

September 1, 2016

President Jennifer Hitt called the regular meeting of the London City Council to order. She led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance and observed a moment of silent reflection.

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

MINUTES: Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as received. All were in favor by responding "aye".

COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

AUDIENCE CONCERNS: Mr. Mike Cox, 27 Stewart Avenue, addressed council. He shared his frustration and cost of the building permit process. He explained that the form was very difficult to fill out and questions were almost impossible to answer. He said that the mayor, safety service director, his council representative and the building/zoning officer could not even tell him how to answer the questions. The permit fee is \$150.00. He only wants to add a 13x25' porch on the front of his house.

He had to seek permission from his neighbors. Others tear down structures without permits. He didn't feel that improvements should need approval and he was just bringing this to council's attention.

He also has to go in front of the zoning appeals board on September 6th to request a variance.

Mr. Cox also pointed out that the building/zoning inspector's office is upstairs in the city building. "What about those who can't get upstairs?"

President Hitt reiterated his concerns to make sure council understood them all.

Council Castle thought the reason he had to attend the building/zoning meeting was only to explain why he would be so close to city property creating the need for a variance.

Mr. Cox opinioned that the city had already used up some of their variance.

President Hitt thanked him for coming in and sharing his input. It sounds like he's already made it through a lot of the process and just needs to get the variance. She said they would take a look at the process.

Councilman Minner asked how from the curb the porch would be and if other houses stick out as far as you want to extend porch.

Mr. Cox replied, "Yes."

Mr. Minner told him to make the zoning board aware of it when he attends the meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Councilman Castle attended the August 22 finance committee meeting. The auditor updated everyone on the finances and they discussed general funds.

He also attended the city property meeting with the law director in attendance. Law Director Siddiqi recommended that the two bids weren't totally in compliance and so to move forward, the bids needed to be rejected. The committee rejected the bids based on his recommendation. They hope to receive new bids.

The next finance committee meeting is September 12, 6:00 p.m. in council chambers.

The next city properties meeting is September 21, 7:00 p.m. in council chambers

Councilwoman Russell attended the finance committee meeting

Councilwomen Russell and Long attended the properties committee meeting.

President Hitt reiterated committee meeting dates: finance – September 12 at 6:00 p.m.; safety – September 13 at 7:00 p.m.; September 8 at 6:00 p.m. and city properties- September 21 at 7:00 p.m.

CITY OFFICIAL REPORTS: Mayor Closser addressed council with his administrative update.

Herb Eades, Board of Public Utilities, addressed council. He explained that they sent out five bids to trash haulers, but only received one from Rumpke. He asked that council consider passing the resolution this evening so they can enter into a contract.

Councilman Peters asked if they reached out to the other haulers to find out why they didn't submit a bid.

Mr. Eades said that most don't supply compactors and don't offer recycling. He added the city is only in the third year of the 11 year recycling contract. It's a hefty fine if we break the recycling contract, and it is a good agreement with northcentral. The more we recycle, the less we have to haul trash.

Councilman Castle asked if there will be an increase in trash pick-up and is the board still looking into privatizing.

Mr. Eades recited the slight increases over the next three years and said that the privatizing option is "off the table" for now.

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

LEAVE TABLED

RESOLUTION 141-16 Sponsored by: Rex Castle A RESOLUTION ASSESSING THE COSTS OF THE REMOVAL OF HIGH GRASS AND WEEDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Motion by Russell to place on third reading, second by Douglas. President Hitt read. Councilman Castle explained that this is giving permission to assess these properties' taxes.

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

ORDINANCE 145-16 Sponsored by: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 881 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES (Exhibit A and Exhibit B) Motion by Castle to place on second reading, second by Douglas. President Hitt read. Councilwoman Castle explained that this just brings our ordinance into language compliance with the state law. It goes into effect in September.

Motion by Castle to suspend rules, second by Russell: Russell, yes; Minner, yes; Long, yes; Peters, yes; Douglas, yes; Castle, yes.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION 146-16 Sponsored by: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES TO APPLY FOR AN OHIO WATER POLLUTION CONTROL LOAN. Motion by Douglas first reading, second by Long. President Hitt read.

Mr. Dan Leavitt, sewer plant supervisor, addressed council. He explained that this resolution will allow the BPU to submit to Water Pollution Control Loan fund a nomination form to see if the City would qualify for interest free loan for a nutrient reduction upgrade to the wastewater plant. They have (WPCLF (OEPA) has \$100 Million of 0% loan money for the planning, design and construction for project that will reduce the nutrient discharging from the wastewater plant to the stream. We would be submitting for the planning loan of \$90,000.

If London does qualify, loan information will be prepared and presented for consideration.

The planning stage will help identify the best and economical process to reduce the nutrient discharge from the plant and will develop the estimated for the design and construction cost of the upgrade for this project.

The \$90,000 will be a 5-year loan at \$18,000 per year if we use all the money.

Councilman Castle asked if their budget could handle the \$18,000.0

Mr. Leavitt replied, "Yes."

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

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

ADOPTED.

RESOLUTION 147-16 Sponsored by: Lora Long A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF TRASH FROM THE LONDON TRANSFER STATIO Motion by Castle to place on first reading, second by Peters. President Hitt read.

Councilman Castle suggested this be left for a second reading when all council members are present.

LEFT ON 1ST READING.

RESOLUTION 148-16 Sponsored by: Rex Castle A RESOLUTION DECLARING INTENT TO SELL PROPERTY UNNEEDED, OBSOLETE OR UNFIT FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES VIA INTERNET AUCTION. Motion by Russell to place on first reading, second by Douglas. President Hitt read.

Councilman Castle explained that this was discussed at city property meeting. Administration has been doing a good job inventorying city items deciding what is and isn't being used. Items that are no long being used but still have some value will be place on the internet auction. The sooner these items can be advertised, the sooner will be money back for them.

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

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

ROUND TABLE :

Mr. Castle commented that the bin in front of the Family Dollar is a real nice "dump site". Illegal dumping is continuing including tires. It is very unsightly, giving London negative Press in the social media. Council and administration are trying to do things, but we don't seem to be moving forward. We are open to ideas as to what can be done. .

He noted that comments have been made "Embarrassed to admit from London". Others comment on all the abandoned, unsightly homes. "Then, we have someone comes in, trying to improve their property and we throw up a wall of hoops and bounds making it difficult to better their property."

He would like to see people take pride in city.

Mr. Cox commented that no one seems to care.

Councilwoman Russell replied that council does care and a lot of people care. She thanked him for bringing it to council's attention so it can be addressed.

She asked if the city can't just go to the property owner to have the bin removed. "We need to expedite this!" The bin was emptied, but more furniture was left. They are not going to take it. We need a positive attitude, work together, keep going forward.

Councilman Minner stated that it seems unfair that Mr. Cox has to pay fees, jump hoops, and have to come to us. It's an older section of town where the houses are closer to the street.

Councilwoman Long said she be at the zoning meeting for Mr. Cox.

Councilman Peters commented that Mr. Cox did right thing with going for variance. He was sure it will pass through. "Just stick with it."

Councilwoman Douglas agreed that it sounds like some changes need to be made. She thanked everyone for coming in this evening.

Mayor Closser reminded that that the building/zoning position is only part time. If council wants to appropriate money to bring on full-time, things could be enforced in a timelier manner. But then, we'd a get asked why we are spending money.

He noted that all it takes is a call to the law director to make changes to an ordinance.

Councilman Castle believes the police department can enforce codes such as abandoned cars.

President Hitt said that a motion will more than likely be made to adjourn to executive session. There will be no additional business after the session. Audience is welcome to leave if they so choose.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion by Peters to adjourn to executive session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of an employee or official. He invited the safety service director and auditor into the meeting. Motion second by Douglas.

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

REGULAR MEETING: Motion by Peters to adjourn to the regular meeting, second by Russell. Roll to convene regular meeting: Minner, yes; Long, yes; Peters, yes; Douglas, yes; Castle, yes; Russell, yes.

ADJOURN: Motion by Russell to adjourn meeting.

Arlene Duffey, Clerk of Council

Jennifer Hitt, President