



CITY OF HURON  
CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

September 4, 2026

Stuart Hamilton, City Manager

## DONATIONS

**Donation to Huron Fire Department:** A donation in the amount of \$5,000 was received from Bernard Ashyk for the benefit of the Huron Fire Department. The Fire Department intends to use these funds for necessary equipment upgrades

**Donation to Huron Police Department:** A donation in the amount of \$5,000 was received from Bernard Ashyk for the benefit of the Huron Police Department. These fund will be added to the K9 Fund.

## ECONOMIC/COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**ConAgra:** As required by ORC, the City sent the required notice to Erie County with our intent to ultimately approve an Incentive District TIF on the site to pay for the costs of the seawall. The County did not formally object to the TIF and the TIF was approved by Council on April 8, 2025, and submitted to the Ohio Department of Development on April 9, 2025.

The City is finalizing the process with ODNR to formally dedicate a portion of the ODNR boat launch property as public right of way – the preliminary dedication plat has been sent to Erie County for review and will be legislated by Council and signed in the next few weeks. As part of the plat, the City is providing a temporary name for the new roadway for purposes of getting the plat recorded as possible – which will be simply “Access Street.” Ultimately, the new public roadway will need a permanent name, and the staff is proposing calling it River Road as a continuation of the existing River Road – south of Rt. 6 – similarly to how we treat Berlin Road.

The City is putting the finishing touches on a joint easement agreement with ODNR which will permit the City temporary construction easements outside of the formal roadway while also providing ODNR an access easement for the property that is being dedicated as public right of way to ensure people have perpetual access to the boat launch.

USACE issued the permit for the Seawall project. We are waiting for confirmation that ODNR does not have any additional requirements. KS will prioritize the design completion and approval process, so we are ready to issue it at the correct time.

The developer's plans were approved at the Planning Commission and Design Review Board meeting on June 18<sup>th</sup> 2025 and forwarded on to Council for approval. A public hearing was scheduled for the Council meeting August 12<sup>th</sup>. 2025. The development plan was passed by Council at this meeting.

Staff met with the developer last week to discuss the status of their due diligence. The conversation did not go as well as hoped. They have discovered that each unit would require footers tied into the bedrock at a depth of around 50ft, adding unexpected additional costs. These extra costs are not anything the City can cover (~\$3M), so the developer (Triban) are

looking at options from their side. The builder (KHov) does not have this additional cost built into their formulas, so for now, this project is somewhat at a pause as the situation is assessed.

The developer has requested the first of two available 60-day extensions to complete due diligence. This automatically extends the due diligence period through January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026.

The developer requested the second, and last available 60-day extensions to complete due diligence on the site. This period will expire March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026.

The developer was granted an extension to the due diligence period until August 3<sup>rd</sup> 2026. The developer has been informed that this will be the final extension.

The developer has completed their acceptance agreement with KHOV and is progressing in finalizing their agreement. We are currently working on the development agreement with them and then we will move to close. The final unit count will be 95 units with the rest of the development staying as passed by Planning Commission and Council.

Developers' landscaping plan was approved at the June 17<sup>th</sup> Planning meeting. Water, Sewer and Stormwater plans are in for review by staff.

On Monday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026 the City closed on the former Conagra property and title was transferred to Triban Investments. As a reminder, this property sold for \$750K. \$25K was deposited as earnest money, \$225K was paid at closing and the remaining \$500K will be paid in the amount of \$10K per unit sold for the first 50 units. We are excited to see this project keep moving forward.

Bids were received for the Seawall project, and the apparent lowest bidder is Shoreline Construction coming at \$3.2M. We received a total of four bids ranging up to \$5.6M. Bids continue to be reviewed for correctness, and then will return to Council for consideration.

Contractor crews are scheduled to start work on this site 9/8/2026.

### INFRASTRUCTURE/STREETS/UTILITIES/IT

**South Main Street Streetscape Design and Engineering:** The City has received updated cost estimates from OHM and is reviewing internally. Once reviewed by staff, Council will be briefed and a work session scheduled to determine if we desire to move forward with the project and if so, whether the proposed scope of work should be amended.

Stage 1 and Stage 2 (combined) plans were submitted to ODOT for review. Comments and clarifications were received back, addressed and resubmitted. Stage 3 plans were submitted at the end of October.

The final PS & E package has been submitted to ODOT (12/18/25) and we are awaiting comment.

This project closed on 5/7/2026. Lowest apparent bidder was \$2,154,474. Bids are being reviewed for correctness and will return to Council for approval. As a reminder, we have \$360,000 in grant funding from ERPC, and \$410,000 in HSIP funds.

This project was awarded at the Special meeting on 6/4/2026. Project details to follow.

An RFQ for construction administration and construction inspection was issued and four responses were received. KE McCartney and Associates scored the highest and staff are currently working with them on a fee proposal.

We currently expect to start work on this project next week (9/8/26), moving toward the road closure on 9/21/26. Main St will be closed to traffic from Rt6 to Bogart Road, with local business traffic and emergency vehicle traffic being maintained.

**Rt 6 Phase II:** The City has received updated cost estimates from OHM and is reviewing internally. Once reviewed by staff, Council will be briefed and a work session scheduled to determine if we desire to move forward with the project and if so, whether the proposed scope of work should be amended.

The City received Federal authorization to proceed on this project. This project will go out to bid the first week of December, with bids due January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Two bids were received in the amounts of \$2,742,143.44 (DL Smith) and \$2,951,088.00 (Smith Paving). Bids have been reviewed for correctness and legislation will be presented to Council for approval. Engineers estimate was \$4M.

An RFQ was issued for Inspection Services for this project. Three responses were received and OHM was selected. A proposal will be forthcoming and will be brought before Council at a future date.

This project will require an (up to) 60-day full closure of Rt6 west of Center St. Once we have a project plan in place we will ensure all parties are fully informed.

Expected full closure dates are June 8<sup>th</sup> through August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026. The closure will be from west of Williams St to the Rt2 interchanges. Crews will start at Center St. and work west. Detours will be via Bogart Road and Cleveland Rd. W to Rye Beach Road. Commercial detour will be via Rt2 to Rt13.

Jim Campbell Blvd has now been closed at Center St. This closure will be permanent at this point.

The current plan is to fully open on Monday August 17<sup>th</sup>. We will organize a small ribbon cutting to open the project for the public to celebrate this milestone. More details to come.

We have had some requests/enquiries about why we did not remove the fence that runs between JCB and Rt6 during this project. Unfortunately, this is an ODOT Limited Access fence and is required to stay in place.

The new streetlights have been installed and will be working Friday night. This project is mostly complete and a final walk through has been carried out. The punch list items will continue to be addressed prior to closing the project out.

**Electric Trail Connector:** The city applied for and was awarded a grant from ODOT (TAP) funding of \$533,000. The project is still in its conceptual phase but will connect the Lake Erie Electric Trail to the soon to be constructed US6 Connectivity multi-use pathway that will run from BGSU to Sandusky and beyond. We thank ODOT for their continued support of our connectivity projects.

A PO has been issued to OHM Advisors to work with the City on the proposed route and ROW requirements to design this connector in the amount of \$12,550. Once this is complete, we will have enough information to start work on ROW acquisition and actual design.

An ODOT site walkthrough was conducted on 1/28/26 and a final Scope of Services has been agreed upon. Staff are getting ready to issue an RFQ for design services for this project. With ROW/easements being required to install this pathway, we do not anticipate the construction starting until 2027.

A design contract was awarded to OHM Advisors in the amount of \$102,730. This project is not scheduled to start until 2027.

A work session has been scheduled for this September 22<sup>nd</sup> for public input.

**Quiet Zone:** Staff have been fielding a lot of inquiries from residents of both the City and the Township on a quiet zone. We happily walk them through what has been done and where we are at. We just wanted to remind Council of where we stand. We carried out the quiet zone assessment to see functionally and legally if one would be possible. The study returned the fact that a quiet zone in Huron is indeed possible, but at a cost. The budget estimate two years ago was over \$1M. With the failure of the income tax increase, we had to start removing projects from the budget along with services to balance the numbers, the Quiet Zone was one that was tabled. Staff continue to look out for grant opportunities that would allow us to resurrect this project, but with the current budget constraints, this is not viable project. To finish, this project has not been cancelled, it has been put on the back burner until sufficient funds are found.

## ZONING/CODE/PLANNING

### **Code Enforcement:**

Cases at the Prosecutor/Municipal Court Level:

- Wheeler Drive (exterior conditions) - T It is important to note, this case was opened in 2019, since that time, the city has started the violation case over twice, once after the owner took the case to Ohio Supreme Court, and now after serving time. The Zoning Inspector met onsite with the owner on August 24 for an inspection of the exterior of the property. Notice of Violation/Order to Correct was issued on 8-25-26- Grass/Weed removal to be abated in 7 days per Ordinance; exterior issues on house/boathouse and detached garage in 20 days. In the event the issues are not abated, staff will need to prepare another complaint case to submit to Court.
- Ashland Ave: (exterior, roofs, drainage, debris). A staff report was submitted to Court following a follow-up site visit on 8-26-26 advising that all zoning violations have been address. Cased is now closed in the Zoning Department.
- Property Violation Cases- YTD 127 Cases

Cases continue to rise this year, our new Zoning Inspector has been up to the challenge in conducting inspections, meeting with property owners, and preparing detailed reporting of cases.

- Jefferson Street- two properties issued Violation Notice/Order to Correct- issues included grass/weeds, substantial debris/junk storage, and overgrown vegetation. Owners have responded, substantial progress has been made and continues. Zoning Inspector will monitor.
- Ridgewood Ave- long case history of property maintenance issues and past court action, but no improvement (vacant home for years, grass/weeds/vegetation, exterior conditions, foundation issues) Owner has not responded to requests for onsite interior/exterior inspection. New formal Violation Notice and Order to Correct Issued to initiate a solid case to take this property to the legal level upon expiration of the timeline in the order. The grass/weed violation timeline has expired, the city's mowing contractor was contacted to take a look at the property and provide estimate due to the conditions of the site, this is expected to be an all-day job at an estimated cost of \$2,500. 9-2-26 Contractor was told to move forward. They anticipate this on their schedule in the next 2-3 days.
- Strowbridge Drive- new owner is making substantial progress to address previous outstanding violations (grass/weeds/vegetation, fence conditions)
- Tall Grass & Weeds
- Tree limb trimming
- Roadway conditions from construction in residential
- Ridgewood Ave- long case history of property maintenance issues and past court action, Zoning is questioning condition of the property and has sought to set up an onsite meeting with the owner and the Building Official. Owner has not responded to requests- discussing next steps with the Building Department.

- Cleveland Road West- Extensive inspection and documentation will be required. Exterior conditions of the home and garage, bushes/shrubs overgrown, weeds. May require coordination with the Building Department.
- Animal complaints
- Multi-Residential property maintenance –fencing in poor condition, exterior issues
- Landscape Maintenance- fences, shrubs, beds
- Exterior Conditions of structures
- Trash/Debris
- Drainage/Flood Issues- city wide- are being recorded in Code Enforcement in order to have a searchable listing of cases.

**Code Amendments:** Staff continue to document code sections that are antiquated, contradictory, absent and/or unclear as written, and as time allows research and documentation into other municipal codes are compiled. The code sections we are presently drafting:

Chapter 1129 Sign Code Amendments- The first work session was held on Tuesday, May 19th- Specific items within the draft earmarked for Planning Commission discussion and recommendations were reviewed. Comments will be compiled and provided back to the Consultant to incorporate. The Commission and Consultant reviewed/discussed the amendments at the June 17, 2026, meeting, the Consultant will revise the draft accordingly and resubmit for reviews. Awaiting responses from PC members on proposed work session dates.

Chapter 1321- Building & Zoning Fee Schedules - Staff has completed municipal comparisons, and in our research of our own code have found multiple references to fees for appeals throughout various chapters, these chapters will have to be amended to remove the stated fee and insert a reference to the fee section. In other instances, fees are mentioned in the code, but are not identified with a dollar amount, and do not appear in the fee schedule either. While the amendments may involve multiple code sections, the actual proposed changes to fees are few and minimal; bringing the fees more in line with other municipalities. Staff are working with the Building Department to incorporate recommended changes, the amendment to Chapter 1321 is anticipated to be ready to present to City Council in July or August 2026. This is on the back burner for the time being.

Chapter 1133 Off-Street Parking – At the most recent Planning Commission meeting, discussion ensued regarding existing code language pertaining to commercial off-street parking lot requirements. Chairman Boyle referenced Section 1126.01 which was a section repealed in 2017 that appeared to have included language requiring all parking lots to be paved. The current Off-Street Parking code sections were adopted/amended in 2015, 2017 and 2025. The current code language speaks to “required” off-street parking for facilities based on Principal Building or Use, but does not refer to public/private parking lots. The Planning Commission expressed their opinion that they believe the code should require paved public and private parking lots. Staff will research the previous code language v. current

code language and prepare findings for review. The Planning Commission made a recommendation in support of amendments to the code to ensure public and private parking lots are required to be paved. A draft amendment was submitted to the Planning Commission on 8/13/26; the Commission had no changes and made the recommendation to forward the amendment to City Council for consideration. This is at the Council level pending scheduling of a public hearing.

Chapter 557 Grass, Weeds and Vegetation – In the past year, the City has had inquiries regarding Section 557.01 which specifically lists noxious weed varieties. The issue raised is that one, of not more, of the weed varieties listed in the City's ordinance is no longer considered a "noxious weed" by the Ohio Department of Agriculture. In particular, milkweed was removed from Ohio's Noxious Weed List in 2018 and is widely promoted as the only host plant for monarch caterpillars, which are currently listed as an endangered species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Ordinance No. 2026-22 is on Council's on the agenda for its third reading on September 8, 2026.

#### Transient Rentals:

With the adoption of the Ord. 2026-23 enacting a Moratorium, only renewal and transfer applications will be processed; no New certificates will be processed. The current Wait list will be on hold. No new Wait List applications will be accepted. Our department issued an email notification to current registered transient rental owners, wait list applicants, and representatives. Information has also been posted on the Transient Rental page of the website.

Meetings have been scheduled with a handful of transient rental owner/operators to garner their feedback on what they believe works and what could be tweaked to improve the process. Staff continue investigating what other jurisdictions are doing and how they could work in Huron. We are hopeful to have our first work session at the first meeting in October, but will confirm at a later date.

We presently have 14 applications on the Wait List. The database of registered properties and the wait list database are posted on the website ([City Of Huron](#)).

Chapter 1369 Transient Rentals- Considerable time has been spent following consultation with the Building Official on the effects of Ohio Building Code 310 on Transient Rental property. The code speaks to the "construction" of a transient rental structure; it does not apply to existing structures being used as a transient rental. It will however apply to any addition, structural interior improvements, proposed demo and rebuilds. The application of this code triggered the need to revise Zoning Applications to verify if a property is a Transient Rental or if intended to be a Transient Rental- owners must answer this question which will then alert the Zoning and Building Department to direct the applicant accordingly as far as the effect of OBC 310 and the permit requirements for building permits. Internally, the addition of a notification within the permitting software system has been created to flag

transient and wait list properties across all permit modules as a duplicative measure. Thank you to Carolyn for researching and creating this feature.

#### Consults and Commercial Improvements:

Active/open inquiries for research and preliminary zoning reviews and/or consultations include:

- Met with applicants/owners of four BZA applications for the upcoming September meeting.
- Met with existing transient rental home owner looking to add an addition to the home; explained the effects of OBC 310 – commercial building applications, stamped plans, commercial construction requirements would apply.
- Met with business owner looking at a property on River Road for business operations- provided research and report on the zoning district and requirements.
- Rye Beach/Industrial Parkway- inquiry as to the nature of the existing business on the site and the conditions of boats being stored on the parcel. Investigation/research will be required.
- Code Enforcement cases- assisting with training and documentation and noticing requirements for ongoing and new cases.

#### PARKS AND RECREATION:

**Huron Joint Recreation District/Parks & Recreation Advisory Board:** After conversations with both the Township and the School administration, a discussion led by staff, was carried out at the March HJRD meeting. This discussion centered around how HJRD is currently run vs. how it should be run. This issue was asked about by our auditors and prompted the need to come up with a plan for the future. The two choices would be either to put HJRD out on its own as an independent entity as it should function, or disband the district and move to a City Parks Board. Due to the complexities and cost of HJRD functioning as an independent entity, staff's preference would be to move to a Parks Board with support from the Township and the Schools. This was supported by those present at the HJRD meeting. The City of Huron formally withdrew its membership in HJRD on August 25, 2026, and the Huron Township Trustees voted to withdraw its membership at its September 2, 2026 meeting. With the withdrawal of 2 members of the District, the District was dissolved, and the new Huron Parks & Recreation Advisory Board was established per Council resolution on August 25, 2026. The newly established Board will hold its first meeting in November.

**Transient Rental Dock Replacement Project:** Our recent grant funding specified that it could be used to improve transient rental dock. So, this project is looking to replace and upgrade B and H piers, which comprises of approximately 26 docks. Stage 1-Preliminary Design drawings for the removal of the existing docks and installation of the new docks has been completed.

KS is working on stage 2-Final Construction and bidding Documents. KS & Associates is finalizing details on Stage 2-Final Construction and bidding documents and we are working with ODNR to initiate the agreement process to bring to Council for consideration.

During design of this project, working with an electrical contractor, it was discovered that the existing electrical supply was not sufficient to support the new docks. This electrical has been there since the Boat Basin was constructed and is not in good shape. There will not be enough money in the grant funding to support this electrical upgrade (~\$325K), so the City is investigating the best way to pay for these upgrades. These upgrades are essential for safety reasons.

**US Fish & Wildlife Service Boating Infrastructure Grant:** ODNR Parks & Watercraft has received notification from the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) that our project has been fully approved for selection of funding on the Boating Infrastructure Grant Tier II for \$300,000.

With this approval, the next step in the process will be to complete all required compliance measures. This includes NEPA, ESA, SHPO, a full ODNR environmental review, and final design submission. These items will be compiled over the next few months and submitted to USFWS for review. Please note that USFWS has up to 90 days to complete their review once all documentation is submitted to them.

After compliance approval is received from USFWS, then comes the agreement (contract) process, which typically takes approximately 2–4 weeks. Once the agreement is fully executed and all signatures are obtained, we will receive a formal Notice to Proceed, and the BIG portion of our project may begin.

The plan is to use the \$200,000 from the State of Ohio that we received from the Strategic Investment Funding that was issued last year as the match for a total of \$500,000 to go towards replacement of two dock piers. More info to come.

**Fall Golf Skills Academy:** There is still time to register for our new Fall Golf Skills Academy (ages 10-17) at Sawmill Creek Golf Course. This program starts September 13<sup>th</sup>.

**State Capital Budget:** The city has informally been told that we will be receiving \$200,000 from the State of Ohio as part of the first \$350M in one-time Strategic Investment funding. There will be another \$350M announced shortly which is on top of the state capital funding bill. The \$700M is from a one-time allocation of surplus operating funds from the state of Ohio. These funds will be used to offset part of the necessary capital improvements needed at the Boat Basin site. We will keep Council up to date as we get more formal information about this funding.

**Ohio Historical Marker:** The Erie County Historical Society was awarded for a grant through the Erie County Community Foundation for the replacement of the Huron Urban Renewal Marker at the Boat Basin. The marker has structural cracks and cannot be repaired so we have been working with Erie County Historical Society on replacement options. Next step is working with the Historic Marker Division at Ohio History Connection about the marker's replacement. The goal is to have the project complete by July. Erie County Historical Society is hopeful that we can

satisfy OHC's concerns regarding the replacement marker's text within the next few weeks, and OHC will place the order for the replacement marker once the final verified text is complete. Erie County Community Foundation is aware of this situation and they have given us an extension for spending the grant funds we received for the project. Once we have this text situation resolved with the OHC, we hope to have a fall installation of the Marker.

## SAFETY SERVICES

**Promotional Testing:** Promotional Testing for Lieutenant and Captain has been announced. Members have started studying for the testing in mid-September. Two Lieutenants and two Captains will be promoted off of this list due to upcoming retirements. We will also begin the process of finding two full time firefighters to add, as well. The promotional process begins with the written test this Thursday September 10<sup>th</sup> and the Assessment next Wednesday and Thursday the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.

**PT Firefighter/Paramedic Openings:** Applications are starting to come in for the upcoming Firefighter/Paramedic positions we have open. Interviews will begin in early October.

**Run Volume:** HFD had its 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive month with over 200 calls for service. They are now 160+ calls ahead of last year.

**Fire Training:** You will see crews training along the lakeshore this month using the boat to supply the engine and ladder trucks with water.

**Smoke Detector Program:** The Fire Department is in the development phase with the local Red Cross to begin a smoke detector program to provide and install smoke detectors for Huron residents. More information to come...

## FINANCE

**Income Tax:** Income tax receipts through August total \$2.5M, trailing 2025 results by 13% or \$388K. The City's largest income tax revenue category, withholding payers, has remained stable and seen slight growth from last year. The income tax category driving the decrease in total collections is from net profit payers. City staff has been diligent in remaining within overall budgetary constraints through the third quarter allowing the City to remain on track to deliver the 2026 budget and provide the necessary fund balances for 2027.

2027 Budget preparation season is getting underway with departmental meetings taking place throughout September with presentations to Finance Committee in October and November. The Finance Committee budget meeting schedule is tentatively set as follows:

### **2026 Calendar – Budget Meetings start at 5PM in Council Chambers**

Oct 19<sup>th</sup> 2026 - Community Development (Parks, Boat Basin, Zoning)

Oct 26<sup>th</sup> 2026 - Services (Streets, Water, Electric, Stormwater, Garbage, Street Lighting)

Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> 2026 - Public Safety (Police, Fire, Court)

Nov 10<sup>th</sup> 2026 - Debt, Capital, General Fund, Other

Nov 16<sup>th</sup> 2026 – if needed

Dec 8<sup>th</sup> 2026 - if needed

Monthly Financials (July): [https://stories.opengov.com/huronoh/published/qN98vW\\_vj](https://stories.opengov.com/huronoh/published/qN98vW_vj)

2026 Budget Book: <https://stories.opengov.com/huronoh/published/Bb4uXP8eV>

## WATER DEPARTMENT

### Recent Activity:

- 82.205 MG raw water treated in August.
- 77.630 finished water produced in August.
- 2.401 MG wash water required in August.
- Erie County usage for August has not yet been calculated.
- August average plant capacity 45.5% (5.5 MGD Plant Rating)
- Staff is exploring installation of flow meters at representative points in the distribution system. This would include the installation of a vault and a cellular antenna to gather flow data and reduce time spent searching for watermain leaks.
- At the filtration plant, there are 76 coverage hours needed in the month of September. Staffing is down to one relief operator and coverage hours are still being tracked.
- NOAA is predicting a “moderate” algal bloom for Lake Erie this summer and will likely surpass algal events for the past 5-years. There have been 2 slight detections of saxitoxin in the raw water at the WFP, which has been adequately treated and eliminated as shown by repeated tap water samples.
- The PFAS (forever chemicals) claim has been filed on the settlement portal. If it is determined that the City of Huron is eligible for a settlement, disbursements would begin within the next few months.
- The chemical laboratory renewal survey will be conducted by the Ohio EPA on 10/15/26. All employees of the Water Filtration Plant will receive full certification.
- Staff is preparing information for the 2027 budget.
- The City of Huron will be hosting the Lake Erie Water Plant Committee meeting on 11/12/2026. The Lake Erie Water Plant Group is an organization of water utilities that use Lake Erie as their source of raw water. They function as a resource of relevant and useful information about issues involving surface water treatment in general and Lake Erie users in particular. This meeting will consist of technical training and a tour of the water filtration plant.
- The Water Department has an opening for Water Plant Operator. Please see the city website for more information and instructions to apply.

### Active Project Updates:

**Alternate Intake/Sludge Lagoon:** Staff is currently obtaining quotes for water sampling analysis of the Huron River. These samples are required by the OEPA, but will not delay the project. The Water Superintendent has been working closely with Kleinfelder to answer any remaining questions related to design and engineering. Kleinfelder is also assisting the city in securing funding sources for this project. Severe winter weather and icing events at the filtration plant have highlighted the need for this project to continue. Numerous grants have been applied for as related to this project and the city is still navigating financing options.



**West Side Water Tower:** The most recent bi-weekly construction meeting was held on 8/6/26. The “ground phase” has been completed and the steel bowl will be lifted into place on 8/22/26. After the bowl is set in place, the access tube will be installed followed by the ring beam, floor, and roof in that order. All interior work will be completed this winter and painting will resume in Spring 2027. The \$5M grant from the Department of Development has been exhausted and the city is now drawing on the 0% interest loan through WSRLF/OWDA. Kleinfelder is working with the DoD on grant closeout, which was revised to state the grant will be closed out at the completion of the ground phase. This should be completed on 8/22/26, barring any weather delays. There have been 2 change orders approved by City Council. There will be 2 more change orders coming in the near future. There will be a change order for the logo as the price has increased due to 2 different logos and color schemes being painted on the tower. There will also be a change order as related to the disinfection byproduct removal system, as 3 phase power is necessary. Kleinfelder and Ohio Edison are finalizing costs for the electrical service upgrade and the Water Superintendent will present these 2 change orders to council as one package. The EPA informed Kleinfelder that a construction site audit is no longer necessary as Kleinfelder has done an outstanding job with documentation and submittals. The bowl was raised 8/21/26, now our

contractors can continue putting the roof on, along with safety apparatus, and then move on to the interior.

## SERVICE DEPARTMENT (WATER DISTRIBUTION, STORM WATER & STREETS)

### Projects: Current Projects:

#### Water Distribution

- Delinquent door tags delivered (60)
- Delinquent shut offs performed (6)
- 413 Tiffin Ave service line frozen & meter pit relocated out driveway
- 312 Riverside Dr meter pit excavated & raised to grade
- 106 Dayton Ave meter pit replaced and raised to grade
- Assisting in crack sealing operations of City roadways

#### Storm Water

- Sinkholes investigated in Forest Hills & Peir property, Erie County collections dept responsibility
- North side of Route 6 bypass ditch dipped and reshaped by DL Smith

#### Streets

- No camping signs installed at Peir & Lakefront Park
- Signage at Roundabout project reviewed and adjustments made
- Crack sealing continued of all patch work performed by city staff
- Mowing of City lots/right of ways
- Continued maintenance of American flags on Cleveland Rd, will be removing after Labor Day
- Weed whipping/ spraying of guard rails along Rt 6 roundabout

**Crossing on JCB by High School:** Staff approached ODOT with this project, and they believe it will be a good candidate for Safety Dollars. The intent would be to construct this crossing as a high visibility crossing, and also to construct it as a multi-use crossing instead of just a pedestrian crossing in preparation for future multi-use development. The Safety Dollars would be a 90/10 split. The City will work with the schools on covering the 10% local match.

The City was awarded \$123,300, with a request to add additional lighting which would also be funded. Staff are currently looking into this and will work with ODOT on final scope. The hope will be to install this over the summer months this year. The additional lighting is estimated to be around \$44,000. This new scope has been sent to ODOT for approval. ODOT has requested we push this work until the summer of 2027 for budgetary reasons.

An RFQ for Design was issued, and the City received 3 responses. OHM scored highest and a contract was legislated at the July 28<sup>th</sup> meeting for \$39,500.

**Road Resurfacing:** Staff are investigating a resurfacing project on Riverside Drive, which is easily the worst road within the City. Quotes have been requested and a walk through was carried out with contractors. A decision will be made when the pricing comes back in.

#### Tree Program –

**District 2:** Invoices have been mailed to residents. Residents will have 30 days to pay the invoices. Any unpaid invoices will be certified to the County Auditor for collection over a 4-year period (on Council agenda for first reading 8-11-26).

**District 3:** Invoices have been mailed to residents. Residents will have 30 days to pay the invoices. Any unpaid invoices will be certified to the County Auditor for collection over a 4-year period (on agenda for first reading 8-11-26).

**District 4:** The City is working to retain an arborist to conduct the initial tree inspections for Districts 4 and 1.

**District 1:** The City is working to retain an arborist to conduct the initial tree inspections for Districts 4 and 1.

#### Sidewalk Program –

**District 2:** Sidewalk repairs have been completed and invoices have been sent out to residents. The residents have 30 days to pay the invoice; if the invoice is not paid, the cost will be certified to the Erie County Auditor to be paid over the next 4 years (on Council agenda for first reading 8-11-26).

**District 3:** Certified letters were mailed to residents living in District 3 on May 1, 2026 per the Resolution adopted by Council at the April 14, 2026 meeting. These letters provided residents 60 days to complete the required maintenance work. Following that waiting period, the City reinspected and will go out to bid for the concrete work with an anticipated work completion date in the fall.

**District 4:** Certified letters were mailed to residents living in District 3 on May 1, 2026 per the Resolution adopted by Council at the April 14, 2026 meeting. These letters provided residents 60 days to complete the required maintenance work. Following that waiting period, the City reinspected and will go out to bid for the concrete work with an anticipated work completion date in the fall.

**District 1:** District 1 sidewalks were inspected in March, with courtesy letters mailed to residents on March 27, 2026. Follow-up inspection was completed in June, with Resolution 53-2026 adopted at the June 23, 2026 Council meeting ordering the repair of sidewalks and authorizing certified mail notice to property owners. Certified mail notices were mailed to property owners on June 29, 2026. These letters provided residents 60 days to complete the required maintenance work. Following the waiting period, The City

reinspected and will go out to bid for the concrete work with an anticipated work completion date in the fall.

### HURON PUBLIC POWER (HPP)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Transformer:** The City participated in a bond ratings call with Moody's during the week of March 31<sup>st</sup> as a leadup to the bond issuance for the 3<sup>rd</sup> transformer. A follow up call was held on April 9<sup>th</sup> to understand our current bond rating (which we anticipate remaining the same – which is a good thing) prior to us going out to the market for bids. Given the limited number of customers on HPP and the fact that they are all private entities, the bonds are expected to be taxable versus tax-exempt, meaning higher interest rates.

These bonds were sold on April 17, 2025 at a rate of 5.55% over a 15-year period. Our excellent Moody's rating helped keep this rate down.

**Switch Gear and Transformer Installation:** The contract has been signed, and a kickoff meeting is scheduled for mid-February. Once this has been held we will be able to put together a project schedule.

**Electric Aggregation:** The City aggregation program expires in July. Due to the market, we are unable to provide meaningful aggregation pricing and will, therefore, let the program expire. We will continue to monitor the electric market and will aggregate again when pricing makes this beneficial. Residents will be automatically returned to Ohio Edison upon expiration of the program and will not need to take any action. However, we suggest they shop around on their own to find competitive pricing. Sites like Energy Choice Ohio Apple to Apples ([Energy Choice Ohio - Apples to Apples](#)) will present options for Residents to sign up on their own.

### PERSONNEL

### ADMINISTRATION

**Water and Sewer Regionalization:** Staff received an update on this project. As we were aware, Sandusky joined the County to review this regionalization effort. Milan and the new administration in Vermillion have now also joined. While staff still do not see a benefit arising from this study, we will join the process to have a seat at the table. Our stance and opinion is still that our residents and the service thereof is our main priority. This process is starting with investigating an RFQ to a consultant to review possibilities around regionalizing Water and Sewer services. This report could come back saying there are savings to be had, or that there are not, but either way, without Councilmatic action, the report is just a report. The City will not be contributing monetarily to the cost of this report.

A kickoff meeting was carried out here at the City Building where initial conversations addressing expectations and concerns about the project. In attendance were representatives from the County, City of Vermillion, City of Milan, the City of Sandusky and myself. This was an honest

conversation where it was reiterated that our Residents come first and everything else is secondary.

All the entities involved agreed on verbiage for a RFQ to solicit vendors to assess feasibility. It was requested we release this so it is not tied to both water and sewer, rather allowing companies who specialize in each to submit individually. We will keep Council informed on release dates and due dates. Scoring and selection would be carried out by all entities involved.

The County issued their RFQ for a "Feasibility Study for the Regionalization or Consolidation of Water and Sewer Services". Responses are due Sept 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

### AGREEMENTS/CITY MANAGER APPROVALS

**Huron Public Library Book Sale:** The City Manager approved a request from the Friends of the Huron Public Library for placement of signage in the median (2'x3' sign) for their Book Sale, which will take place from October 7<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup>.

### PROJECTS OUT FOR BID

### CONTRACTS

- Lease Agreement with Showboat LLC dba Old Fish House (Res 27-2024) – **Expires 9/8/2026**
- Confirm City Manager Powers (Ord 2022-50) - **Council motion after 12/1/26**
- City Prosecutor Employment Agreement (Res 79-2024)– expires **12/31/26.**
- Personnel Officer Employment Agreement (Res 78-2024) – expires **12/31/26.**
- Dispatch Agreement – Erie County Sheriff (Res 101-2024) – **Expires 12/31/26.**
- Erie Soil and Water Conservation District (Res 8-2025) – **Expires 1/31/27.**
- Seeley, Savidge, Ebert & Gourash Co., LLP (Res 33-2026) – **Expires 6/3/27.**
- School Resource Officer School (Res 82-2025) **Expires 6/30/27.**
- Dynegy Electric Standard Large Stable Service Agreement – **Expires 08/31/27.**
- FOP-Sergeants Collective Bargaining Agreement (Res 100-2024) – **Expires 12/31/27.**
- FOP – Patrol Officers Collective Bargaining Agreement (Res 99-2024) – **Expires 12/31/27.**
- AFSCME Collective Bargaining Agreement (Res 102-2024) – **Expires 12/31/27.**
- IAFF Collective Bargaining Agreement (Res 7-2025) – **Expires 12/31/27.**
- Charles E. Harris & Associates GAAP Conversion (Res 10-2025) – **Expires 12/31/27.**
- School Resource Officer Township (Res 32–2024) – **Expires 8/31/28.**
- Republic Services (Res 44-2023; Res 63-2026 (1<sup>st</sup> Amendment) **Expires 12/31/29.**
- Building Official – Service Agreement (Res 70-2026) - **Expires 7/25/31.**
- Emergency Services Agreement with Huron Township (Res 9-2026) – **Expires 12/31/31.**

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### September 2026 Meetings:

- City Council Meeting – Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in Council Chambers;
- BZA Meeting – Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm in Council Chambers;
- Planning Commission Meeting – Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm in Council Chambers;
- City Council Work Session – Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30pm in Council Chambers.
- City Council Meeting – Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30pm in Council Chambers.

NOTE: Administrative offices will be closed on Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup> in observance of Memorial Day.