THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO
Proceedings of the Huron City Council
Regular Meeting Tuesday, July 28, 2026 at 6:30pm

Call to Order

Mayor Monty Tapp called the regular Council meeting of July 28, 2026 to order at 6:30pm. 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, Mark Claus, Tom Harris** and **Joel Hagy**.

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

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. Dike to approve the minutes of the regular Council meeting of July 14, 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, Biddlecombe, Tapp, Harris, Hagy (6)**
ABSTAIN:	**Claus (1)**
NAYS:	**None (0)**

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and the minutes of the July 14, 2026 regular Council meeting were adopted.

Prior to audience comments, the Mayor introduced Grant Bauer, a local high school senior, to recognize his leadership of the Hometown Heroes veteran banner project. City Manager Stuart Hamilton praised Mr. Bauer as one of the most professionally conducted student projects he had experienced, noting that Mr. Bauer independently brought the idea, secured funding, and assembled all partner organizations.

Mr. Bauer addressed Council, explaining that the idea originated over a year and a half ago when he noticed Huron lacked the veteran banner displays seen in neighboring communities. Beginning at age 17, he met weekly with City Manager Hamilton every Wednesday from January onward to plan and execute the project. The initiative resulted in 42 banners honoring veterans and current service members displayed along Main Street. The Lions Club joined the project and contributed the flags. Mr. Bauer noted he had recently handed the ongoing stewardship of the project over to the Lions Club.

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.

No members of the public came forward to address Council.

Old Business

There was no old business discussed.

New Business

Resolution No. 57-2026 (first reading)

Motion by Mr. Claus that Resolution No. 57-2026 (A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE CITY OF HURON'S WITHDRAWAL OF ITS MEMBERSHIP IN THE HURON JOINT RECREATION DISTRICT ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION NO. 1995-16 ADOPTED ON JUNE 12, 1995 AND CERTIFYING SUCH WITHDRAWAL TO THE HURON JOINT RECREATION DISTRICT BOARD) be placed on its first reading.

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: **Claus, Harris, Hagy, Dike, Artino, Biddlecombe, Tapp (7)**
NAYS: **None (0)**

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 57-2026 was placed upon its first reading. The Assistant Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

City Manager Hamilton explained that the HJRD was created in 1995 with the intent of forming an independent entity with its own levy authority, taxing jurisdiction, and management structure separate from the City, Schools, and Township. In practice, however, it never ceased to function as a City department, and the HJRD Board operated in an advisory capacity only. State auditors had increasingly raised concerns about the district's non-compliance with Ohio Revised Code requirements, which would have required the district to file its own taxes, conduct its own budget processes, maintain its own staff, and operate independently — a burden none of the member entities were willing or able to take on.

Hamilton noted that all three member entities were generally aligned on disbanding the district. The Township is fully supportive; the Schools understand and do not oppose the move, though they had envisioned some future potential for joint levy activity. He confirmed that the Township's existing financial contribution would be redirected to the new Parks Board rather than the district, keeping that revenue stable.

Council was informed that the resolution will proceed through three readings to allow for public feedback. Once two member entities formally withdraw, the district ceases to exist by law.

The Mayor asked if there were further questions. There were none.

Resolution No. 58-2026 (first reading)
Motion by Mr. Claus that Resolution No. 58-2026 (A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A CITY PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD AND VESTING IN THE CITY PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD THE AUTHOIRTY TO ADVISE CITY COUNCIL ON THE SUPERVISION, MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE PARTKS THAT ARE SITUATED WITHIN THE CITY OF HURON) be placed on its first reading.

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: **Claus, Harris, Hagy, Dike, Artino, Biddlecombe, Tapp (7)**
NAYS: **None (0)**

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 58-2026 was placed upon its first reading. The Assistant Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Parks & Recreation Director Doug Steinwart noted that in practical terms, operations will remain largely unchanged, as the department has long functioned in a manner consistent with a parks board structure. The new board will have formal bylaws defining its mission, purpose, and member responsibilities — centered on advising, monitoring, and supporting staff rather than exercising independent authority. All decisions would continue to come back to Council. Current membership stands at seven, with a goal of reducing to five.

The Mayor asked if there were further questions. There were none.

Resolution No. 59-2026
Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 59-2026 (A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE MATERIAL TERMS OF THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AMONG PARTICIPATING SUBDIVISIONS AND DISCOUNT DRUG MART, INC.) be placed on its first reading.

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, Claus, Harris, Hagy, Dike, Artino (7)**
NAYS: **None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived, and Resolution No. 59-2026 was placed upon its first reading. The Assistant Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

City Manager Hamilton identified this as another opioid settlement, with the City of Huron's share totaling $3,375 out of a $3,500,000 total claimant pool with Discount Drug Mart, Inc. The funds will be deposited into the dedicated opioid settlement fund. Hamilton noted that these funds are very tightly regulated by law and must be spent on remediation of opioid-related harms, such as drug treatment programs. He acknowledged that finding compliant expenditures has been challenging and that much of the accumulated balance may remain unspent for years.

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

YEAS: **Biddlecombe, Tapp, Claus, Harris, Hagy, Dike, Artino (7)**
NAYS: **None (0)**

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 59-2026 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 60-2026
Motion by Mr. Harris that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 60-2026 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH OHM ADVISORS FOR ENGINEERING SURVEY AND DESIGN SERVICES RELATED TO THE RIVER ROAD STREET LIGHT PROJECT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FORTY-TWO THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($42,100.00)) be placed on its first reading.

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: **Harris, Hagy, Dike, Artino, Biddlecombe, Tapp, Claus (7)**
NAYS: **None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived, and Resolution No. 60-2026 was placed upon its first reading. The Assistant Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

City Manager Hamilton explained that following an RFQ process with four respondents, OHM Advisors was selected based on their local knowledge. The project stems from longstanding concerns about the safety and congestion of the River Road intersection — particularly as it relates to boat ramp traffic — and the anticipated addition of approximately 100 residential units at the nearby Conagra development site. While a traffic study submitted to ODOT did not meet their warranted threshold for state-funded installation, ODOT would not prevent the City from proceeding at its own cost.

The $42,100 engagement will cover full design and bidding services. Hamilton emphasized that once an engineer's estimate is produced, Council will have the opportunity to decide whether to proceed to bid based on the projected cost — estimated at approximately $200,000 for installation, with roughly $10,000 per year in maintenance. The traffic light would use a smart controller with sensors adaptable to different traffic patterns, including boat launch activity. Hamilton confirmed the City may be able to repurpose traffic signals removed from Center Street.

Council discussion addressed the distinction between this City-owned installation and a prior ODOT-owned signal removed from Ohio Street/Cleveland Road when ODOT determined it was no longer warranted — Hamilton clarified that because the City would fully own this signal, the liability question is clearly defined. Councilmember Dike raised the question of whether private developers should contribute; Hamilton explained that involving private entities in public utility ownership can create undesirable ownership claims, but noted that ODNR may be a viable funding partner given existing agreement language referencing a potential signal at that location.

Councilmember Hagy raised the issue of social media commentary as a driver of this project; Vice-Mayor Biddlecombe confirmed it has been a consistent topic. Hamilton clarified that staff does not act on social media reports, but acknowledged the project has been a recurring topic of resident feedback through appropriate channels.

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

YEAS: **Harris, Hagy, Dike, Artino, Biddlecombe, Tapp, Claus (7)**
NAYS: **None (0)**

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 60-2026 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 61-2026
Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 61-2026 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH OHM ADVISORS FOR ENGINEERING DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION PLAN AND BIDDING SERVICES RELATED TO THE ERI-JIM CAMPBELL BLVD ENHANCED CROSSWALK PROJECT (PID 125707) IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED THIRTY-NINE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($39,500.00)) be placed on its first reading.

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, Claus, Harris, Hagy, Dike, Artino (7)**
NAYS: **None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived, and Resolution No. 61-2026 was placed upon its first reading. The Assistant Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

City Manager Hamilton prefaced the presentation by noting the total project cost of $163,000 — acknowledging it is a significant sum for a single crosswalk — before explaining the funding structure. The project is an ODOT-funded initiative, meaning the additional overhead, right-of-way, and process requirements are offset by grant funding. The City had received multiple years of requests for a crossing at the Lake Erie Electric Trail and high school location on Jim Campbell Boulevard. When a funding source was identified and the schools expressed support, ODOT approved the project. The scope expanded from approximately $100,000 to $163,000 when lighting was added, with ODOT agreeing to fund that addition as well.

The crossing will be multimodal, accommodating the trail connection, with a long-term vision of linking through to bike lanes on U.S. Route 6 to create a continuous active transportation corridor through the city. The $39,500 covers design and bidding services; any construction bid award will return to Council for approval.

Vice-Mayor Biddlecombe noted that pedestrian safety concerns at this intersection — especially during football season — had been raised by constituents consistently throughout his tenure on Council.

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

YEAS: **Biddlecombe, Tapp, Claus, Harris, Hagy, Dike, Artino (7)**
NAYS: **None (0)**

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 61-2026 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 62-2026
Motion by Mr. Claus that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 62-2026 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION TO THE ERIE COUNTY SOLID WASTE DISTRICT RECYCLED MATERIALS GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF SIX (6) 8-FOOT PICNIC TABLES LOCATED AT THE HURON MUNICIPAL BOAT BASIN PICNIC SHELTERS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED NINE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED SIX AND 50/100 DOLLARS ($9,606.50); AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT SAID GRANT AWARD(S) IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED NINE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED SIX AND 50/100 DOLLARS ($9,606.50), SHOULD THE APPLICATION BE SUCCESSFUL) be placed on its first reading.

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: **Claus, Harris, Hagy, Dike, Artino, Biddlecombe, Tapp (7)**
NAYS: **None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived, and Resolution No. 62-2026 was placed upon its first reading. The Assistant Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Parks & Recreation Director Steinwart presented this grant application to the Erie County Solid Waste Management District's Recycled Materials Grant Program for replacement of six 8-foot picnic tables at the Huron Municipal Boat Basin picnic shelters, in an amount not to exceed $9,606.50. He noted that this is a continuation of the ongoing shelter renovation effort — previously, a MetroParks grant covered roof replacement and a Lions Club donation funded re-siding of both shelter structures. The replacement tables will be high-density polyethylene, consistent with other durable park furnishings already in use in City parks. The grant maximum is $10,000; the application requests $9,606.50.

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

YEAS: **Claus, Harris, Hagy, Dike, Artino, Biddlecombe, Tapp (7)**
NAYS: **None (0)**

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 62-2026 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 63-2026

Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 63-2026 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER'S EXECUTION OF A SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE CONTRACT FOR RESIDENTIAL WASTE COLLECTION AND RECYCLING SERVICES BETWEEN THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO AND REPUBLIC SERVICES DATED JUNE 28, 2023, FOR THE PROVISION OF RESIDENTIAL WASTE REMOVAL AND RECYCLING SERVICES FOR THE 3-YEAR EXTENSION PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2027 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2029) be placed on its first reading.

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, Claus, Harris (7)**
NAYS: **None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived, and Resolution No. 63-2026 was placed upon its first reading. The Assistant Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

City Manager Hamilton recounted that the original 2023 contract was the result of a competitive RFP process that yielded only one respondent. The contract included a three-year extension option with 5 percent annual escalators. When Finance Director Phillips indicated the original escalation rates were no longer sustainable, Hamilton returned to Republic Services and negotiated revised terms. The renegotiated rates are as follows: Year 1 (2027) — $26.00 per household, compared to $28.73 under the original terms; Year 2 (2028) — $27.30 versus $30.17; Year 3 (2029) — $28.67 versus $31.68. Hamilton noted the new rates result in residents paying less than they would have in 2027 under the original contract. All other contract terms remain unchanged. A fuel adjustment rider is calculated separately and absorbed through the waste collection fund.

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

YEAS: **Hagy, Dike, Artino, Biddlecombe, Tapp, Claus, Harris (7)**
NAYS: **None (0)**

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 63-2026 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Ordinance No. 2026-21 (first reading)

Motion by Mr. Hagy that Ordinance No. 2026-21 (AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE RATE TO BE PAID BY RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY OWNERS FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 2027 THROUGH DECEMBER 2027 FOR RESIDENTIAL SOLID WASTE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL; AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE TO CERTIFY THE COSTS OF SAME TO THE ERIE COUNTY AUDITOR FOR PLACEMENT ON THE TAX DUPLICATE FOR COLLECTION WITH OTHER CITY TAXES IN 2027) be placed on its first reading.

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, Claus, Harris (7)**
NAYS: **None (0)**

There being a majority in favor, Ordinance No. 2026-21 was placed upon its first reading. The Assistant Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Finance Director Isaac Phillips presented this ordinance, which establishes the residential solid waste collection rate for 2027 reflecting the renegotiated Republic Services contract terms. The new rate represents a 10 percent savings compared to what would have been charged under the original 2027 contract terms, translating to approximately $13 per year in savings for a typical single-service household. Subsequent years will see 4.7 percent annual increases rather than the original 5 percent. Phillips noted the rate is now trued up from the prior year's catch-up adjustment, allowing the $26 per-household fee to be passed through directly to residents without any additional adjustment factor. The new rate takes effect January 1, 2027; residents will continue to be billed at the current rate for the remainder of 2026.

The Mayor asked if there were further questions. There were none.

Ordinance No. 2026-16
Motion by Mr. Artino that the three-reading rule be waived and Ordinance No. 2026-16 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 305.01, TRAFFIC CONTROL MAP, AND CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 305.02, TRAFFIC CONTROL FILE, REGARDING ESTABLISHING SPEED LIMIT OF 35 MPH ON US-6 FROM THE EASTBOUND EXIT OF THE ROUNDABOUT TO THE CENTER STREET INTERSECTION; AND FURTHER ESTABLISHING SPEED LIMIT OF 35 MPH ON US 6 WESTBOUND FROM CENTER STREET TO THE ENTRANCE OF THE ROUNDABOUT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY) be placed on its first reading.

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: **Artino, Biddlecombe, Tapp, Claus, Harris, Hagy, Dike (7)**
NAYS: **None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived, and Ordinance No. 2026-16 was placed upon its first reading. The Assistant Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Motion by Mr. Artino to place Ordinance No. 2026-16 as an emergency measure.

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: **Artino, Biddlecombe, Tapp, Claus, Harris, Hagy, Dike (7)**
NAYS: **None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, motion passed and Ordinance No. 2026-16 was placed as an emergency measure.

City Manager Hamilton explained that the speed limit reduction from 55 to 35 mph on this segment is part of the broader effort to create a boulevard feel on the approach into the city from the west, consistent with the roundabout construction objectives. The corridor is being reduced to a single inbound lane with extended streetlighting. Hamilton noted that the approaching segment west of the roundabout remains 55 mph under ODOT jurisdiction, and that ODOT resists changes to speed limits on state highways.

Council discussion centered on whether advisory speed signs could be posted approaching the roundabout from the west. Councilmember Claus raised concern that westbound traffic at 55 mph entering the roundabout could be hazardous and suggested at minimum a yellow advisory speed sign. Hamilton acknowledged the concern and indicated it could be pursued, noting that the roundabout's geometry will itself encourage natural deceleration. Councilmember Hagy also expressed interest in pursuing a formal speed limit reduction on that westbound approach segment in the future.

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

YEAS: **Artino, Biddlecombe, Tapp, Claus, Harris, Hagy, Dike (7)**
NAYS: **None (0)**

There being a majority in favor, Ordinance No. 2026-16 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Ordinance No. 2026-19
Motion by Mr. Tapp that the three-reading rule be waived and Ordinance No. 2026-19 (AN ORDINANCE DETERMINING TO PROCEED WITH THE IMPROVEMENT OF CERTAIN PUBLIC PLACES IN THE CITY BY LIGHTING, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY) be placed on its first reading.

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: **Tapp, Claus, Harris, Hagy, Dike, Artino, Biddlecombe (7)**
NAYS: **None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived, and Ordinance No. 2026-19 was placed upon its first reading. The Assistant Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Motion by Mr. Tapp to place Ordinance No. 2026-19 as an emergency measure.

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: **Tapp, Claus, Harris, Hagy, Dike, Artino, Biddlecombe (7)**
NAYS: **None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, motion passed and Ordinance No. 2026-19 was placed as an emergency measure.

Finance Director Phillips presented this ordinance as the first of two companion legislative pieces constituting the triennial streetlight assessment process. The millage rate is being reduced from 0.65 mills to 0.45 mills. For a home with a $200,000 market value, the annual assessment decreases from $45.50 to $31.50 — a savings of approximately $14 per year. The reduction is made possible by increased real estate values (which generate the same revenue at a lower rate) and a healthy fund balance. City Manager Hamilton noted that while the fund primarily covers energy costs and maintenance for existing streetlights, it is also being used for new light installation as part of the U.S. 6 roundabout project.

Vice-Mayor Biddlecombe clarified for residents that the assessment covers all city streetlights citywide, not merely those on an individual's street.

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

YEAS: **Tapp, Claus, Harris, Hagy, Dike, Artino, Biddlecombe (7)**
NAYS: **None (0)**

There being a majority in favor, Ordinance No. 2026-19 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Ordinance No. 2026-20
Motion by Mr. Tapp that the three-reading rule be waived and Ordinance No. 2026-20 (AN ORDINANCE LEVYING SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF CERTAIN PUBLIC PLACES IN THE CITY BY LIGHTING, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY) be placed on its first reading.

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: **Tapp, Claus, Harris, Hagy, Dike, Artino, Biddlecombe (7)**
NAYS: **None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived, and Ordinance No. 2026-20 was placed upon its first reading. The Assistant Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Motion by Mr. Tapp to place Ordinance No. 2026-20 as an emergency measure.

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: **Tapp, Claus, Harris, Hagy, Dike, Artino, Biddlecombe (7)**
NAYS: **None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, motion passed and Ordinance No. 2026-20 was placed as an emergency measure.

This companion ordinance levies the special assessments for street lighting improvement as determined in Ordinance No. 2026-19. Finance Director Phillips had no additional comments to add beyond those provided under the prior ordinance.

Councilmember Claus raised a general question regarding maintenance responsibility for neighborhood streetlights. City Manager Hamilton clarified that standard streetlights are owned and maintained by FirstEnergy (Ohio Edison), while the decorative black "decker" poles are owned and maintained by the City. He noted that FirstEnergy is actively in the process of replacing older halogen fixtures with LED across the system. Councilmember Hagy asked whether lights at the Boat Basin are also FirstEnergy-maintained; Hamilton confirmed those decorative fixtures are City-owned and City-maintained. He noted Main Street lights are a special case as well.

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

YEAS: **Tapp, Claus, Harris, Hagy, Dike, Artino, Biddlecombe (7)**
NAYS: **None (0)**

There being a majority in favor, Ordinance No. 2026-20 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

City Manager's Discussion
The City Manager spoke on several topics:

Donations: The Police Department received a $50 K-9 Fund donation from the Old Homestead on the Lake Association.

Motion by Mayor Tapp to accept the $50 donation to the K-9 fund from the Old Homestead on the Lake Association.

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: **Tapp, Claus, Harris, Hagy, Dike, Artino, Biddlecombe (7)**
NAYS: **None (0)**

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed.

U.S. Route 6 Phase 2 Project: The Williams Street intersection was scheduled to close the following day for final course resurfacing, proceeding westward to Route 2 over two to three days, followed by restriping and finish work. Final grading and seeding is approximately halfway complete. A ribbon cutting ceremony is planned for Monday, August 17th, with emergency services vehicles participating.

Quiet Zone: In response to renewed resident inquiries from both the City and Township, Hamilton recapped the status. An original study confirmed a quiet zone is feasible but would cost in excess of

$1,000,000. The project was on the capital wish list tied to the proposed income tax increase, which failed. As a result, it was deferred. A Stage 2 detailed design study would be required to resume. Staff continues to monitor grant opportunities that could restart the project but has not yet identified a viable source.

Transient Rentals: Hamilton announced staff's intent to bring legislation to the next meeting to place a temporary moratorium on new transient rental registrations. Existing license holders and renewal applicants would not be affected — the moratorium would only pause issuance of new certifications. The purpose is to allow staff time to comprehensively review the existing ordinance, research how other municipalities have addressed similar issues, and develop updated legislation. The process would include two Council work sessions — one to gather public and Council input, and a second to present proposed revised legislation — before final ordinance readings. Hamilton emphasized that the goal is to balance protections for both neighboring residents and transient rental property owners.

A substantive discussion followed regarding the enforcement challenges under the current ordinance. Hamilton explained that under the existing framework, a "strike" against a transient rental requires that a police citation actually be issued against an individual on-site. Because the City's policing philosophy prioritizes resolution over citation — and because transient rental guests change nightly — the linkage between a complaint, a police response, and a formal strike against the property is often broken. Hamilton acknowledged this is a known weakness in the current legislation. Councilmember Hagy expressed concern that Council members had been directing complaining residents to "call the police, three strikes and they're out," when in practice citations were often not being written. Hamilton agreed the communication should be nuanced, but maintained that residents should still call the police, as citations can and do occur when warranted.

Councilmember Claus raised whether advertising for higher occupancy than permitted constitutes a strikeable offense; Hamilton noted the ordinance only covers misrepresentation on the application itself, not advertising. Councilmember Artino suggested the framework needs to look at the property as a nuisance rather than only citing individuals. Assistant Law Director Ebert noted that transient rental enforcement is a widespread issue among Ohio municipalities and indicated he has gathered relevant materials from other jurisdictions for staff review.

Board of Zoning Appeals: An opening remains on the BZA. Interested parties were directed to contact the Clerk of Council at 419-433-5000, ext. 1102.

Parks and Recreation Events: Hamilton announced the following upcoming events: Arts at the Amphitheater featuring Eric Everett's Jazz Trio (August 7) and Sinatra and More (August 9); Movies by the River at the Huron Boat Basin Amphitheatre featuring Zootopia (July 29) and Inside Out 2 (August 5); Boppin' on the Basin with Wayne's World Band (August 1); and the 27th Annual All Classics Festival on August 8, concluding with New Frontier, a Journey tribute band.

Transit Rental Dock Replacement Project: The City received $500,000 in grant funding to replace two transient rental docks at the Boat Basin, but bids came in at $772,000 — approximately $270,000 over budget. The lowest responsive bid was identified at a higher cost, as the lowest submitted bid covered only half the project scope. Staff is working with Finance Director Phillips and Parks Director Steinwart to identify a path forward, noting that declining the project would forfeit the $500,000 in grant funds.

Safety Services: The Police Department received two new Ford Explorer patrol cruisers, replacing two Dodge Chargers with over 250,000 miles. One Charger will replace the Planning and Zoning Department vehicle; the other will be donated to the Sandusky Police Academy. The old police boat sold on GovDeals for $21,500, with proceeds returning to the Marine Patrol Grant fund. The ladder truck sold for $14,000, with proceeds returning to the Fire Capital Fund.

Stormwater: Staff discovered that catch basins near Pittsburgh Avenue were improperly connected to the County sanitary sewer system. The City is working to identify the scope of the problem and reroute connections appropriately.

Road Resurfacing: Service Manager Jackson Schaefer is evaluating Riverside Drive — identified as the worst road in the city — for potential resurfacing this year. Multiple quotes will be obtained, and if cost is manageable, the project will proceed and return to Council for approval. Hamilton noted the absence of a broader local street resurfacing plan this year was due to the scale of the U.S. 6 project and several concurrent rolling capital projects; as those clarify, remaining capital funds will be directed to additional street work.

Personnel: Hamilton welcomed two new part-time firefighters, Wade Ruggles and Parker Schafer, and noted the department is still seeking additional part-time applicants.

Upcoming Meetings: BZA — Monday, August 10 at 5:30 PM; Finance Committee — Tuesday, August 11 at 5:30 PM; City Council — Tuesday, August 11 at 6:30 PM; Planning Commission — Wednesday, August 19 at 5:00 PM; Council Meeting — Tuesday, August 25 at 6:30 PM. All meetings in the Council Chambers.

Mayor's Discussion

The Mayor reaffirmed that the City is actively engaged in the transient rental review process, noting that legal counsel is already researching materials forwarded by residents. He noted that Councilmembers Artino and Harris had participated in meetings with affected residents on Sailaway Drive, and that he and City Manager Hamilton met with that group earlier in the day. He cautioned that solutions cannot be promised until the full legal framework is understood.

The Mayor also expressed appreciation for Grant Bauer's contributions, echoing City Manager Hamilton's comments. He commended the DL Smith crew working on the roundabout project for their pace and quality of work. He concluded with remarks thanking safety services staff and all City employees for their sustained effort during a busy period.

For the Good of the Order

Councilmember Hagy thanked Grant Bauer publicly, noting that few people leave a permanent and indelible mark on the city at any age. He raised a caution about reacting to social media narratives about City decisions, citing several recent examples of inaccurate claims circulating online regarding the trailer park, fire levy, Showboat property, and quiet zone funding. He reiterated his concern about the 55 mph speed limit approaching the new roundabout from the west.

City Manager Hamilton clarified, in response to Councilmember Hagy's comments, that staff does not act on social media reports.

Councilmember Harris thanked Grant Bauer and announced he would be distributing a comprehensive research report to all Council members on the topic of transient rentals in the coming days. The report, which took over 40 hours to compile, includes review of Chapter 1369 of the Codified Ordinances, Council minutes from 2019 and 2021, police reports, maps, and an analysis of applicable state legislation (HB 104 and HB 109). He noted the report contains no conclusions — it is intended as an informational resource for Council and potentially for residents — and thanked Clerk of Council Welkener, City Manager Hamilton, and City staff for their cooperation with his information requests.

Councilmember Claus thanked Grant Bauer and commended City streets staff for their rapid response to a sidewalk section that heaved significantly during the heat wave, noting it was repaired within 24 hours, with the concrete contractor from the nearby roadway project providing a truck on short notice.

Vice-Mayor Biddlecombe welcomed new firefighters Ruggles and Schafer, thanked staff, recognized Grant Bauer for both the Hometown Heroes Project and his service as School Board Liaison, and provided an update from the most recent School Board meeting. Key items included the start of the new fiscal year, a year-over-year decline in bullying cases, and plans to update the district's strategic plan. The next School Board meeting was rescheduled to August 25 at 6:00 PM at the Woodlands Cafeteria. He also noted upcoming community events: a cheerleader dine-to-donate at Chipotle in Sandusky (July 29, 5–9 PM), Huron boys soccer car wash at First Presbyterian Church (Saturday, 9 AM–noon), and the August Huron Plaza Car Show (August 5, 4–7 PM).

Councilmember Artino thanked Grant Bauer and noted that the River Road traffic signal has been a consistent concern from his constituents, particularly in anticipation of the Conagra site development.

Councilmember Dike congratulated Grant Bauer and extended congratulations to Ken and Donna Neer on the occasion of their 60th anniversary.

Executive Session
None.

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, Claus, Harris, Hagy, Dike, Artino (7)**
NAYS: **None (0)**

There being a majority in favor of the motion, the regular Council meeting of July 28, 2026, was adjourned at 7:51pm.

Terri Welkener

Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council

Adopted: 11 AUG 2026