

October 1, 2020

President Henry Comer 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 CALL ROLL:** Brenda Russell, absent; Josh Peters, present; Bryan Robinson, present; Rich Hays, present; Andrew Hitt, present; Carla Blazier, present; Anthony Smith, present.

**MINUTES** of the previous meeting were approved as received.

**COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:** President Comer read a request from the Ohio Department of Liquor Control. Capital City Sports & Spirits, Inc DBA Crown Sports Lounge requesting liquor transfer to Crown LLC DBA Crown Sports Lounge. Council members approved the request by responding "aye".

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Motion by Councilman Hays to adjourn to public hearing for alley vacation request Ordinance No. 163-20, second by Hitt. Roll call: Peters, yes; Robinson, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Blazier, yes; Smith, yes.

Kim Burdette, 63 Logan Avenue, addressed council. She stated that she is in support of the alley vacation, mainly because it is a safety issue for the neighborhood children. She feels it would give the area a more "neighborhood" feeling. There is no need for the alley.

Brandon Shea, 60 Logan Avenue, addressed council. He is immediately adjacent to the alley and signed the petition to close it. The alley is just a few feet out his door. It is a safety issue for children.

Councilman Peters asked about the neighbors directly behind him.

Mr. Shea responded that the alley is already vacated and that the owner actually encouraged him to request this vacation.

Councilman Peters asked what would happen if the neighbors at 56 Logan decided to sell.

Mr. Shea said he will be applying for a permit to pave the alley as a driveway.

Mr. Shea also informed that he is running for the state school board. It is a non-partisan position.

**REGULAR MEETING:** Motion by Hays to adjourn the public hearing and continue the regular council meeting, second by Robinson. Roll call: Robinson, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Blazier, yes; Smith, yes; Peters, yes.

**AUDIENCE CONCERNS:** David Jackson, 229 Toland, addressed council. He asked if there were plans for Merriman Park to be improved and more things done down there. The park needs fixed up. Cowling Park is very nice.

Councilman Peters responded that is the city's next project. The public service committee has been discussing the park area. The BMX track is currently be cleaned up so it can be used again. He assured that there are plans to improve the park soon.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Councilman Smith reported on the Board of Public Utilities meeting. Everything is operational with the Farm Science Review now. Both new sanitation trucks have arrived. Employees are being trained by driving instructors.

The department is looking into a kit to be installed on the trucks so commercial dumpsters can be emptied. They are deciding if the cost will be passed on to businesses or have the city pay for it.

There are several dumpsters labeled "condemned" and are not safe to be emptied. They should probably be removed from the businesses as there are no lids and trash blows out of them.

Councilman Peters asked if that was part of Les Geyman's job to tell the business owners.

Councilman Smith said that it is and they are checking on the policy.

He also reported that Mt. Sterling will be receiving black water sewer. London is hoping to have some of those haulers do business with London. Sewer rates have not been raised due to the revenue generated by this type of service.

Councilman Smith shared that there have been some positive results with water testing at the new facility. There have been drops in the ammonia level.

Councilman Hitt informed that the next public safety meeting is October 13.

Councilman Peters announced that the next public service meeting is October 14.

**CITY OFFICIAL REPORTS:** None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

ORDINANCE 163-20 Sponsored by: Rich Hays AN ORDINANCE VACATING AN ALLEY Motion by Hays to place on fourth reading, second by Hays. Clerk read.

Motion by Hays to adopt, second by Smith. Roll to adopt: Peters, no; Robinson, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Blazier, yes; Smith, yes. **ADOPTED.**

ORDINANCE 178-20 Sponsored by: Andrew Hitt AN ORDINANCE VACATING AN ALLEY Motion by Hitt to place on second reading, second by Hays. Clerk read.

Councilwoman Blazier was concerned that there was a lot of traffic off that alley.

Councilman Hitt explained that there was already a shed and fence on this particular part of the alley. It was determined that this vacation is south of the area Mrs. Blazier was concerned about.

A public hearing is scheduled for November 5.

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

ORDINANCE 179-20 Sponsored by: Andrew Hitt AN ORDINANCE VACATING AN ALLEY Motion by Hitt to place on second reading, second by Hays. Clerk read. Councilman Hitt commented that abutting residents are in favor of this vacation.

A public hearing is scheduled for November 5.

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

ORDINANCE 182-20 Sponsored by: Brenda Russell AN ORDINANCE SETTING A MONTHLY STORM WATER UTILITY FEE Motion by Hays to place on second reading, second by Robinson. Clerk read.

Councilman Peters explained that this is a scaling increase over the next five years. Funds are needed to repair for storm water infrastructure. A plan needs to be in place, as to how this is going to be funded, and submitted to the Ohio EPA.

He asked that it be left on a second reading allowing for citizens' input.

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

RESOLUTION 190-20 Sponsored by: Brenda Russell A RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS Motion by Hays to place on first reading, second by Robinson. Clerk read.

Councilman Hays explained that this is just a fund transfer. The department is not utilizing the part-time employees fund so the money is being transferred to the street department's equipment line.

Motion by Hays to suspend rules, second by Hitt. Roll to suspend: Blazier, yes; Smith, yes; Peters, yes; Robinson, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes. **SUSPENDED.**

Motion by Hays to adopt, second by Hitt. Roll to adopt: Smith, yes; Peters, yes; Robinson, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Blazier, yes. **ADOPTED.**

**ROUND TABLE:** Councilman Peters shared that London Red Raiders faces off with Jonathan Alder Pioneers tonight. Both teams are 5-0. The game will be streaming. "Dread the Red!"

Councilman Hays thanked all the city employees for all the work they do. He thanked everyone for coming in this evening. He wished the Red Raiders good luck!

Councilman Hitt reminded everyone of the October 13 public safety meeting. And, even though it's a month away, he reminded everyone to vote!

Councilwoman Blazier shared that a resident had contacted her informing that they had not received notice regarding a public hearing for an alley vacation.

It was decided that council will take a look at the current legislation on notification procedures.

She also asked everyone to continue to be safe! "Celebrate our differences! How boring would it be if we were all alike!"

President Comer also encouraged everyone to vote during this fall's elections.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Councilman Hays to adjourn.

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