

August 3, 2017

President Pro Tem 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, absent.

President Joe Russell arrived late due to traffic slowdowns.

**MINUTES** of the previous meeting were approved as received. All were in favor by responding “aye”

**COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None

**AUDIENCE CONCERNS:** Jerry Bales, 16 Graham Avenue addressed city council. He asked if the \$1.5 million for the remodeling the old primary building for city offices, is going to be put on a tax levy.

President Pro Tem Castle replied that the city will get a loan for the project.

Mr. Bales explained that with the recent storms, he’s had flooding up to his floor joist, with three sump pumps running constantly.

He informed that the storm drains on Graham, Riley, and Stewart Avenues were completely non-functional.

He asked if the city could verify if they are working or are they blocked.

Mayor Closser shared that administration and street department have already planned to “camera” storm sewers around town. The street department is waiting on the jetter truck to be repaired.

Many areas around the city were hit extremely hard.

Mayor Closser explained that the city needs to set up a storm water utility maintenance fund. Once the city hits a population of 10,000, which we will in 2020, the fund has to be set up. Council has attempted to set up this fund in the past. The city could start banking money to fix the infrastructure. These funds would only be used to repair or replace aging infrastructure.

Mr. Bales stated that he had put in storm sewers and after having done some inspecting, the main trunk line is too small on Stewart Avenue. A 10” pipe in running into an 8” pipe. The city needs to plan on a bigger trunk line in the future.

Mr. Bales would like to see the city trench the creek beds too.

Mr. Bales said that he would be expecting a lot out the Mayor!

He commented, “Personally, I’d fix the roof before I bought the new furniture. \$1.5 million sound like a lot of money to fix that building.”

Mike Ballenger, 414 N. Main Street, addressed council. He explained that the flooding was so bad on North Main and Merimont, that the road was closed. His basement had five feet of water in it.

The water coming off the back fields was like a river running down Graceland Avenue.

He wanted to know what could be done to make sure it never happens again.

Mayor Closser explained that once the street department accesses and jets everything, they can decide on what type of improvements to make.

He shared that the week of flooding was the worst week of his life! He assured residents that he does care and the city will do what they can. He was well aware of the potential flooding on Jacqueline Drive, but Graham Avenue through him off!

Mr. Herb Akers, 504 Graceland, stated that the source of the water problem on Graceland, is coming off the fields behind it. Water runs 24/7. He wondered if a retention pond would help.

Councilman Castle shared that there was flooding back in the 80's where he lives on Westmoor Drive. The city cleaned out all the creeks then. It's something that needs to be done again.

Councilman Minner stated that the city needs to clean the creeks more often. It's obvious where the problem areas are! "We haven't done our job, struggling to have money of what we need to do."

President Joe Russell asked if the work being done on the hospital has any impact on the flooding.

Safety Service Director Joe Moser didn't think that was causing any problem, but are in the process of having engineers review the area.

Kim Ballenger, 414 N. Main Street, shared picture of their flooded basement. She questioned if the city can justify spending \$1.5 million on the building while having this flooding problem. "Can't the city take care of this first?"

Mayor Closser responded that if this had happened a year ago, they probably would have put the school building on hold.

He said let the city access everything first. There may be a collapsed tile in the field. The city will be cleaning out the creek beds.

He urged council to set up a storm water utility maintenance fund. "I do feel so bad about this. I heard from those that broke down and cried."

Trudy Evans, 12 Graham Avenue, addressed council. She shared that she has a handicapped daughter and was grateful that Jerry brought over sump pumps to help with the flooding. She hopes that the city will get this fixed!

Teresa Hennis, 14 Graham Avenue, addressed council with the same issue. She shared that the neighborhood is trying to clean up the area and make it nice. There is a lot of costs involved with flooding – sump pumps, repairs, losses, etc. Regular maintenance needs to be done. She hoped that the storm sewer and creeks will be cleaned before there is another problem.

She stated that she had sent an email to the Mayor with her concerns, but has never gotten a response back.

Mayor Closser apologized explaining that they were working on it, but didn't have an answer for her at that time. He prides himself in replying to emails and acknowledged that he should have at least responded to let her know he was aware of the situation.

Ms. Hennis also commented that she had read on "next door to London" that the fairgrounds were pumping water into the storm waters and when asked about it, the individual was told it was none of their business.

Mayor Closser replied that the fairgrounds were pumping water off their infield and were asked to stop immediately, which they did, until further notice.

Ms. Hennis expressed how she felt it was more important to take care of this situation rather than repairing the old primary building. "Our infrastructure before a new building."

She shared that the residents are trying very hard to clean up the area and just need help from the city and to follow through with what they say they will do. "This is a good place to be, we just all need to work together!"

Councilman Hatt reminded everyone that city council members' phone numbers are on the website if they ever need to call.

Ms. Hennis asked if the \$1.5 could be "moved" to help with flooding situation.

Mr. Mosier explained that there are funds to take care of flooding, we just need to determined what to do first. We need access the lines.

President Russell added that funds have already been appropriated for the renovation for the primary building for city use.

Mr. Castle noted that even if there was a whole new system in place, 6" of rain in 72 hours would still cause flooding and creeks to overflow.

He also suggested residents install a back flow divert valves which will help prevent flooding from city lines.

Councilman Minner commented he will be off council in four months and will be glad to continue to help residents.

Mr. Castle thanked everyone who came in and shared their comments.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Councilman Hatt attended the public safety meeting

Councilman Peters informed that the next public service meeting is Thursday, August 10.

**CITY OFFICIAL REPORTS:** Mayor Closser thanked everyone for coming in this evening. He noted that there is only negativity on social media and he tells those to come and be a part of the solution. "We need to be proactive and less re-active!"

Mayor Closser presented this administrative report.

Safety Service Director Mosier assured residents that they are accessing the flooding situation looking at areas with sinkholes and other indications that they are problems. There is funding available to work on the flooding issues.

He said that the city is fogging for mosquitos and working with the health department who is tracking the areas.

Mr. Mosier also shared that administration has talked to the county engineers about the fairgrounds and Jaqueline Drive flooding issues. They are going to meet with the senior fair board to discuss how issues can be resolved.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

ORDINANCE NO. 147-17 ODOT RESURFACING PROJECT. Motion by Long to place on third reading, second by Russell. Clerk read. This is the city's share of the project to resurface Rt. 42 and 38 through town.

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

**ADOPTED.**

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

RESOLUTION 155-17 Sponsored by: Rex Castle A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AUDITOR TO TRANSFER FUNDS Motion by Russell to place on first reading, second by Long. Clerk read.

Councilman Castle explained that the fire department has had to use a lot of their overtime pay to cover payroll due to a couple of firemen being on leave. The fire chief needs to transfer these funds.

Mr. Mosier asked that this be voted on this evening. If this is taken care of now, they won't have to come back and request an appropriation.

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

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

RESOLUTION 156-17 SPONSORED BY: Rex Castle A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ACCEPT BIDS AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT ACCORDING TO LAW FOR BUILDING RENOVATIONS Motion by Long to place on first reading, second by Peters. Clerk read.

Councilman Castle explained that primary concern to get started is due to the heating of the building, as we want it to be self-sustained. The properties committee recommended to go with the bid and exclude some options.

Mr. Mosier added that there is a degree of urgency as fire safety bars needed to be added to doors.

The completion date is April 2018. Once legislation is approved, the bid package goes to DLZ to make sure the company is legit before the bids are awarded.

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

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

**ROUND TABLE:** Councilman Hatt thanked everyone for coming in this evening. He shared that he's been on council for five years and that we are getting to a point of being pro-active, instead of re-active.

He appreciated everyone coming. He reminded everyone council members' cell phone numbers are on the city website.

Councilwoman Russell thanked everyone for coming and sharing their stories. She said her and her husband drove around the city and witnessed first-hand the flooded areas. He heart went out to those who lost belongings in the flooding. This is a new administration and everyone is working to remedy the situations.

President Pro-Tem Castle thanked everyone for coming in this evening. He acknowledged that it has been agonizing and heart-wrenching situations for many residents. "Something will be remedied!"

The next finance committee meeting is Monday, August 7, 6:00 p.m.

The next city properties committee meeting is August 23.

Councilman Minner commented that Jacqueline Drive's flooding problem starts way north of the area. A retention pond is needed north of the area. He suggested contacting the stated. 75,000 acres drain toward London.

Councilwoman Long said she was very sorry for everyone's loss of property and belongings. "We will get something done!"

Councilman Peters thanked everyone for coming in this evening.

President Russell thanked everyone for coming in this evening. The city will be working diligently on this situation.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Motion by Hatt to adjourn to executive session to discuss the compensation of employee. Mr. Hatt invited safety service director Mosier to join the session. Motion second by Russell.

Roll to adjourn to executive session: Hatt, yes; Castle, yes; Russell, yes; Minner, yes; Long, yes; Peters, yes.

**REGULAR MEETING:** Motion by Hatt to reconvene the regular meeting, second by Russell. Roll: Castle, yes; Russell, yes; Minner, yes; Long, yes; Peters, yes; Hatt, yes.

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

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Arlene Duffey, Clerk of Council

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Rex Castle, President Pro-Tem

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Joe Russell, President