

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

**CLERK CALLED ROLL:** Henry Comer, present; Rex Castle, present; Brenda Russell, present; Rich Hays, present; Andrew Hitt, present; Josh Peters, absent; Anthony Smith, present.

**MINUTES** of the previous meetings were approved as received. All were in favoring by responding "aye".

**COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Councilman Henry read a letter from London resident Jason Tipton regarding curbs. (attached) Mr. Tipton basically requested that council repeal the codified ordinance requiring property owners to maintain/upkeep city-installed curbs.

Safety Service Director Mosier and Mayor Closser discussed that this is a public safety committee issue. Council would need to prepare legislation.

Councilman Castle commented that currently the city takes care of damaged curbs if need be, but then assesses the property owner.

President Russell noted that the agenda would be re-arranged as Mrs. Russell needs to leave early.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

RESOLUTION 156-18 SPONSORED BY: Joe Russell, Brenda Russell, Andrew Hitt, Rex Castle, Rich Hays A RESOLUTION TO PROCEED WITH THE LEVY OF A PROPERTY TAX IN EXCESS OF THE TEN MILL LIMITATION FOR FIRE AND EMS PURPOSES AND TO SUBMIT THE QUESTION OF THE TAX TO THE ELECTORS AT THE NOVEMBER 6, 2018 ELECTION Motion by Hays to place on first reading, second by Hitt. Clerk read.

President Russell explained that this is the exact same resolution passed earlier; it was just procedurally done incorrectly.

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

**SUSPENDED.**

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

**ADOPTED.**

RESOLUTION 157-18 Sponsored by: Rich Hays A RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS Motion by Hitt to place on first reading, second by Hays. Clerk read.

Councilman Hays explained that this it to replace damaged fire equipment. The money just needs to be transferred to the appropriate line item.

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

**SUSPENDED.**

Mayor Closser added that the damage was done to hoses and turnout gear by hot tar, from a fire at the county engineer's storage building. Central Township was also at the scene and turned in their damage equipment to their insurance company and for the city of London too.

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

**ADOPTED**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None

**AUDIENCE CONCERNS:** Carla Blazier, 204 South Union Street, addressed council. She commented on statements made by the Mayor at previous meetings.

She noted that he said service would be improved if the fire department took over, but hasn't said how.

The city wants 60% of the votes. It would do away with the EMS board. The city would have three times the voting right, representing the whole city.

A member of Chief Eades family was posting untrue information about a run on facebook. That's "dirty pool".

Haven't seen a budget for three trucks and there was discussion of possibly purchasing used vehicles. Chief Olwin researched what it would cost to repair used vehicles. It makes more sense to purchase new.

It was said that the fire department will have three transport trucks. Said would have ALS in one truck. Said would have two more, not true. Said would increase staff, but only hiring three full time people.

She asked where all the money is coming from when they can't even buy a radio. They've spend \$24,000 on a feasibility study.

She was concerned that the EMS board was given no time to respond to requests, when it had to be sent to their attorney first.

She stands corrected on when the city will collect the millage from the levy. The auditor is not positive if it will be collected in 2019. The auditor is not sure if the city secedes, if equipment will be split.

The city has had a great service since 1981. The community needs to be educated. The EMS is providing a service that will not be equal to or surpass.

She said that her "fun fact" is, "This is the last time you will hear me talk!"

Councilman Comer shared that he saw how the 911 systems works. The system knows who the closest available unit is. It automatically generates calls. If you have the monitor, you can see that you are about to be dispatched.

Mrs. Blazier commented that chiefs, of both departments, have not gotten along way back when. "We get along at the ground level, but this process has really affected us at ground level."

Councilman Hays asked what Facebook comments she was referring to.

Mrs. Blazier explained that a patient's relative posted how badly they were treated and weren't transported where they wanted to go. We can't reply. But this this was shared out by a firefighter's dad. No one asked us about the particulars. The chief's mother share it out after the chief was made aware of it! She was transported to where she wanted to go. Comments were blatantly untrue.

President Russell thanked her for coming in. The focus on this council was only to vote on the legislation to put it on the levy for voters to decide. Should there be any changes; another process needs to be done. We have made no action to secede.

Mrs. Blazier stated, "That as a citizen, this says to me that this is what you want and can afford. I assume if you put it the levy, we can afford it."

Audrey Caudill, 40 Maple Street, addressed council. She asked if there is a city noise ordinance. Trucks, motorcycles, vehicles with no mufflers, cars racing, tires squealing, and loud music go by their house constantly. They have tried to catch the license plates of those racing, but have unsuccessful. They can't even open their windows.

Mr. Mosier replied that the noise ordinance states within 50'. Rt. 56 is a main thorough-way and traffic cut across Lincoln and Maple to Rt. 142 or Rt. 42. He will look into the noise further.

Mayor Closser added that 11:00 p.m. is "silent" time stated in the ordinance.

Melinda Elliott, owner of Fine Designs, 11 South Main Street, addressed council. She was here this evening to raise awareness of the downtown businesses. As a business owner for 26 years, she has seen businesses come and go, and has a good handle on small businesses.

She has seen a lot of growth. Her business has doubled from last year. It is very encouraging to see new businesses coming in.

"Everyone has to get in the mindset of "buy local". If your community is not supporting us, we can't make it. Just stop in and spend money in the downtown stores. We are your supporters for local events. We gave \$17,000 back into the community."

"Make downtown the "living room of our community"! We need to have a vision. We have two main thorough-ways. We have a gym. We have a great downtown."

She suggested a resident survey be conducted to see what they would support. A list of emails would need to be gathered. Get big business to help support our local businesses. A CRA is needed for the downtown area.

If businesses are empty, fine them!

Mayor Closser shared that they have been looking at such legislation. If a building is empty for a year, they would have to start paying fines. It will take away from getting a tax write off.

Ms. Elliott went on to explain that there are two downtown business associations. The London Business Network, a group of 24 individuals, meets the first Thursday, 9:00 a.m., at Fine Designs. They have one speaker at each meeting. It helps create comradery among the business owners. It costs \$80 to join, paying for advertising for this group. "We'll continue to get the word out!"

The Downtown London Association has sponsored many events including Old Fashion Christmas.

Todd and Joann Fisher, Yesterday's Ewes, 68 South Main Street, are putting together a packet for new business.

She explained that the beautification committee has been looking at the tree squares. "They are a hot mess!" They are in the city's right-a-way, but the group has been told it is their responsibility to maintain them. The committee would like to see all the weeds pulled and rock put down. "Be done with it."

President Russell shared that there is a program, similar to the CRA, for downtown areas. He would be interested in assisting the group.

Ms. Elliott finished with, "If we have a strong downtown, we'll have a strong city."

Councilman Comer pointed out that this issue, with the tree squares right-a-way, goes right along with curb, gutter, alley, etc. situations popping up.

Mr. Joe Fout, 71 Riley Avenue, addressed council. He owns an Auto Enhancer business at 129 S. Main Street, London. He can't access his business from the rear because the Fast-n-All business has an attached fence to his building. The fence needs moved. If he has to park out front, it will take up more parking spaces. The alley is still active. It has never been officially closed.

Mayor Closser explained that Mr. Fout's auto garage is located off the alley. If Fast-n-All gate is locked, Mr. Fout can't get into his business. At one point, 20-25 years ago, the fence was attached. They are looking into it and have contact Paul Oswalt, of the county map room.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Mayor Closser's report, "Come to rib and jazz festival!"

**CITY OFFICIAL REPORTS:** Councilman Smith attended the BPU meeting. He reported that the department is looking to purchase new vehicles and is drilling a well.

Councilman Hays reported that the next safety committee meeting is August 14, 7:00 p.m.

Councilman Castle attended the city's property meeting. They toured the new city building. There have been a few issues with permits trying to get work done. They found more asbestos, slowing down progress. They're hoping to have construction completed within the next 60 days.

The next properties meeting is August 22, 7:00 p.m. at the new building.

The next finance committee meeting is August 22, 6:00 p.m.

Councilman Comer informed that the next public service meeting is August 9, 6:00 p.m.

President Russell attended the EMS board meeting. He reported that there was a lot of great discussion! He was given a tour of the facility and shown their equipment. He will scan the information received and send out to council members.

He shared a request was made that the city be given more influence over what happens in the city and to drop the millage from 3 to 2.

The EMS board is concerned that the fire department will not be able to operate on 2 mills. The board and fire chief were asked what they would like to see on run cards.

There needs to be better communication. If all of this would have been handled and discussed before, this legislation probably wouldn't have been proposed.

"No matter how this "shakes out" we will not be fighting, but doing what is best for the city."

President Russell thanked them for their hospitality and tour of the facility.

## **ROUND TABLE**

Councilman Hays thanked everyone for coming in this evening sharing their comments and input. "Enjoy the Ribb and Jazz festival!"

Councilman Castle thanked everyone for coming in. He thanked Ms. Elliott for the input regarding the downtown businesses. The legislation needs to be finalized on vacate buildings.

He also added that alleys are being discussed in committee meetings. They are working at designating alley ways.

Councilman Comer thanked everyone for coming in. He commented it all the technology that goes into the run cards is amazing. It is an awesome system and program. It helps to make things more efficient.

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

---

Arlene Duffey, Clerk of Council

---

Joseph Russell, President