

July 5 , 2018

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

**CLERK ROLL CALL:** 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 meeting were approved as received.

**COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None

**AUDIENCE CONCERNS:**

Madison Emergency District Chief Robert Olwin addressed council. (attached)

President Russell asked about comments made from the last council meeting. He viewed the council video proceedings, as he was unable to attend.

He asked about the times spent assisting hospital personnel after runs and to describe the work performed

Chief Olwin explained there are times when the ER staff is swamped and they are asked if the arriving unit can stay and start an IV or assist with a cardiac arrest patient.

President Russell asked if that fell within the scope of a medic in the hospital setting, who gives the directive, and is the hospital billed.

Chief Olwin replied that it is, that the medical director gives the directive and they do not bill the hospital.

President Russell said, "So we are spending time in the hospital, after runs working the hospital without any reimbursement. When typically, if there wasn't the need, those personnel would be prepared to go back into service."

Chief Olwin responded, "True. They are salary employees. They are paid sitting at the station or in the ER. They are doing something and being paid either way."

President Russell asked about the comments made that there were "back door deals" secured about the EMS.

Chief Olwin replied, "I don't know that I made that comment."

President Russell asked what the percentage of funding is that London provides to the district.

Chief Olwin replied, "Roughly 40% and they receive 60% of the runs."

President Russell said that he has repeatedly heard that this is going to cause the surrounding areas to suffer. "We make decisions for the city. What I can't understand is if we pay 40% of the funding with 60% of the runs, what would prohibit the EMS district from continuing to operate?"

Chief Olwin said there nothing that says we will not continue to operate. "We will not operate in the city of London, unless called as mutual aid."

President Russell asked how the surrounding areas would suffer.

Chief Olwin replied that if their budget is cut 40%, they are going to have to lay people off and cut some of their services.

President Russell said, "So if you are having 60% less runs, running 40% of the time...."

Chief Olwin, "Replied you are not going to have 60% less runs. I don't care what the fire department does; we are going to come back into the city."

President Russell responded, "But you just said 60% of the runs are in the city, so you are not going to have a 60% reduction?"

Chief Olwin replied, "True. If London can only handle two runs at once and you have a third run, someone is going to have to come in and handle that third run."

President Russell clarified, "So you are saying there is not going to be a 60% reduction because you anticipate having to supplement the service that the fire department is providing."

Chief Olwin replied, "Correct".

President Russell asked, "Is that similar to the hospital where you would be providing services without reimbursement?"

Chief Olwin said “no” and explained that the city would be billed for coming in and providing mutual aid. Residents would be billed as a non-resident and it would be a hard bill.

President Russell asked what the average run time for ALS in the city.

Chief Olwin said that it depends on the type of run and where you go. “Could be an hour, hour and a half, depending if you have to run to Columbus. Response time out of the station is usually under five minutes, two to three minutes.”

President Russell asked, “Can you tell us what it takes after you receive a call, before you leave, to go to the scene, what is involved in that?”

Chief Olwin explained that they have to walk from the training room or the day room to the truck to leave.

President Russell asked if the average response time is under five minutes, what are they doing in under five minutes that it takes to leave.”

Chief Olwin responded, “Well it depends on if it’s 2:00 in the morning, they would be asleep. If it were 2:00 in the afternoon, they would be sitting in the day room or training so they would have to get up and go to the truck. Time would be a lot less than during the nighttime.”

President Russell stated, “I listened to the tape from last meeting and I have some major concerns of things I heard. I think it is unconscionable that you would make a decision, that when this city is funding the EMS district at 40%, to call off the fire department arbitrarily when you don’t have the legal authority to do so. Mr. Olwin, are you an attorney?”

Chief Olwin replied, “No, I am not.”

President Russell asked, “Then what warrants you to talk about the “spirit of the law” vs the law when it pertains to people’s lives?”

Chief Olwin replied that he didn’t know that it pertains to people’s lives and that he had spoken to the attorney general’s office about that.

President Russell said that he had spoken to them as well. “Their response to me was “who told you that”? Because it is pretty clear in the revised code how things are supposed to be laid out and I have a real problem with us being told up here that everything is fine when it is abundantly clear that this is a problem. I cannot speak for my fellow members, but something has to change. When we got funding at levels and decisions being made that impact this city, there is no way that we can walk out of here without making a decision on this. In addition, I would hope that anyone up here called to our residents are given top-notch treatment. “

“I have heard over and over how great the treatment and the quality of care that is given and I have no doubt that is the case the majority of the time. However, there was a major accident in front of my house at about 10:00 one night and the way the EMS treated the person because they were under the influence was unconscionable. For us to sit up here and be told lie after lie, I am tired of the games and I am speaking for everyone up here. We are going to go forward with this, but from here on out we are going to get honesty. No games, no lies. If council moves forward on this and it’s presented to the voters, the voters are going to expect the truth and we are going to expect that the truth be given. I appreciate you being here engaged with city council.”

Councilman Castle asked, “What differentiates when you get a call, unit goes out, there’s a train, what happens?”

Chief Olwin said that it would be depend on the seriousness of the call. If it were serious, the dispatcher would dispatch the fire department. If it is a general illness, they usually wait for the train.

Councilman Castle commented that it could be a 10-minute lapse when the 911 call is made.

Chief Olwin stated that it would not be 10 minutes.

Councilwoman Russell said that she is still confused about the policy as it says that Somerford would come.

Chief Olwin explained that if it were a third run, Somerford would come into town. The issue was addressed last night at their board meeting. He talked to Matt McCann today and the fire department will be dispatched on any third or fourth call in the city that the north truck is coming in for.

President Russell asked if there were any other changes from last night’s meeting that need noted.

Chief Olwin replied, “No, not that I am aware of.”

Councilwoman Russell asked, “What is to stop you from changing that back?”

Chief Olwin stated that his board directed him to put that policy in place. He took their advice, talked to Matt McCann and so unless they direct him to change it again, that is the policy put in place.

Shirley Litchfield, 244 East First Street, addressed council. “I am your one and only supporter to council and administration.” She encouraged all city workers to be given credit where due. She opinioned that the city will suffer if it loses the people that know the residents the most. They know the patient’s history, what equipment to bring, what meds to save their life. There is no way anyone coming in will ever know all that they do.

She asked how long it would be before the city comes back and needs more millage to operate. She shared that her savings is not going to be great. That they won't be able to duplicate EMS services. They help you get your homes safe. "They are truly my family. Chief Eades didn't know the answer to the heart question asked."

Ms. Litchfield went on to say, "Mayor, something I need to let you know. You are getting a bad rap. People are saying that the only reason you are pushing this is so you can get a mill off your new house. Said that it is self-servicing. I tell them you are a man that is honest and would never ever use his position for personal gain."

Dr. James Kaehr passed out information to council members. He is the Madison County Coroner, Director of the Madison County Health Department, and a practicing physician in London. He resides at 1110 East Choctaw.

Dr. Kaehr went over the information he passed out to council members. (attached)

There were questions asked by council members, answered and clarified by Dr. Kaehr regarding the statistics provided.

Dr. Kaehr noted that runs are dispatched by a computer system that identifies what resources are available and determines who is going on a run. The chiefs program the computer.

He commented that both departments are very professional to work with. The only thing that makes his job worthwhile is working with firefighters and EMS working together for a common goal. "Knowing what is going on here, if that participation can be applied to leadership, we would not be here. They could work together to be better departments. If the EMS is gutted for this levy, that opportunity is lost and a treasure that the citizens of London will lose."

President Russell noted that that this has happened long before us and that he has a big problem with the run times. No action is being taken to work it out. No meetings have taken place since this was presented. Without the action of council, nothing will change. We cannot walk away and not have something for the voters to approve.

Dr. Kaehr said all you have to do is ask for the run times. It is very easy. Your staff nor administration has not asked. Call the 911 coordinator. It is all in the computer. Nobody has asked the question, "how to make it better." No one asked, "How many ambulances do you need?"

He added that the plan presented tonight, was not the plan he originally viewed.

President Russell commented that now that he knows whom to ask, about the run times, he would.

Councilwoman Russell noted that a lot more information was presented this evening. There's always a lot more questions being answered that we wouldn't have known to ask.

Dr. Kaehr asked, "Why were we not given a business plan that has a budget and projections. There should be a letter of endorse from me, the CEO of hospital, the health commissioners, sheriff, and EMA. Everyone should be talking. You have none of that."

President Russell asked if the staffing levels weren't a concern, is this a proposal that makes sense for the city. "Would you still have concerns of change?"

Dr. Kaehr identified in the document, that levels of experience would also be cut. If there is the same number of people, but with this plan cuts out ambulances and experience.

President Russell asked if there was any proposal, involving the fire department, that he would support.

Dr. Kaehr responded, "My vision would be for Madison County EMD to stay as is. The demand is going to grow for a fifth ambulance. I would like to see capabilities spread across more agencies. If London fire is able to get an ambulance. If you ask yourself which team would you want to show up at your door. These people teach paramedics to be paramedics. You want these people to help develop the skills of the paramedics of the London fire department. So if these two teams would work together and make each other more capable, you'd really have something."

A member of the audience asked Chief Eades about his staffing.

Chief Eades replied that his plan includes 10 people per day. Two staff medics at all time. All vehicles will have ALS capability except for one.

Carla Blazer, 205 South Union Street, London, explained her career procession. She discussed certifications, protocols, and working at the hospital while the EMS remained in service. (Presentation attached).

She just feels there is a failure to communicate. She wished that President Russell had contacted the department immediately when he witnessed the treatment being given to a patient. "That type of treatment is not tolerated and would have been dealt with immediately."

Everyone is complaining, but nothing is being done. It needs to be more than just the two chiefs sitting down together. It needs to be members of the board and council. There were people at the last meeting with very good credentials offering their assistance.

Under these two chiefs, there used to be cross training. The fire department is invited to all our trainings. We, on the ground level, don't have a problem with each other. Let's not pick us apart. Why not keep departments in-tack and make better.

She invited council members to come to their station, ask questions, and see their equipment and trucks.

The plan would not only decrease medics, but fire fighters too.

President Russell asked Mrs. Blazier if she was aware of any attempts to have a meeting.

Mrs. Blazier was not. She commented that this has made it even worse. "It's us, against them. I have not talked to any of the firefighters. It's just tearing us further apart."

Councilman Hitt noted that there has been discussion for years of seceding. He asked her what kept it from happening before.

She thought that maybe it was cost prohibitive. "We have vehicles you need already. It is probably a "butting of heads".

Mr. Hitt asked that that it boils down to just a power struggle and not because of response time or poor service.

Mrs. Blazier responded, "Yes." She added that the "rank and file" get along fine. There's never been problems and we've always worked well together. Firefighters have been instructed not to talk about anything.

President Russell thanked Ms. Blazier for sharing her thoughts and her honesty. He didn't feel though that we would be to this point if it could be sat down and talked out.

Mrs. Blazier suggested that both chiefs, council, board members, officers from fire department, and administration sit down. A concise, chosen group with a set goal.

President Russell said that he continues to hear things that are contrary to what she said. He heard EMS want to kick the city out of district. "Why is that so, that if we are on the same page? I heard you feel that council doesn't care about the EMS district."

Mrs. Blazier said that it is just her perception as no one from city council attends their board meetings. "I feel like we are not important enough to attend our meetings."

Councilwoman Russell explained that council members cannot sit on their board and make decisions here. EMS is all together separate.

President Russell added that he appoints the representative. "We do care. It is nothing personal. We are just trying to do what is best for the city."

Mrs. Blazier offered to help get the group back together.

Michelle Turvy, 65 US Rt. 40 NE, London, addressed council. (Presentation attached)

Councilman Hitt asked Mrs. Turvy if she ever had to make a decision as a dispatcher.

Mrs. Turvy explained how dispatch works. The dispatcher types information provided into the computer. The computer determines, by the location and the type of call, who needs to be called out. The chiefs, sheriff, and 911 coordinator build run types. She highly recommended that they contact the Sheriff, as he is a great resource and can answer their questions.

Councilman Castle asked when does the call list come in to play.

Mrs. Turvy replied that it is built into the system.

Mr. Castle explained that the fire department has been "black balled" from certain calls. "I have to protect my constituents. It's not about money, it's about safety."

President Russell asked if the system overrides program protocols.

Mrs. Turvy replied "no". She explained that it depends on how a call comes in. The computer program requires that certain questions be answered. The computer determines by those answers who needs to be called.

She highly recommended discussing this with Sheriff Sabin. Make sure you get all your questions answered.

Councilwoman Russell was confused on the policy and procedure. She received two different answers. She stated that she is standing on what she was told and heard over a phone conversation with Mr. Furbee.

Councilman Smith asked for clarification on the policy.

Chief Olwin explained that if a third call comes in, it was dispatched to Somerford. That policy was changed last night at the board meeting. London fire department will be called.

President Russell pointed out that the fire department is also a first responder. He stated that we are fighting over run cards. "It doesn't seem that citizens are getting the response time they need. Moreover, if we are not getting the service we feel we should be getting, then maybe we need to look at changing the service. I feel we are being intentionally misled. We'll be making a decision that is in certain people's political favor and that is not right."

Chief Eades stated that he was not aware of those changes made. "I would have thought I would have been informed of the policy change, so I can made changes."

Steve Scaggs, 531 Circle Drive, addressed council. He said that experience does matter! "There's been talk about having a meeting, but nobody is getting together." He offered to set up a meeting between the two groups.

"It's just a spat between two people! No one is making an attempt to fix the problem."

Councilman Smith reminded that the city only as a 14% voting right and cannot make Chief Olwin sit down and do anything. There are emails being sent that are not being responded to.

Mr. Scaggs said that before you put people of work and townships pull out, sit down and talk. "They don't have to like each other. They just have to respect the positions. They need to work together for the community. Nobody has tried to fix it. Putting this on the levy without an effort to fix it is wrong."

Councilman Smith said, "We are sitting here, trying to make a decision, because two people can't get along and we are trying to make a decision that could essentially cost people their lives one way or another. It is frustrating that we are sitting here because two people can't get along."

Mr. Scaggs responded that they didn't need to cost people their jobs. "I believe we have the best system in the state."

Mr. Smith stated, "We are not costing them their jobs. Leadership is what would be affecting people to lose their jobs. It is a representation of leadership. If we stay and don't negotiate, someone is going to end up dead if we don't fix run cards."

Councilwoman Russell reminded that we have no authority over Chief Olwin at all. "We can't make him do anything."

President Russell noted again, that the city has only 14% of the say, 60% runs, 40% funding. "It is not a lack of representation on the EMS board. I will show up. But meeting on a national holiday, is not conducive of having people there. We will make an official request to make changes to the EMA district. We saw the requests that were being made."

Mr. Robert Turvy, 65 US Rt 40, London stated there were things in the letter that could not be done because they are bound by the State of Ohio legislation.

President Russell fire back that has not stopped anything from being changed. "Why are run cards being changed when there is no legal authority? He is running the EMS district violating the law. He does not have the authority the change the run cards."

Mr. Turvy said that these two need to sit down and make up their run cards. "We are not in situations where we can take care of ourselves. We all need one another."

Chief Eades said that he had asked for clarification on major medical runs in 2015 and still has not received a response. The fire department has ALS equipment. We are not reinventing the wheel. We get dispatched 3<sup>rd</sup>, and then get called off because EMS has someone freed up."

Steve Saltsman, 165 North Main Street, addressed council He said he is glad that elected officials have been looking into this. He is ashamed that it has come to this. "It's not city council's job to call meetings. It has become an issue that if you cannot fix it, council has to. There should have been meetings taking place when this first started."

He stated he did not care how you vote (council), but you all needed more information. The problem is when the squad is out; the fire department does not get calls.

Jason Kusic, 364 Lands Lane, London, explained his experience. The fire department just hasn't had the opportunity to get the experience. You need to learn from someone to gain experience. He gave examples of his own career to clarify what experience can actually do. There has not been a meeting to discuss issues at this magnitude.

"I believe if we actually sit down a have meeting we can fix it. We are all okay working together on run cards. I am asking you for my job sake, my family, please have a meeting."

Councilman Smith asked Chief Eades if he has chosen whom he would hire and are they fresh out of school.

Chief Eades stated that he is potential candidates in mind with experience. Candidates from the city of Columbus, Whitehall, Jefferson Township are a few of the places they have worked.

Councilman Smith noted that just because this is passed, doesn't mean we can't resolve this issue.

President Russell said that it is not our intention to devalue experience, but the point is we can't calculate that because we don't know who we are hiring. "I have total respect for your experience. It's not personal. We take this very seriously and are trying to do the right thing for the city."

There was more discussion on simultaneous runs and the fire department's equipment.

Chief Eades said that it is rare that there are four simultaneous runs. No one can afford to have four staffed vehicles. As long as you get hands on a patient, the public does not care what truck shows up or the color of it as long as you show up and help.

Dr. Kaehr said that the sheriff is willing to mediate a meeting.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Councilman Castle shared that the city property meeting was canceled.

The next finance committee meeting is Monday, July 9, 6:00 pm.

The next city property's meeting is July 25, 7:00 p.m.

Council member Hays reported the next safety committee meeting is Tuesday, July 10, 7:00 p.m. He made it quite clear that everybody is welcome to attend the meeting.

Councilman Peters announced the next public service meeting is Thursday, July 12.

Councilman Smith attended that last BPU meeting. The water department is doing great even with all the pools being filled.

#### **CITY OFFICIAL REPORTS:**

Mayor Closser gave this administration report at this time (attached)

Mr. Bill Long, the city's representative on the EMS board. Previous council presidents appointing him were John Dixon, Pat Closser, and Jennifer Hitt. President Russell appointed him again.

He said that he had visited with Madison County Prosecutor Steve Pronai, the board's legal representative, regarding run cards. The fire chief is to set the run cards. There is no such thing as the "spirit of the law".

Mr. Long said the EMS board needs to tape record their meetings. He did not want to make a comment at their meeting concerned that his words will be twisted.

If London secedes, the county Auditor will disperse everything as she see fit. The district cannot kick the city out.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

AMENDED RESOLUTION 135-18 Sponsored by: Russell, Hays, Hitt, Russell, Castle A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NECESSITY TO LEVY A TAX IN EXCESS OF THE TEN MILL LIMITATION FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES. Motion by Comer to place on fourth, second by Hitt. Clerk read.

Councilman Castle said that no action had been take until this was set in front of us. Just hear a lot of "lip service", no action. Get a meeting in gear!"

Motion to adopt by Castle, second by Hitt. Roll to adopt: Castle, yes; Russell, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Peters, no; Smith, yes; Comer, no. **ADOPTED.**

RESOLUTION 136-18 Sponsored by: Russell, Hays, Hitt, Russell, Castle A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE NON-COLLECTION OF THE 3 MILL LEVY FOR THE MADISON COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL DISTRICT. Motion by Russell to place on fourth, second by Hays. Clerk read.

Councilman Comer commented that here has been a lot of good education of how the EMS and fire department operate. It is unfortunate that this is here before us because two people cannot get along. It has been allowed to go on and happen. No matter what, we should be working together when the safety of our public is at stake.

Motion to adopt by Castle, second by Russell. Roll to adopt: Russell, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Peters, no; Smith, yes; Comer, no; Castle, yes.

**ADOPTED.**

ORDINANCE 137-18 Sponsored by: Rex Castle AN ORDINANCE VACATING AN ALLEY Motion by Russell to place on third reading, second by Hays. Clerk read. A public hearing is scheduled for July 19.

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

ORDINANCE 144-18 Sponsored by: Rich Hays AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ADOPTING THE CITY OF LONDON POLICY AND PERSONNEL MANUAL Motion by Russell to place on third reading, second by Hays. Clerk read.

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

RESOLUTION 148-18 Sponsored by: Josh Peters A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS Motion by Comer to place on first reading, second by Hitt. Clerk read. Councilman Peters explained that this is a donation for the Friday night summer movies and is just a fund transfer.

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

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

RESOLUTION 149-18 Sponsored by: Rich Hays A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS Motion by Russell to place on first reading, second by Hays. Clerk read.

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

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

RESOLUTION 150-18 Sponsored by: Rich Hays A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS Motion by Comer to place on first reading, second by Hays. Clerk read. Councilman Hays explained this is a donation from the COBRA club. Money just needs transferred.

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

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

RESOLUTION 151-18 Sponsored by: Henry Comer A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF CRA FROM JERRY ALCOTT-BST TO ALCOTT PROPERTIES, LLC. Motion by Hitt to place on first reading, second by Comer. Clerk read.

Councilman Comer explained that this is only a business name change.

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

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

**ROUND TABLE:** Councilman Peters thanked everyone for coming in this evening. He appreciated the information that Dr. Kaehr shared. He wished it could have been worked out between the two groups.

Councilman Hitt hoped that both departments would try to educate the public and get them informed for a good decision at the ballot.

Councilman Hays thanked everyone for coming in this evening and commented that it's been a heated discussion. He wished that the difference could have been worked out. "I think everyone tried. Just not going to work out. We did what he felt is best for the citizens."

Councilman Castle thanked everyone for coming in this evening. He pointed out that this legislation did not coming lightly on all of our parts. He said that a comment was made that we need to try to force a meeting. "This is the way we force a meeting. We passed legislation. Hopefully, this will be worked out at meeting. We can resend the legislation. However, we have a time limit to get it on the ballot. Hopefully we can come to a good conclusion"

Councilman Comer thanked everyone for their input. If legislation is brought forth, it should also come with information so we can be educated. When this information was presented, we knew nothing about it, we are sitting here seven weeks later, and we still have questions.

President Russell thanked everyone for coming in this evening.

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

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Arlene Duffey, Clerk of Council

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Joseph Russell, President