

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 a moment of silent reflection.

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

**MINUTES:** Clerk, Arlene Duffey, is on vacation this week. Minutes of the August 3 meeting will be available at September 7 meeting.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** President Russell read two requests from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control. Adith Group LLC, DBA as London Shell, requested a liquor license transfer and Dolgen Midwest, DBA as Dollar General store, requested a new liquor license. Council members were in favor of the requests by responding "aye".

Council members approved Mayor Closser's request to move Councilwoman Long from the public services committee to the safety committee and Councilwoman Douglas to the public services committee, by responding "aye."

**PUBILC HEARINGS:** None

**AUDIENCE CONCERNS:**

Theresa Hennis, 14 Graham Avenue, addressed council. She explained that she was here with the same issue she had at the last meeting. She has seen nothing happening on her end of town. The same trash, branches, are still there. She had pictures to share. The neighbors have seen no activity.

There was some company doing camera scopes today. She realized everything couldn't be done all at once but said that just simple clean up would help them out. She stated that she is at the end of her rope and doesn't know what to do. "It's a long road ahead, but just a simple step would build trust. No first step is being taken. Maybe there are behind scene things going on I don't see."

Ms. Hennis asked if it was going to take the entire \$1.6 million for the city building project. She asked what all the money was going towards and if she could come see. She hoped that current items could be used, such furniture, to save some money.

"When I see that much money going for that, and streets not being cleaned...it's driving me crazy."

Mayor Closser said he will be given an update on the flooded areas during his administrative report.

Mayor Closser assured her that no new equipment will be purchased and she is welcome to come in and look at drawings. She can see the entire costs of everything. He explained the city is wasting money every year by staying in their current situation.

Ms. Hennis asked if it would be possible to log who goes where with the street cleaning. "I'm not trying to be a hardnosed, we are just not seeing it."

Mayor Closser said it goes back to funding a storm water utility that could hire an employee whose main focus would be checking the drains.

He also said it would be nice if citizens would help out too by cleaning out the gutters and not blowing grass into them. He shared that they're having a huge problem with asphalt being dumped on drains.

The street department is in the process of running a camera through the pipes.

President Russell assured her that the city is dedicating their efforts to getting this issue taken care of. "It affects us all."

He explained that the city building project is from separate funds. Once the city has determined exactly where the flooding problems are, money can be appropriated to taking care of it. "We are working diligently to fix the problems."

Mr. Jerry Bales, 15 Graham Avenue, addressed city council.

He congratulated Bill Long on his appointment as street superintendent.

Mr. Bales stated, "We need more confidence in you guys!" The same twigs and trash have been laying on Stewart and Riley Avenues for two weeks. Nothing has been done in two weeks. He did see a private company running a camera in the drains yesterday.

He asked with all the money being spent on other projects, why doesn't the city own its own camera.

Mr. Long said that the cost is astronomical.

Mr. Bales said he would start a fundraiser! He shared that he's done some deep soul searching. "I can board up my house and move! There are a lot that cannot move, locked in to where they are. One out of every four families in his neighborhood live on less than \$1,000 or less a month and are dependent on food pantry and food stamps."

He shared that he's gotten numerous calls from neighbors wondering if anything is being done. He's talked to life timers who went through this type of flooding ten years ago and told him he's wasting his time.

Councilwoman Long replied that was 10 years ago and in our defense, we weren't here. "Give us a chance!"

Mr. Bales commented that some people get comfortable in their position and forget about those that "don't have".

Ms. Hennis added that it has been two weeks ago. "If this is "top priority" and I didn't see any action in two weeks, I'd fire them!"

Mr. Greg Ellars, 98 Shady Avenue, addressed council. He has flooding problems in this backyard. If asked if he needed a permit to bring in dirt due to erosion.

President Russell told him he did not need a permit.

Mr. Ellars shared that he had been told he couldn't change the flow of water. He said is backyard looks terrible, it stinks and it's a nesting place for mosquitos.

Councilman Castle explained that if he had a creek running through his backyard and wanted to change the flow "no", he wouldn't be allowed. Water from other properties have eroded his property.

Mr. Ellars commented that a lot better job is being done than with the people of 10 year ago.

Sheila Fisher, 237 Sullivan Avenue, addressed council regarding a property on Kendall Street. She said it looks like "Sanford and son's backyard". It's an eye sore and getting worse. The condition of the property went against the sale of my home. It said, "home nice, but living next door to city dump." The yard is bad and sometimes stinks.

She also commented that she has heard that she lives in the "trash section" of London. She said she cleans up the street. She hasn't seen much street cleaning on her end of town though.

Mayor Closser said the house in question may already be on a list to receive notices to clean up. He asked that she make sure she gets the address to him so it can be sent to the code enforcement officer.

Ms. Fisher has lived there 13 years and there are only two street lights in the area. It is very dark. There may only one place to add a light and that's on her property, which she has no problem.

There'd been a robbery in the area that her cameras picked up.

President Russell explained that the street lights are owned by the electric company.

Ms. Fisher shared that this was the first council meeting she ever attended.

Councilwoman Long said she would "keep on it" with the problem property.

Shirley Litchfield, 204 E. First Street, addressed council. She said, "The tide is going to turn and make you smile." She shared that her father passed away and left behind a lot of wood working supplies. She feels blessed with Councilwoman Brenda Russell who helped her get a CHIP grant to make her safe in her home.

She highly commended Les Geyman and the sanitation department employees for all their help.

She said some people think that men that work on a trash trucks are those that can't do any better. "They are the best customer service advocates you have in the city! Drivers need a gold star! Customer service from those men is an untapped resource that you need to acknowledge and reward! God bless these men. These men love the city of London and will do what it takes to help the town look better. They went out of their way to help. These people need to be recognized. They are the face of London that make the town look the way it does! Something needs to be done to reward them! They have done one outstanding job!"

She would like to residents realize that smaller dumpsters area available to be used.

Mr. Jerry Bales addressed council with another topic. He asked how many dogs a residence could have before requiring a kennel license. He said there is a house in his neighborhood that has numerous dogs and it smells!

President Russell said he will have the law director look into it.

Teresa Hennis stated, "I know you do your best, I'm just trying to follow up and follow through. I do appreciate it. There are a lot of good things about this town. I am very thankful and do love London. Like she (Ms. Litchfield) said, the trash people are wonder. I am offering my help. Thank you for allowing me to share."

President Russell said "thank you".

Mr. Ellars asked that the snow be removed from intersections this year. The "old timers" didn't used to pile snow up in the intersections. They removed it.

Mr. Charles Rees, 237 Jacqueline Drive, said he saw two street department employees cleaning catch basins in his neighborhood today. "I appreciate that!"

#### **COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Councilman Trint attended the public safety meeting. The fire department is doing orientation for part time fire fighters. Employees helped at the rib and jazz festival. The department held a fire extinguisher class for hospice. Multiple station tours have been conducted for kids.

The police department have two applicants that completed their initial review. They are preparing for the August 26 safety expo. Officer Combs will be training with the new canine unit. The department reminds everyone to use extra caution with school beginning.

Councilman Castle attended the budget and finance committee meeting. Auditor Szabo went over finances. They discussed the bonds for the primary building project and decided that a 15-year term would be a better rate compared to a 20-year loan.

The next meeting is September 11, 6:00 p.m.

The next city properties meeting is August 23, 7:00 p.m.

Councilwoman Russell attended the finance and public services meetings.

Councilman Peters attended the public services meeting. Residents of Jacqueline Drive attended expressing their concerns with the flooding.

He also reported that the pool is closed for the season.

The next public services meeting is September 14.

**ADMINISTRATION:** Mayor Closser addressed council with his administrative update. (attached)

Councilman Castle asked if it would be possible to set up a storm sewer cleaning schedule similar to fire hydrant flushing. He wanted to know if citizens should be asked to visually check and call the department. "It's easy to see trees growing out of them."

Safety Service Director Joe Mosier shared that there will be a detour around the court house block from Main and High to Fourth Street. A crane is being brought in for repair work.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

ORDINANCE 157-17 Sponsored by: Rex Castle AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS IN THE AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED \$1,640,000 FOR THE PURPOSE OF RENOVATING AND IMPROVING THE FORMER PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES, INCLUDING SITE IMPROVEMENTS AND APPURTENANCES THERETO; FURNISHING AND EQUIPPING THE SAME; AND AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING RELATED MATTERS IN CONNECTION WITH THE ISSUANCE OF THE BONDS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Russell to place on first reading, second by Douglas. Mayor Closser read.

Councilman Castle explained that this is the recommendation of the finance committee. There will be a more competitive rate with a 15-year loan compared to a 20.

He added that they would like to get started on the project as soon as possible to get heat in the building.

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

Motion by Russell to adopt Ordinance No. 157-17, second by Peters. Roll to adopt: Russell, yes; Minner, yes; Long, no; Peters, yes; Douglas, yes; Hatt, yes; Castle, yes. **ADOPTED.**

**ROUND TABLE:**

Councilman Castle thanked everyone for coming in this evening. "This is the second meeting that we have had interaction with citizens. It's usually just us and city workers." He appreciated them coming in and expressing their concerns. He assured them that their concerns will be taken care of.

He shared that he's been on council four-five years and is astonished at the speed of with government works. Not very fast! It takes time to get things done through the passage of legislation. It is a process!

Councilwoman Russell asked Mr. Bales to please trust in this new council and new administration.

Councilwoman Long said that we are working on it, it is a slow process.

Councilwoman Douglas thanked everyone for coming in this evening. "Nice to see people in the crowd."

Councilman Russel thanked everyone for coming in this evening. He gave a "shout out" to his wife for their one-year anniversary.

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

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Arlene Duffey, Clerk of Council

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Joe Russell, Council President