

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 Russell, present; Dick Minner, present; Lora Long, present; Josh Peters, absent; Megan Douglas, present.

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

**COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:** President Russel read correspondence from the Ohio Department of Liquor relaying that local liquor license holders will be renewing the licenses. If there were any "problem" license holders, now would be the time to contact with ODOL.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None

**AUDIENCE CONCERNS:** Doug Pyles, 323 Bishop Drive, London, addressed council. He shared that the proposed 33 1/3% increase for city officials was not being accepted around the city.

He asked Councilman Minner how much it was going to cost the citizens of London.

Councilman Minner responded that there are a lot people making a lot less money.

Mr. Pyles pointed out that it is a \$82,00-\$85,000 increase and asked how the city is going to pay for it. Do you have a report available showing comparisons with other cities our size?"

Councilman Minner stated, "I don't have to have one, so I don't!"

Mr. Pyles replied that he does feel that one is needed to show comparisons being responsible to the citizens. "That's \$85,000 a year!"

Councilman Minner asked Mr. Pyles "How are we going to pay for all these extras?"

Mr. Pyles replied that he didn't know!

Councilman Minner stated, "Me neither... but we will come up with it!"

Mr. Pyles asked if council had out figured how much they will receive? He figured \$270.00 for one hour twice a month. "That's an "attorney's fee"!"

Councilman Castle responded that there's a lot more than when we are here in front of you. Members are elected officers in numerous years.

He asked Mr. Pyles what direction he would like to see the city go. "What type of people do you want running your city? We need talented, experienced people running the city. We need to draw the right kind of talent here in the city.

Mr. Castle said that he did feel the 33 1/3% may be high. "We could have done a 3.5 % increase, but we don't do it that we because work for the city. Our contribution amounts to \$80,000. We are trying to do what is good for the city."

Mr. Pyles asked why the raises are not 10% over the next three years. "It's not my fault that your last raise was 2008 and you didn't give them."

Councilwoman Russell explained that council members serve on other committees. "We also show up at events and ribbon cuttings. "I did not run for the money. I ran for the city."

"People are going to have to pay for public employees and services. Some need more money for the job they do. It's only fair!"

Mr. Pyles pointed out that some department heads are already maxed out on their salaries. He wanted to know what the new salaries would be and how much it's going to cost the city.

Safety Service Director Joe Mosier replied that it's going to cost the city \$32,000 in salaries.

Mr. Pyles asked them to be responsible, because in three years when the city runs out of money, don't ask for a tax increase!

Mayor Closser pointed out of a \$5-million-dollar budget, \$85,000 is only .015% of the general fund. "We have three years to cover this money."

Mr. Pyles opinioned the money could be used somewhere else!

Council President Russell thanked the committees for working on this. They have done their due diligence. He pointed out that other city's mayors, same size as London, make more money.

He thanked Mr. Pyles for coming in and noted that his comments will be taken into consideration.

Shirley Litchfield, 204 E. First Street, London, addressed council. She thanked council for the good job they've been doing. Council has accomplished huge things. She commended them for working together and bridging a gap.

She appreciated Councilwoman Douglas' energy, input, and thanked her for taking on such a huge job.

As for Councilman Minner, she said that words fail her at this point. She thanked him for saving the lives of some of her family members from their burning home many years ago.

He as always tried to get things done and is fair to everyone. He has served on council and asked for nothing in return. "I appreciate it from the bottom of my heart!" Mr. Minner would serve as an excellent point of interest of history.

Ms. Litchfield also thanked Councilwoman Russell for her assistance with getting her help with CHIP.

"God Bless you all!"

Leon Daniels, London Recovery Project, addressed council. He explained that the project provides transition housing. The group is looking for a location in Madison County. There are six churches involved and a collaboration of other entities.

London Recovery Project consists of an eight-month program and will be available for anyone that needs assistance.

Their biggest challenge is the lack of housing in Madison County and trying to find a building.

He'd appreciate London's support.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Councilman Castle attended the city properties meeting. The Rt. 42 ODOT garage has asbestos issues. And, it seems ODOT does not have the authority to sell the building.

The Walnut Street property has asbestos in the crawl space. Temporary heaters are being used and plumbing issues are being worked on.

Brightway Academy turned on the broiler so there is heat in the building.

The next city properties meeting is December 27.

The next finance committee meeting is December 11<sup>th</sup>. The committee will go over the budget.

#### **CITY OFFICIAL REPORTS:** Mayor Pat Closser gave his administrative update at this time (attached).

Councilwoman Long asked if a "bottom dollar" amount has been determined for the new water plant.

Mayor Closser and safety service director Joe Mosier said they did not, but hope to have an update at the next meeting

Councilman Castle and Councilwoman Long commented on how terrible the stench of manure is being spread around their end of town by the farmers.

Mayor Closser said he was unaware of it, but to possibly address it with the Commissioners

Mr. Mosier announced that the next public service meeting is December 14.

Councilman Hatt informed that the next public safety meeting is December 12.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

RESOLUTION 168-17 Sponsored by Dick Minner AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ELECTED OFFICIALS AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS WAGE Motion by Long to place on second reading, second by Russell. Clerk read.

Councilman Minner said would like to see the increase. He also feels the mayor should make at least \$75,000 per year. "The Mayor is very deserving."

Councilman Castle commented that it should be a part of their discussion at the next finance committee meeting.

Councilman Hatt reminded that these proposed salary changes do not take effect until 2020. The numbers will change before then.

Councilwoman Russell stated that the city needs to catch up with salaries. If we expect qualified people, we need to get them their worth. And, it will take tax dollars.

**LEFT ON 2<sup>ND</sup> READING.**

ORDINANCE 169-17 Sponsored by Josh Peters AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 171-16 TO REFLECT A RANGE OF SALARIES OF DEPARTMENT HEADS AND NON-UNION PERSONNEL (amended attachment) Motion by Long to place on second reading, second by Hatt. Clerk read. Councilman Castle pointed out that union employees contract to have their raises worked in. Department heads are at our mercy. "I should have asked Doug if he's ever supervised someone making more than him."

He went on to say that the city is hoping to have experienced people who want to stay in their position.

Councilman Minner shared that everyone made more than he did when he was fire chief. "Department heads do not automatically get increases and I feel they should. I'm sure firemen are making more than the chief now. We need to up both chief's pay."

**LEFT ON 2<sup>ND</sup> READING.**

ORDINANCE 174-17 Sponsored by: Rex Castle AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF LONDON, STATE OF OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2018. Motion by Russell to place on second reading, second by Hatt. Clerk read.

Councilman Castle noted that this will need to go three readings. Final figures have been determined for insurance and revenue has been worked on. The auditor is seeing actual figures now. Numbers will decrease in the budget.

**LEFT ON 2<sup>ND</sup> READING.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

RESOLUTION 176-17 Sponsored by: Trint Hatt A RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CITY OF LONDON'S CAPITAL NEEDS Motion by Hatt to place on first reading, second by Douglas. Clerk read.

Chief Eades is requesting this. This is just moving money around in his budget.

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

RESOLUTION 177-17 Sponsored by: Brenda Russell A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AUDITOR TO TRANSFER FUNDS AND INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS Motion by Long to place on first reading, second by Hatt. Clerk read.

Councilwoman Russell explained that not all money was used for this particular project and just needs transferred back into the budget.

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

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

**ADOPTED.**

RESOLUTION 178-17 Sponsored by: Josh Peters A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE PROJECT AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION Motion by Long to place on first reading, second by Hatt. Clerk read.

Mayor reminded that it is free money! The city can move forward with planning.

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

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

**ADOPTED.**

**ROUND TABLE:** Councilman Castle reminded of the December 11 finance and December 27 properties committee meetings.

Councilwoman Russell thanked Shirley Litchfield for coming in this evening and sharing the nice words.

Councilman Castle commented that instead of complaining, take out a petition, run, and make a difference!

Councilwoman Douglas thanked Shirley for her kind words. She reminded everyone that Pearl Harbor Day is today and was thankful for those who protected us.

President Russell thanked those involved in helping resolve storm water issues.

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

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Arlene Duffey, Clerk of Council

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Joe Russell, President