this equipment through the county.

Auditor Szabo asked if council would entertain just paying off the equipment in full but transferring money from the general account to the street department.

Councilman Castle stated he would prefer to budget a payment.

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

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

**ADOPTED.**

## **ROUND TABLE**

Councilman Hatt congratulated Officer Cox for his promotion to Sargent. He also congratulated the newest Officer Gibson and Joe Russell and Jennifer Hitt in their new positions within the city.

He thanked Mayor Closser and the other parties involved for the community forum meeting held last night regarding the drug epidemic in the county. He hopes to continue with moving forward with these types of conversations.

Councilman Castle reminded everyone of the finance committee meeting of June 12 and the properties meeting on May 24.

Councilman Minner commented, "he may not have been the way he would have done it, but it is a good way of going." (referring to Ordinance 134-17).

Councilwoman Russell congratulated Jennifer Hitt on her position as city law director.

**ADJOURN:** Councilman Hatt motioned for adjournment.

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Arlene Duffey, Council Clerk

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Joe Russell, Council President