

October 20, 2016

President 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

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

**MINUTES** of the previous meeting were approved as received. All council members were in favor by responding "aye".

**COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

**AUDIENCE CONCERNS:**

Bill Blazer, Board of Public Utilities, addressed council. He handed out a packet of information regarding the BPU's proposed trash service and rate hikes. The proposal is to eliminate the trash bags and recycle bins and replace them with trash and recycle carts. He pointed out that these carts are on display in council chambers. Mr. Eades went over the packet and explained their proposal.

Dan Leavitt, waste water superintendent, went over the finances on page 3. Table I showed the \$435,337 lost in revenue over the past five years. Rates were never adjusted with the 2005 "pay as you throw".

Table II shows the proposed, adjusted rates to recoup from the sale of the bags. The cost for 2016 is \$7.80. The proposed cost for 2017 is \$15.80. Page 5 listed the summary of rates.

President Hitt asked about their decision to go from bags to cans.

Mr. Blazer replied that it is more cost efficient and effective. The bags were harder to lift. The carts are safer for the employees, better for residents and provides for a cleaner environment. Research was done as to how many other cities use cans.

President Hitt asked what the cost of cans will be.

Mr. Blazer said they have not gotten a bid yet. The proposed purchase price is \$150 for both of them, but BPU can't bid until council passes.

Councilwoman Russell pointed out that council is being asked to pass this without know what the cost will be!

Mr. Blazer said they won't be more than \$150.00

Councilman Hatt asked about a payment plan.

Mr. Blazer said a 10% discount incentive has been discussed by the BPU to those who purchase the carts up front. The board is also discussing selling the carts at cost plus 10% including operational costs, training, and interest charges for those purchasing over time. These fees will help pay for the new software program needed for a billing system.

Councilman Hatt asked what happens if cans are stolen or hit by a car.

Mr. Blazer replied that the cans would be under warranty for wheels, etc. If they are damaged or stolen, it is the residents' responsibility.

Mr. Stan Kavy, BPU, shared that they are buying new recycling bins every other month. BPU pays for them and they are disappearing all the time. Residents will now own their trash carts.

Councilman Hatt pointed out that previously, residents paid per bag. Now there is a 102% increase and then a monthly fee to purchase the carts.

Mr. Blazer replied that the cost in 2005 was \$12.00/month. Eleven years later, it will be \$15.80 which includes the service fee.

Councilman Hatt said that residents will see their rates going from \$7.80 to \$15.80. Then a payment plan with interest for a total of \$25.80 per month.

Councilwoman Russell asked why the rates weren't being increased all along, asking once again for not just a little bit of money. Some residents only recycle.

Herb Eades shared that there has always been a fee for recycling too. There's no money made from recycling and the city has to pay for it. The biggest concern is people getting hurt. Three employees have been injured. He reminded that council charged the BPU with keeping people from getting hurt.

Residents can pay an additional \$2.00 per month to have their trash picked up at their garage door. Quite a few already take advantage of this service.

Mr. Eades said that that maybe the BPU should have been charging \$.50 more each month as there has been no increase for 11 years.

Councilman Minner commented that the BPU has known for a long time that we've been going backwards on our rates. He felt that they held back because they didn't want to take on public with the new tower, water rates, etc. He commented that he thought their employees are younger! He also said there's going to need a lot of discussion before he buys into this!

Councilman Peters asked if they had looked into leasing the carts.

Mr. Eades said regardless if the city owns them or the residents; they still have to replace the bags. They'd rather the residents be responsible for their own carts and put the \$1,000 in recycling.

Mr. Blazer stated that the city's rates are very competitive. Rumpke cost \$66-\$80 per month. London residents' cost will be \$15.80

EMS Chief Robert Olwin asked that if he bought carts then moved, would they be his to keep. He also wanted to know if trash still had to be put in bags.

Mr. Blazer said that more than likely, most residents will have bags in their indoor trash cans to throw into the cart, but trash can be thrown directly into them.

If there are bags outside of the carts, there will be an additional \$2.00 charge.

Mr. Minner was concerned that if bags are eliminated, others outside of town may dump their trash in cans. The bags can be "policed".

Older residents may only use one little red bag a week. It's currently pay for what we use. Now, those residents will have to pay the same as a family of four.

There will be a public hearing December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Blazer said they are trying to fix things that need addressed. The BPU went over a time frame, researched other cities and feel that this is necessary. "Safety is our first concern for our employees. We are trying to make changes for the better."

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Peters – attended the public service committee meeting and gave a report from the parks & recreation and street departments.

The next public service committee meeting is November 10, 6:00 p.m.; finance is October 24 at 6:00 p.m.; public safety is November 15 at 7:00 p.m.; public service is November 10 at 7:00 p.m.

**CITY OFFICIAL REPORTS:** Safety Service Director Mosier expanded on Councilman Peter's public service report adding that the street department is gearing up for snow.

The fire department's new ladder truck will be in next month.

The police department has added a wench and blade to their ATV.

He commented that the London Visual Arts group and Cowling Chicken Challenge were two great events. The public will have an awareness of how Cowling Park will be developed.

Mr. Mosier also reminded everyone that this Saturday is "Make a Difference Day". A group will be meeting to paint the train at the park.

If anyone is interested, meet at the Madison House at 10:00 a.m.

Councilman Minner asked what the status of the bins is on East High Street.

Mr. Mosier replied that they are currently working on legislation, determining what they can legally do. It acknowledged that the situation is getting worse.

Mr. Mosier shared that Mayor Closser is returning this weekend, yet still set a "fun fact". Mr. Mosier read the fun fact in Japanese which translated to: "Hello, great weather, and good food, see you soon and..... There is no Godzilla."

EMS Chief Robert Olwin addressed council. He ran down the past few years figures and levy millage requests. He would like to bring it back up to a true 3 mill levy. He recited this reasoning for the request including insurance; increase in wages, and to recoup some with health insurance costs. Before Obama Care, they would receive \$600 out of \$800 of their run costs. Now they receive only \$300.00. Their department is down \$80,000 due to Obama Care.

They need to establish a true building fund; either remodel the current building or built a new one.

Councilwoman Long commended them for doing a wonderful job!

Councilman Hatt pointed out that a replacement levy will do away with the roll back, losing 12.5%. He shared that he had pulled the department's audit and noted that they have no outstanding debt and they have \$1.75 million in the bank at the end of 2015.

Chief Olwin responded that money is just not sitting in the bank and that they are fiscally responsible with the money. The money and will be used for capital improvements. "We are not just squirreling the money away! The increase is just the cost of doing business."

Councilman Hatt pointed out that water rates have been raised, now trash. EMS is now asking for a 55% increase. Mr. Hatt could not justify voting in favor of the levy.

Councilman Minner commented, "We need to take care of emergency services." He shared that he had to use the service and hopes no one has to use their services. "I will support it!"

Chief Olwin also shared that they are developing community care services. They will be working with Madison Health with patients that have received treatment. The EMS employees will go check on them, making sure get to their appointments and that they are taking their medication. A patient will see the same medic.

They are working with the Sr. Citizens' center too, conducting preventive "fall" programs, training them to identify trip hazards.

Councilwoman Long commented that it sounds like a great program.

Chief Olwin explained that the hospital doesn't get paid as much if patients return within 30 days with the same symptoms. This program will hopefully help alleviate return patients.

Mr. Kavy gave a tower update. Things are going well at the plant.

#### **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

**TABLED.**

ORDINANCE 149-16 Sponsored by: Josh Peters PRELIMINARY LEGISLATION (bridge inspection) (attachment) (info only attachment) Motion by Long to place on third reading, second by Douglas. Clerk read. Councilman Peters explained that this is for the State to inspect our count bridges. It is a free, three year service contract.

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

PROCLAMATION LONDON CITY COUNCIL IS PROUD TO PROCLAIM OCTOBER 22, 2016, AS MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY IN THE CITY OF LONDON. Motion by Peters to place on third reading, second by Hatt. Clerk read. Motion by Hatt to adopt, second by Long. Roll to adopt: Minner, yes; Long, yes; Peters, yes; Douglas, yes; Hatt, yes; Russell, yes.  
**ADOPTED.**

RESOLUTION 153-16 Sponsored by: Rex Castle RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE MADISON COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL DISTRICT'S PROPERTY TAX LEVY Motion by Long to place on third reading, second by Douglas. Clerk read. Motion by Long to adopt, second by Douglas. Roll to adopt: Long, yes; Peters, yes; Douglas, yes; Hatt, no; Russell, yes; Minner, yes.  
**ADOPTED.**

ORDINANCE NO. 154-16 CONSENT TO LEGISLATION FOR MICROSURFACING Motion by Long to place on second reading, second by Douglas. Clerk read. Councilman Peters explained that this is for Rt. 29 to 38 to Clark County. The cost to city is approximately \$113-\$130. The project will start next spring.

Councilman Hatt asked if this is the project that will affect roadway changes meeting.

Safety Service Director Mosier replied they will be meeting November 9 with ODOT to discuss possible changes.  
**LEFT ON 2<sup>ND</sup> READING.**

RESOLUTION 155-16 Sponsored by: Rex Castle A RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS Motion by Long to place on second reading, second by Douglas. Clerk read.  
**LEFT ON 2<sup>ND</sup> READING.**

RESOLUTION 156-16 Sponsored by: Lora Long A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR ALLEN-CHAMPAIGN-HARDIN-MADISON-SHELBY-UNION JOINT SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT Motion by Peters to place on second reading, second by Douglas. Clerk read. Long – have to do renew every year.  
**LEFT ON 2<sup>ND</sup> READING.**

ORDINANCE 157-16 Sponsored by: Rex Castle AN ORDINANCE DECLARING THE NECESSITY FOR PLANTING, MAINTAINING, TRIMMING, AND REMOVING SHADE TREES IN AND ALONG THE STREETS OF THE CITY OF LONDON, ESTIMATING THE COST THEREOF AND PROVIDING FOR THE LEVY OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENT Motion by Long to place on second reading, second by Russell. Clerk read. Jennifer – tree commission  
**LEFT ON 2<sup>ND</sup> READING.**

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

RESOLUTION 158-16 SPONSORED BY: TRINT HATT A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AUDITOR'S WARRANT FOR PAYMENT. Motion by Long to place on first reading, second by Hatt. Clerk read. Auditor Szabo explained just got billed. Service started back in June. This is no one's fault. It's the service fee for the Marx radios.

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

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

ORDINANCE 159-16 Sponsored by: Josh Peters AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1060, SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF LONDON (attachment) Motion by Russell to place on first reading, second by Peters. Clerk read. Council will hold a public hearing December 1<sup>st</sup>  
**LEFT ON FIRST READING.**

RESOLUTION 160-16 Sponsored by: Trint Hatt A RESOLUTION DECREASING & INCREASING TAXATION FUND BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS Motion by Hatt to place on first reading, second by Peters. Clerk read. Councilman Hatt explained that this is for tax refunds. Since a tax director was never hired, there is enough money.

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

Councilwoman Douglas questioned if tax director should be removed from the legislation as there is no longer a tax director.

Motion by Douglas to amend to remove tax director, second by Long. Roll to amend: Russell, yes; Minner, yes; Long, yes; Peters, yes; Douglas, yes; Hatt, yes.

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

#### **ADOPTED.**

ORDINANCE 161-16 AN ORDINANCE VACATING AN ALLEY Sponsored by: Lora Long (attachment) Motion by Russell to place on first reading, second by Peters. Clerk read. Council will conduct a public hearing on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Councilwoman Russell suggested that council members go look at the alley.

**LEFT ON 1<sup>ST</sup> READING.**

ORDINANCE 162-16 AN ORDINANCE VACATING AN ALLEY Sponsored by: Brenda Russell (attachment) Motion by Russell to place on first reading, second by Long. Clerk read. Council will conduct a public hearing on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Councilman Peters commented that this just looks like a grassy area.

**LEFT ON 1<sup>ST</sup> READING.**

#### **ROUND TABLE**

Councilman Hatt thanked Amy Reese and Tammy Braskett for the event. Thank you to all the emergency vehicles that were there too. Kids loved it. It was a great event.

President Hitt anticipated that an executive session would be called. There will be no further after the executive session.

It was asked who is responsible for sidewalks. The sidewalks on Lafayette and Elm Streets are in terrible shape.

Safety Service Director replied that it's the responsibility of the residents. Notices have been sent out.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Motion by Hatt to adjourn to executive session to Motion second by Peters. Invited SSD

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

Motion by Hatt to reconvene the regular meeting, second by Peters Roll: Peters, yes; Douglas, yes; Hatt, yes; Russell, yes; Minner, yes; Long, yes.

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

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Arlene Duffey, Clerk of Council

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Jennifer Hitt, Council President