

THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO
Proceedings of the Huron City Council
Regular Meeting Tuesday, July 14, 2026 at 6:30pm

Call to Order Public Hearing on the Proposed 2027 Annual Tax Budget

Mayor Monty Tapp called to order the Public Hearing on the proposed 2027 Tax Budget.

Roll Call for Public Hearing

The Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll for the Public Hearing. The following members of Council answered present: **Joe Dike, Sam Artino, William Biddlecombe, Monty Tapp, Tom Harris and Joel Hagy.** Councilmember absent: **Mark Claus.**

Swear in Witnesses

Assistant Law Director Gary Ebert swore in the witnesses for the Public Hearing, including all members of Council and Finance Director Isaac Phillips.

Witness Testimony

Finance Director Phillips presented the 2027 Municipal Tax Budget, noting that it is available on the City's website in the Finance section. He explained that the tax budget is an annual statutory requirement under both City Charter and the Ohio Revised Code, and its primary purpose is to confirm to the County that currently levied property taxes remain necessary for the City to balance the following year's budget. The City must submit a council-approved tax budget to the County by July 15th annually. The County will subsequently issue a report in the fall containing the City's certificate of estimated resources, property tax collection estimates, and local government fund estimates for 2027. Council must authorize tax rates and certify them with the county auditor by October 1st.

Director Phillips highlighted several noteworthy items from the budget:

General Fund: The estimated beginning fund balance is just over \$1.7 million, equal to the maximum reserve set by City policy at 25% of annual general fund expenditures. Excess dollars above the 25% threshold are typically reallocated to capital and citywide improvement projects as the year closes.

Boat Basin: A reduction in fund balance is anticipated in 2026 and into 2027 due to limited revenue generation and the need for repairs and maintenance to the aging facility.

Fire Fund: An increased fund balance is expected as a result of the recently passed fire levy, which will enable the department to address aging capital equipment and rising operational costs associated with record call volumes.

Capital Funds: Funds such as general capital, water capital, and electric capital are expected to fluctuate year to year based on the timing of major projects and the receipt of funding sources.

Stormwater Fund: A declining fund balance is anticipated due to the fund operating at a deficit under current revenue levels. The City will need to subsidize the fund to address both ongoing operational needs and any capital improvements.

Regarding revenue, the general fund is not projecting an increase in total revenue for 2027, with income tax revenue anticipated to level off between 2024 and 2025 performance. Electric kilowatt-hour excise tax is expected to remain consistent through 2026 and 2027.

On the expenditure side, total estimated expenses in 2027 reflect a decrease of 49% from 2026 appropriations, primarily attributed to the completion or wind-down of major capital projects including the US Route 6 Phase II Roundabout Project, the 2.0 MG Water Tower Project, the South Main Street Streetscape Project, and the ConAgra Seawall Project. The 2027 budget includes a 3.25% increase in personnel costs in line with labor contracts, a 3% increase in healthcare costs, and 3% - 5% increases in other operating expenses such as utilities and vehicle and building maintenance.

Councilman Hagy asked for clarification on whether the fire fund revenue line reflected both the existing fire levy and the newly passed levy combined. Director Phillips confirmed that the 2027 table of estimated revenue shows both levies combined in a single line, noting that the Township's levy is not included.

Adjourn Public Hearing

Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe to adjourn the public hearing.

The Mayor asked if there were any questions on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Biddlecombe, Tapp, Harris, Hagy, Dike, Artino (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed the public hearing was adjourned at 6:36pm.

Call to Order

Mayor Monty called the regular Council meeting of July 14, 2026 to order at 6:36pm. The Mayor called for a moment of silence. After the moment of silence, the Mayor led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call

The Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll for the regular meeting of Council. The following members of Council answered present: **Joe Dike, Sam Artino, William Biddlecombe, Monty Tapp, Tom Harris and Joel Hagy**. Councilmember absent: **Mark Claus**.

Motion

Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe to excuse the absence of Mr. Claus.

The Mayor asked if there were any questions on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Biddlecombe, Tapp, Harris, Hagy, Dike, Artino (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and the absence of Mr. Claus was excused.

Staff in attendance: Acting City Manager /Police Chief Terry Graham, Jr., Assistant Law Director Gary Ebert, Finance Director Isaac Phillips, Parks & Recreation Director Doug Steinwart, Fire Chief Kevin McGraw and Terri Welkener, Clerk of Council.

Approval of Minutes**Motion**

Motion by Mr. Dike to approve the minutes of the regular Council meeting of June 23, 2026.

The Mayor asked if there were any questions on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Dike, Artino, Tapp, Harris, Hagy (5)
ABSTAIN: Biddlecombe (1)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and the minutes of the June 23, 2026 regular Council meeting were adopted.

Presentation

Scott Sands, Northwest Regional Liaison for the Ohio Auditor of State presented on behalf of Auditor of State Keith Faber. He explained that the Auditor of State's office audits approximately 6,000 public entities across Ohio, and that fewer than 8–9% of the roughly 4,800 entities audited annually are eligible to receive the Auditor of State Award. Mr. Sands presented the award to Finance Director Isaac Phillips and the City's finance team in recognition of their outstanding work. A copy of the Award is attached hereto as Exhibit "A."

Audience Comments

The Mayor directed members of the audience having comments to approach the podium, state their name and address Council, and advised that they would have 3 minutes to make their comments.

Lura Maji, 198 Bogart Road (419-366-3257), addressed Council regarding the status of quiet zone (silent track) designation for railroad crossings in the city. Ms. Maji, a 47-year resident of the road, stated that she had raised the issue two years prior and had received no updates since being told it was "in the works." She referenced the existing quiet zones in Vermilion as an example and asked for a definitive update. Mayor Tapp acknowledged the concern and asked Clerk of Council Terri Welkener to take Ms. Maji's contact information to ensure she received a formal response.

Kevin Fahey, 8011 Main Street (419-975-4461), expressed concern about recurring stormwater flooding at the intersection of Main Street and Bogart Road, affecting his property, the neighboring gas station, and Jim's Pizza Box. He asked whether upcoming road or stormwater work planned for that area would address the flooding in his yard. Mayor Tapp indicated that staff would review the plans for Main Street and that Mr. Fahey would receive a follow-up call. It was noted that City Manager Hamilton was out of town, and that Police Chief Green was serving as interim city manager in his absence.

James Bradley, 421 Sailaway Drive (440-213-8617), addressed Council with concerns about the density and management of short-term rentals (STRs) on his street. Mr. Bradley noted that while the City limits short-term rental permits to 5% of buildings citywide, his street currently exceeds 40% STR density. He raised specific concerns about rentals exceeding their advertised and permitted occupancy, the conversion of non-bedroom spaces to bedrooms to inflate occupancy capacity, traffic impacts, and a

general change in neighborhood character. Mr. Bradley expressed a willingness to meet with any Council members to review research on how other cities have addressed similar challenges. Mayor Tapp informed him that the City had already received other related concerns and had begun setting up meetings, and that he would be contacted.

Old Business

None.

New Business**Motion**

Motion by Mr. Hagy to adopt the 2027 Annual Tax Budget as prepared and received.

The Mayor asked if there were any questions on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Hagy, Dike, Artino, Biddlecombe, Tapp, Harris (6)

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed, and the 2027 Annual Tax Budget was approved.

City Manager's Discussion

In the absence of City Manager Hamilton, Police Chief Green delivered the City Manager's report, covering the following updates:

Jim Campbell Boulevard is now permanently closed at Center Street.

Sign Code Amendments: Two Planning Commission sessions have been held to review draft amendments. The consultant will revise the draft following commission feedback and resubmit for review.

Chapter 1133 — Off-Street Parking: The Planning Commission discussed existing code language related to commercial off-street parking lots and expressed the opinion that the code should require all public and private parking lots to be paved. Staff will research the issue and prepare findings for review.

Chapter 557 — Grass, Weeds and Vegetation: Staff is preparing draft code language following inquiries about milkweed, which was removed from the Ohio Department of Agriculture's noxious weed list in 2018 and is recognized as a critical habitat plant for monarch caterpillars, currently listed as an endangered species. The draft will be presented at an upcoming council meeting.

Transient Rentals: There are currently 15 applications on the waiting list.

Board of Zoning Appeals: A vacancy exists on the Board of Zoning Appeals. Interested residents may contact Clerk of Council Terri Welkener at 419-433-5000, ext. 1102, or by email at terri.welkener@huronohio.us.

Parks and Recreation: Junior Fun Camps remain open for registration at cityofhuron.org.

Boat Basin Events: Saturday, July 18th — 30th Annual K96 Summer Jam; Saturday, July 25th — Christmas in July featuring Rumours.

Arts at the Amphitheater: Fred Ziwich and his International Sound Machine Polka Band on Sunday, July 19th at 7:00 PM; Erie County OSU Alumni Band on Sunday, July 26th at 7:00 PM. The first Movies by the River will be held at the Huron Boat Basin Amphitheater on Wednesday, July 22nd at dusk, featuring The Land Before Time.

Fire Department: The Fire Department responded to 236 calls in June, with several days exceeding 15 calls at an average daily staffing of 5. A joint emergency boat operators training was conducted with the Lorain Fire Department and Federal Air and Sea, with 20 participants. The Department received a new utility pickup truck from Valley Ford of Huron, which will be sent to Statewide for upfitting and is expected to return by end of month.

Safety Services Baseball: The sponsored baseball season concluded with the Firefighters falling in the semi-finals 6–5 to the Huron Eagles, and the Cops finishing as runners-up, losing to the Eagles in the championship. An All-Star game was held Tuesday, with the Fire Department All-Stars winning 10–5. The season concluded with participation in the Huron River Fest Parade on July 11th.

Water: Triennial sampling for lead and copper has been completed for 2026, with all samples returning non-detect for lead.

West Side Water Tower: A change order is anticipated related to the disinfection by-product removal system, as three-phase power may be necessary. A tower logo rendering will be provided by Landmark in the coming weeks. A construction site audit with Kleinfelder and the Ohio EPA is scheduled for July.

Stormwater: Large obstruction tree roots were cleared from the storm sewer line between Worthington and Berkshire, and a manhole was resealed. Street department staffing will be restricted over the coming month.

Streets: Stop bars and crosswalks were painted in Zone 3 (east side of town); 42 military banners and flags were hung; city-wide street sweeping was completed in the last week of June.

Huron Hometown Heroes: The project is complete. Applications are still being accepted for a waiting list and future openings.

Upcoming Meetings: Planning Commission, Wednesday, July 15th at 5:00 PM in Council Chambers; Regular Council Meeting, Tuesday, July 28th at 6:30 PM in Council Chambers.

Mayor's Discussion

Mayor Tapp addressed the audience comments from earlier in the meeting, clarifying that Council does not engage in back-and-forth dialogue during public comment, but assured residents that follow-up contact would be made regarding the quiet zone inquiry, the Main Street flooding, and the short-term rental concerns.

The Mayor acknowledged the success of the recent River Fest, offering particular thanks to Vice-Mayor Biddlecombe and event organizer Nikki Beverly (Nikki B) for their behind-the-scenes work. He commended all City departments involved, noting that the event requires coordination across nearly every department. Positive community feedback was also noted regarding the fireworks and the military banner program, the latter of which was credited in part to a student initiative. The Mayor noted that

interest in the banners continues to grow and expressed hope that additional display spots could be found.

For the Good of the Order

Councilman Hagy thanked the residents who came forward during audience comments, noting that in-person participation is the most effective way for council members who are not active on social media to learn about community concerns. He encouraged residents to contact council members directly via email or phone, and acknowledged that for at least two of the three issues raised, explanations existed that could not be fully addressed in the moment.

Councilman Harris echoed the appreciation for audience participation and noted that he had personally observed the flooding near Main Street but was unaware of its recurring severity. Regarding short-term rentals, he observed that Chapter 1369, which governs STRs, has been in effect for approximately five years and suggested it may be time to revisit the ordinance. He noted that STRs, functioning similarly to hotels, are operating in R1 and R2 residential zones, and that reviewing whether such use is appropriate in those zones warrants consideration.

Vice-Mayor Biddlecombe thanked city staff for their work, announced the next school board meeting on July 20th at 6:00 PM in the Woodland's cafeteria, and offered thanks to all River Fest participants including sponsors, organizers, city departments, and event coordinator Nikki at Great Lakes Event Works. He also extended birthday wishes to Councilman Artino.

Councilman Artino thanked residents for attending, reaffirming that council works more effectively with citizen input. He also extended appreciation to all city employees for their service, particularly during the added demands of River Fest weekend.

Councilman Dike addressed the three audience comment topics in turn. On the stormwater flooding, he noted that drainage improvements had been included in the North Main project but acknowledged that some individual property flooding issues remain and should be followed up on. On the quiet zone issue, he provided historical context, noting that the matter has been before council since at least 2016, and outlined the complexities involved — including the number of crossings (five), technical railroad requirements, the potential closure of William Street, and the anticipated significant cost. He acknowledged that the issue has repeatedly been deferred but expressed hope that clearer answers could be provided to the inquiring residents. On short-term rentals, Councilman Dike expressed a personal view that STRs should not be permitted in R1 zones and agreed with Councilman Harris that a review of the existing ordinance may be warranted. He also commended Chris Leibacher and the Fabens Tournament organization for reinvesting parking and team fee revenues back into the community.

Executive Session

No executive session was held.

Adjournment

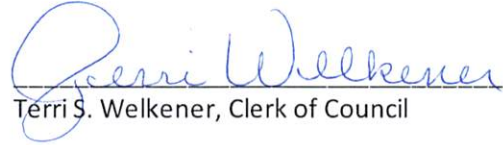
Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe to adjourn the regular meeting of Council.

The Mayor asked if there were any questions on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Biddlecombe, Tapp, Harris, Hagy, Dike, Artino (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor of the motion, the regular Council meeting of July 14, 2026, was adjourned at 7:08pm.

Adopted: 28 JUL 2026


Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council



THE STATE OF OHIO



KEITH FABER
OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE AWARD

Presented to

City of Huron

This award is presented for excellence in financial reporting in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and compliance with applicable laws for the fiscal year ended [insert audit year].

The citizens you represent are well-served by your effective and accountable financial practices.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Keiths Faber".

Keiths Faber, Auditor of State