

November 2, 2017

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.

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

MINUTES of the previous meetings were approved as received. All were in favor by saying "aye".

COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mary Crall, public affairs liaison to the State Treasurer's office, addressed council. She welcomed the city to the Ohio Checkbook website. The website will allow total transparency building trust within the community. The city's finances will be available on a user friendly site for the public to view.

Ms. Crall gave an overview of the program explaining that the main website was launched December 2014, to foster financial transparency and fiscal responsibility and to reduce corruption from state and local governments.

She thanked city council for allowing this opportunity for the community. The website is London.Ohiocheckbook.com

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

AUDIENCE CONCERNS: Jerry Bales, 15 Graham Avenue, reminded that he'd been coming in for three months regarding the storm drain problem. When the city started the project from Graham to Stewart, he decided to be the "daily inspector" and was proud to report, it passed with flying colors!

President Russell thanked him for coming in with good news!

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Hatt reported that the next public safety meeting is November 14, 6:00 p.m.

Councilman Castle reported on the city property's committee meeting. The state has a small "hiccup" they are working through with the old ODOT garage on Rt. 42. Bill Long had been out to look at repairs that need to be done to the building.

Mr. Moser gave an update at the meeting on the community building. A company is removing the asbestos.

The next finance committee meet is November 11 and the next city property's meeting is November 22nd.

Councilman Peters reported that the next public service meeting November 9.

CITY OFFICIAL REPORTS:

Mayor Pat Closser addressed council. He reminded that the Ohiocheckbook website had been brought up in the past, brought forward, and discussed.

Councilman Hatt brought it back up and discussed it with Auditor Szabo. This is just another layer of transparency for the city.

He encouraged everyone to get on London.ohiocheck.com

Councilwoman Russell said she was approached and said "we can address it". She said, "I know I don't have to give permission, but I had no idea this was in the making. I did not know was a done deal."

Auditor Szabo explained that council's permission was never needed in the first place. He just wanted to respect their wishes.

Councilwoman Long commented that she was confused, as Auditor Szabo was against it when it was brought up before.

Auditor Szabo explained that in his mind, we have a perfectly good website that he can post reports too. But then realized, he needed to think about the public too. He just figured out this is the best way to get information out to everyone.

Mrs. Long said she just felt “blind-sided”.

Councilwoman Russell explained that when the legislation was first brought up and voted down, she didn't feel the timing was right. She didn't know that it didn't need legislation. She just would have like to been aware of it prior to.

Councilman Hatt said the legislation was just for “in show of”.

President Russell said it seems the real issue is that council voted against it on record, then it still moved forward.

Councilman Peters reminded that the auditor reached out to council and was originally against it. He said it just would have been nice had council been made aware it. He did feel the Ohiocheckbook.com is a good thing.

Councilman Hatt said that he did speak to council members about it and they all were in support.

Councilwoman Russell agreed, but didn't realize it was a done deal. “If the public had asked me if we are getting it, I would have said “no, not yet”.

Mayor Closser gave his administrative report at this time. He passed out information regarding HB49 provided by Amy Marsh, Deputy Tax Director. He read the 13 point issues noted by Ms. Marsh. (attached)

Mayor Closser's personal opinion is that the state will continue to chip away and collect all our taxes for us. “We are doing a fine job!”

Representative Bob Hackett explained that it is a businesses' choice to opt in. It will allow business owners, with businesses in more than one community, to use just one form. Mr. Wheeler, owning KFC's in many different cities, would more than likely opt in. Most business in London will probably not opt in.

He said The Chamber and CPA's are in favor of and screaming for it. It provides a business opt in or opt out.

Mayor Closser said that's not the issue. The issue is they are just going to keep chipping away!

Safety Service Director Joe Mosier thanked Mr. Bales for coming in. It is an on-going process.

Stan Kavy, Board of Public Utilities, reported on the new water plant that is 95% completed. The new plant will definitely be taking stress off the old plant.

Mayor Closser shared that there will be a ceremony dedicating the plant in honor of Bill Blazer who was instrumental in this project. The date will be announced.

Mr. Kavy said that the next BPU meeting will be the Tuesday, November 21st, instead of Thursday due to Thanksgiving.

Auditor Szabo hoped that all council members can attend the next finance meeting as they will be discussing the 2018 budget and preparing legislation.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

ROUND TABLE:

Councilman Peters thanked the state auditor's representatives for given the Ohiocheckbook.com presentation.

He reminded everyone of the ‘Big Red’ (London football game) tomorrow night. He also encouraged everyone to vote next Tuesday.

Councilman Minner announced he will be supporting the “Big Red”!

Councilwoman Russell thanked Mr. Long for working so hard on the sewer and Mr. Mosier and the Mayor for taking all the flack! She also thanked Mr. Graham Avenue aka Mr. Bales!

Councilman Castle thanked Mr. Bales for the positive report. He is pleased to see London is on Ohiocheckbook.com.

He reminded that the next finance meeting is November 6 and the next city property meeting is November 22.

Councilman Hatt reminded everyone that the next public safety meeting is November 14.

He thanked the state treasurer's office representatives for coming out this evening and for the valuable resource provided to the city.

He also thanked the London police officers for coming out for Halloween in their neighborhood and giving out candy!

ADJOURN: Motion by Russell to adjourn.

Arlene Duffey, Clerk of Council

Joe Russell, Council President