

Handley announces review of Harless death during council meeting

BY MACEE SWAFFORD
STAFF WRITER

LONDON — The London City Council discussed several city matters during its regular meeting Monday — including a planned review of the death of Doug Harless, pending litigation, website accessibility requirements and several requests for city and opioid settlement funding.

During her mayor’s report, Mayor Tracie Handley announced that the city has brought together a team that has agreed to conduct a structural review of the circumstances surrounding Harless’ death.

Doug Harless was shot and killed at his Lily residence in December 2024 after a search warrant was served by London City Police at the wrong address.

“In my opinion, this review should have taken place in January of 2025, but it’s never too late to review policies and procedures,” Handley said.

At a regularly held council meeting back in May, former Mayor Randall Weddle also

revisited a previous proposal for an independent investigation into the Harless incident, suggesting a board made up of appointees from both the mayor and council to ensure transparency. The proposal had previously been tabled at a past meeting before it was revisited in May, and received no response from council at the time.

Handley said the review will examine the events leading up to Harless’ death, the response and the performance of those involved.

“Our community needs to heal and healing depends on an honest look at what happened and what has to change,” she said.

The review team will include Acting London City Police Chief Gary Mehler, council members Jim Baker and John Bruner, Jamie Burns, City Clerk and former officer Ashley Taylor, City Attorney Christy Shannon, attorney Chris Wiest and Mayor Handley.

Handley said the group will examine policies the London



Justice for Doug supporters show out in front of council meeting places ever since the December 2024 incident. | PHOTO BY MACEE SWAFFORD

Police Department had in place at the time of the incident, policies that have since been changed and policies that may still need to be changed. The team plans to present its findings at a public meeting.

“The team cannot do its work alone, though, and I ask

the community for its support and patience as the review goes forward,” Handley said.

Handley also addressed discussion surrounding the city’s Halloween ordinance that had been posted to the city’s Facebook page, which she said has been in place since October

1976.

The ordinance establishes trick-or-treating hours from 6 to 8 p.m. At the time of the post, many residents raised concerns at the age limit in the ordinance, which listed those over the age of 12 were permitted to trick-or-treat. The

ordinance was also from the time of former London Mayor Joe Reynolds Brown, who served from 1974 to 1977.

“I didn’t realize until I saw it that there was an age, so that’s something that needs to be addressed,” Handley said.

She also encouraged residents to attend the annual downtown Boo On Main event, scheduled for Saturday, October 24.

City Attorney Christy Shannon provided an update on several legal matters.

Shannon said a lawsuit alleging a towing truck conspiracy had been dismissed following a motion filed by the city.

“That case has been dismissed after we filed a motion,” Shannon said.

She also said the city recently participated in depositions involving the Garbage Fund matter and is defending the administrative fee charged to sanitation customers.

“If the court doesn’t approve our rationale, it could

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Residents heard over opposition against proposed East Fifth Street one-way designation

BY MACEE SWAFFORD
STAFF WRITER

LONDON — The London Planning and Zoning Commission heard differing opinions from residents last Thursday regarding a proposal to make a portion of East Fifth Street one-way.

The public hearing was held at the request of the London City Council regarding Ordinance 2026-27, which would establish a one-way traffic pattern on a portion of East Fifth Street.

Under the proposed ordinance, the one-way section would begin after the intersection of East Fifth Street and North Hill Street and end immediately before the intersection of East Fifth Street and Willow Street. Traffic would travel from west to east, according to the ordinance.

The ordinance also would allow residents and their guests to park passenger vehicles on the south side of the street. No parking would be permitted to restrict or block residents’ driveways, and garbage cans for pickup would be placed on the south side of the street between parked vehicles. The north side would remain open for one lane of eastbound traffic.

A violation would carry a \$100 fine for a first offense and a \$250 fine for a second or subsequent offense.

The Planning and Zoning Commission emphasized that it was not voting on the ordinance during the hearing. Instead, the commission was gathering public comments to send to the City Council, which will ultimately decide whether to move forward with the proposal.

Daniel Robinson, who said he has lived on Fifth Street for more than 20 years, spoke in favor of the proposal. Robinson said he helped organize

a petition supporting the one-way designation, citing parking and traffic concerns.

He said nearly every home in the affected section signed the petition.

Robinson said many households now have multiple vehicles because more families have two working adults and children who drive. He said

the existing street configuration makes parking difficult and creates problems when vehicles approach one another.

“People fly up and down that street,” Robinson said, also pointing to instances when motorists have had to wait for other vehicles to pull over.

Robinson said making the

street one-way would allow residents to use the south side for parking while providing a continuous lane for traffic.

Other attendees at the hearing who spoke opposed the proposal, however, and said redirecting traffic could create larger safety problems on surrounding streets.

William Eversole said he

was concerned about residents who would be forced to use other streets if Fifth Street

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PUBLIC NOTICES

10.7.26

Housing Authority of London will hold a public hearing on Thursday, October 22 for the formulation and adoption of a five-year capital plan, and for the formulation and adoption of the annual plan

Pursuant to KRS 80.500, and local by-laws, the Housing Authority of London, KY will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, October 22, 2026, at 5:00 PM, local time, at the London Community Center Upper-level, 529 South Main Street, London, Kentucky for the formulation and adoption of

a five-year capital plan, and for the formulation and adoption of the annual plan including the operating and capital budget for the current fiscal year. The Board will also hear comments, concerns and recommendations from residents. All interested individuals are invited to attend.

The City of London is hosting a public meeting on their proposed Boone Trace Trail improvement project RTP application

The City of London is hosting a public meeting on their proposed Boone Trace Trail Improvement Project RTP application. The specific purpose of this meeting is to discuss Description of Proposed RTP Project. To provide a forum for discussion, the City of London will be hosting an open meeting on:

Date: October 14, 2026
Time: 10:00am (EST), 9:00am (CT)
Location: Downstairs Conference Room –

London Community Center
Address: 529 S. Main Street, London, Kentucky 40741

The public is invited to review and voice their opinion on the proposed activities and potential impacts of the project. Anyone wishing to support or oppose the proposed project can also submit written comments to 998 Levi Jackson State Park by October 14, 2026.

APC Towers, LLC is proposing to construct a 199-foot monopole telecommunications structure located off Burkhart Road, Lily

APC Towers, LLC, is proposing to construct a 199-foot overall height monopole telecommunications structure located off Burkhart Road, Lily, Laurel County, Kentucky (37° 0' 46.2" N, 84° 03' 2.5" W). The proposed tower is anticipated to utilize FAA Style E (medium intensity, dual red/white strobes) lighting.

APC Towers, LLC, invites comments from any interested party on the impact the proposed undertaking may have on any districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects significant in American history, archaeology, engineering, or culture that are listed or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Comments may be sent to Environmental Corporation of America, ATTN: Annamarie Howell, 1375 Union Hill Industrial Court, Suite A, Alpharetta, GA 30004 or via email to publicnotice@eca-usa.com. Ms. Howell can be reached at (770) 667-2040 x 108 during normal business hours. Comments must be received within 30 days of the date of this notice.

Any interested party may request further environmental review of the proposed action under the FCC’s National Environmental Policy Act rules, 47 CFR §1.1307, by notifying the FCC of the specific reasons that the action may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. This request must only raise environmental concerns and can be filed online using the FCC pleadings system at https://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsEntry/pleadings/pleadingsType.jsp or mailed to FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 45 L Street, Washington, DC 20554 within 30 days of the date of the National Notice as referenced within the Antenna Structure Registration (ASR) application. Mailed pleadings must include a request to waive the electronic filing requirement along with an explanation of why an electronic filing cannot be made. Refer to File No. A1395067 when submitting the request and to view the specific information about the proposed action. 26-002689 MMT

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