

THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO
Proceedings of the Huron City Council
Regular Meeting Tuesday, October 27, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:30pm on Tuesday, October 27, 2020 at Huron City Hall. 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: **Christine Crawford, Mark Claus, Monty Tapp, Sam Artino, Joe Dike and Trey Hardy.**

Member absent: **Joel Hagy.**

Motion by Ms. Crawford excusing the absence of Trey Hardy and Joel Hagy.

The Mayor asked if there was any discussion 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: Crawford, Claus, Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hardy (6)
NAYS: None (0)

With a majority of Council in favor, the motion passed.

Staff participating in the meeting: City Manager Matt Lasko, Interim City Manager Mike Spafford, Finance Director Cory Swaisgood, Law Director Todd Schrader, Associate Attorney Amelia Leonard, Water Superintendent Jason Gibboney, Fire Captain Doug Nash and Administrative Assistant and Clerk of Council Terri Welkener.

Statement of Joel Hagy read by Mike Spafford

Mr. Spafford said in light of Mr. Hagy's absence, he would be reading a statement Mr. Hagy has prepared for tonight's meeting, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A."

Statement of Mayor Sam Artino

Mayor Artino made the following statement:

"As Mayor of this great City, I would like to remind everyone that all citizens are welcome to bring complaints, compliments, recommendations and opinions to this body. We are public servants. Our governing process will achieve greater results when we allow everyone to express themselves while practicing patience and mutual respect. I intend to remain vigilant to ensure our meetings are welcoming and respectful. Thank you."

Ceremonial Oath of Matthew Lasko as City Manager

Law Director Todd Schrader administered a ceremonial Oath of Office to Matthew Lasko, the newly appointed City Manager, which was followed by applause.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. Claus that the minutes of the Special Council Meeting of September 9, 2020, regular Council meeting of September 22, 2020, Council Work Session of October 13, 2020 and regular Council meeting of October 13, 2020 be approved as printed and received.

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

YEAS: Claus, Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hardy, Crawford (6)

NAYS: None (0)

There being more than a majority voting in favor of the motion, the motion passed.

Audience Comments

The Mayor said he knew of one member of the public wishing to speak. He advised that is 3-minute time limit.

Jason Hinnert of 1130 Mudbrook Road said, "Good evening. Thank you for allowing me to attend. I am here to share my disappointment about this Council's treatment of resident Stacey Hartley relating to questions she asked about the Showboat property. Mrs. Hartley, like most citizens, expects city officials to do the right thing the right way with taxpayer money. With regard to the Showboat property, that didn't happen. In 2013, former City officials spent \$300,000 taxpayer dollars to acquire 5 of the 6 lots that comprise it. Even though documents show that City officials knew they did not own the 6th lot, City officials acted as if it did. They spent an additional \$900,000 taxpayer dollars to modify the entire property, including the lot they knew they didn't own. Since 2015, the City has marketed the entire Showboat property for sale for private development, including the lot they know they didn't/they don't own. When Mrs. Hartley learned there was ownership issues with the Showboat property, she first did her homework compiling meticulous research. She then took that research and met with various City officials. She asked polite and professional questions. Acknowledging that her questions were valid and serious, the City's Law Director recommended Council hire outside lawyers to investigate further. Those outside lawyers never answered the questions of how or why the Showboat property transaction has been so wrong. Council should have thanked Mrs. Hartley for caring about her community enough to raise concerns and ask questions, but instead certain Council members lashed out at her, falsely blaming her for costing the City money, and publicly demanding that she stop. In July, a Councilmember referred to Mrs. Hartley by name and falsely attributed statements to her that she never made. At the last meeting, Mrs. Hartley was again targeted with one Councilmember saying he was appalled that she continued to push the issue and cause the City to spend money. He then demanded she stop. I understand being appalled with the mess surrounding the Showboat property transactions, but it should be directed at those who made the decisions, not at a citizen exercising her right to ask questions about it. Decisions that cost and will continue to cost the City thousands of dollars were made solely by City official, exactly who and why remain a mystery. Mrs. Hartley didn't modify and market property that didn't belong to her. That was City officials. Mrs. Hartley didn't file litigation seeking to take the property away from its owner, this Council approved that. Let's be clear, it was the quiet title litigation, not Mrs. Hartley, that triggered the McCune family's counterclaim for trespass and the damages that will cost taxpayers even more money. Last year prior to the election, I met with several of you who are running for office. Each one of you promised a culture change on this Council, that public business would be conducted with modesty and transparency, and that citizens would be treated with respect regardless if you agree with them. This is why I'm so disappointed in the way Mrs. Hartley has been treated by this Council. I am disappointed by those who have made comments unfairly blaming her and trying to shut her up. I am equally disappointed in those who sat in silence while it happened. Stacey Hartley deserves better from you, we all do. Thank you."

The Mayor asked the Clerk of Council to read comments delivered or e-mailed to her by residents. The Clerk had no comments to read.

Old Business

Ordinance No. 2020-17

Motion by Mr. Hardy that Ordinance 2020-17 (AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND PRESCRIBING THE MANNER OF SALE OF A PORTION OF HURON PUBLIC POWER SUBSTATION TRANSMISSION ASSETS, OWNED BY THE CITY OF HURON, LOCATED ON PPN. 42-00120.00 AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT "A", AND AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR THE SALE OF THAT PORTION OF PROPERTY TO AMP TRANSMISSION, LLC) be tabled.

Mr. Spafford said that the City is buttoning up the specifics on the actual land lease as a portion of the Asset Purchase Agreement to finalize the valuation issues. They hoped to have it ready for Council for this meeting, but will target the next meeting for the final adoption. He appreciates Council's patience on this as we work through the details. During the budget discussions with the Finance Committee, they discussed next steps are once the City has actually finalized and closes the asset purchase and what the City's strategy should be with the proceeds of the sale. He has invited Mr. Sudsina to come to a joint work session of Council and the Finance Committee to lay out some different options and map out what the next steps should be.

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

YEAS: Hardy, Crawford, Claus, Tapp, Artino, Dike (6)

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority of votes in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance 2020-17 was tabled.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution No. 2020-67

Motion by Mr. Claus that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 2020-67 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH MEDICAL MUTUAL FOR THE PROVISION OF 2021 MEDICAL HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE) be placed upon its first reading.

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

YEAS: Claus, Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hardy, Crawford (6)

NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 2020-67 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Spafford said this is a continuation of the City's benefits program for its employees. We are coming out of a 2-year term in which we saw a 9% increase, or 4-1/2% per year. With today's health insurance market, we were very excited to see the continuation at what we thought was a competitive 4% rate increase. The conclusion of this 12-month plan lines up with the completion of our four bargaining agreements, as well. We will look to coordinate with the bargaining agreement negotiations. The TruAssure piece is a 0% increase – it will continue at the same cost.

The Mayor asked if there was any further discussion on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the final adoption of Resolution 2020-67. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Claus, Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hardy, Crawford (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 2020-67 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 2020-68

Motion by Mr. Claus that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 2020-68 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH TRUASSURE INSURANCE COMPANY FOR THE PROVISION OF 2021 DENTAL INSURANCE COVERAGE) be placed upon its first reading.

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

YEAS: Claus, Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hardy, Crawford (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 2020-68 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

The Mayor asked if there was any further discussion on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the final adoption of Resolution 2020-68. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Claus, Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hardy, Crawford (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 2020-68 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 2020-69

Motion by Mr. Dike that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 2020-69 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED SIXTY-FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$65,000.00) FOR ROCK SALT PURCHASED THROUGH AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN COMPASS MINERALS AMERICA, INC. AND THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ERIE COUNTY FOR THE PURPOSE OF FURNISHING BULK DEICING ROCK SALT TO THE CITY OF HURON AND VARIOUS OTHER POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS THROUGHOUT ERIE COUNTY DURING THE 2021 CALENDAR YEAR) be placed upon its first reading.

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

YEAS: Dike, Hardy, Crawford, Claus, Tapp, Artino (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 2020-69 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Spafford said this is a continuation of our partnership with the County on the joint intergovernmental purchase program where we bulk purchase rock salt for snow and ice treatment. Rock salt is now back to \$36/ton, which is down from over \$70 last year, which was an increase from \$37 the year prior. He said that he cannot guess where the market is going to go in the future, but at for least this budgetary cycle he is excited to see the reduction in cost, which will have a huge impact on the Street Department funds. With the reduction in gas tax, it will help to have these funds. Ms. Crawford asked if there is rock salt left from last year. Mr. Spafford said we do have a good supply left due to the light winter. We are still budgeting a full purchase, but are limited on capacity. We will do what we can to take advantage of the lower cost. We did stockpile at the previous lower price.

The Mayor asked if there was any further discussion on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the final adoption of Resolution 2020-69. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Dike, Hardy, Crawford, Claus, Tapp, Artino (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 2020-69 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 2020-70

Motion by Ms. Crawford that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 2020-70 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO AWARD THE BID AND AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF WATER TREATMENT CHEMICALS TO SHANNON CHEMICAL CORPORATION IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED TWENTY-SIX THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$26,480.00)) be placed upon its first reading.

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

YEAS: Crawford, Claus, Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hardy (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 2020-70 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Gibboney said there are 6 resolutions in a row that are all equally exciting for Council. We did the same collaboration that we have for 7 years with the City of Sandusky, Erie County and the City of Vermilion. The City of Sandusky has been kind enough to handle the bid process. This was another successful year. Out of the 6 chemicals that were bid, we had 4 coming at a decreased cost compared to 2020. We have 2 that increased, but overall we will realize a savings. We have slight increase in our overall costs, but that is due to additional production, and those funds will be offset by additional revenue.

The Mayor asked if there was any further discussion on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the final adoption of Resolution 2020-70. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Crawford, Claus, Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hardy (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 2020-70 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 2020-71

Motion by Ms. Crawford that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 2020-71 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO AWARD THE BID AND AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF WATER TREATMENT CHEMICALS TO JCI JONES CHEMICALS INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED EIGHT THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED EIGHTY AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$8,880.00)) be placed upon its first reading.

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

YEAS: Crawford, Claus, Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hardy (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 2020-71 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

The Mayor asked if there was any further discussion on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the final adoption of Resolution 2020-71. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Crawford, Claus, Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hardy (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 2020-71 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 2020-72

Motion by Ms. Crawford that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 2020-72 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO AWARD THE BID AND AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF WATER TREATMENT CHEMICALS TO APPLIED SPECIALTIES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED SEVENTY-NINE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED SIXTEEN AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$79,416.00)) be placed upon its first reading.

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

YEAS: Crawford, Claus, Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hardy (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 2020-72 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

The Mayor asked if there was any further discussion on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the final adoption of Resolution 2020-72. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Crawford, Claus, Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hardy (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 2020-72 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 2020-73

Motion by Ms. Crawford that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 2020-73 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO AWARD THE BID AND AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF WATER TREATMENT CHEMICALS TO UNIVAR SOLUTIONS USA INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED NINE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED TWENTY-ONE AND 60/100 DOLLARS (\$9,621.60)) be placed upon its first reading.

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

YEAS: Crawford, Claus, Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hardy (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 2020-73 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

The Mayor asked if there was any further discussion on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the final adoption of Resolution 2020-73. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Crawford, Claus, Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hardy (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 2020-73 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 2020-74

Motion by Ms. Crawford that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 2020-74 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO AWARD THE BID AND AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF WATER TREATMENT CHEMICALS TO PVS NOLWOOD CHEMICALS INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED NINE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED SIXTY AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$9,360.00)) be placed upon its first reading.

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

YEAS: Crawford, Claus, Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hardy (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 2020-74 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only. Mr. Schrader noted the numerical amount in the title was incorrect (should read \$9,360.00), and re-read Resolution 2020-74 by its title only.

The Mayor asked if there was any further discussion on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the final adoption of Resolution 2020-74. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Crawford, Claus, Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hardy (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 2020-74 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 2020-75

Motion by Ms. Crawford that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 2020-75 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO AWARD THE BID AND AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF WATER TREATMENT CHEMICALS TO THATCHER COMPANY OF NEW YORK, INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED TWELVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED TWENTY AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$12,520.00)) be placed upon its first reading.

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

YEAS: Crawford, Claus, Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hardy (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 2020-75 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

The Mayor asked if there was any further discussion on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the final adoption of Resolution 2020-75. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Crawford, Claus, Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hardy (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 2020-75 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 2020-76

Motion by Mr. Tapp that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 2020-76 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER, ON BEHALF OF THE HURON FIRE DEPARTMENT, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH VALLEY FORD OF HURON FOR THE PURCHASE OF A NEW COMMAND VEHICLE IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED

THIRTY-THREE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$33,000.00)) be placed upon its first reading.

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

YEAS: Tapp, Artino, Dike, , Hardy, Crawford, Claus (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 2020-76 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Spafford said there were quotes submitted by multiple local dealerships and Valley Ford had the lowest quote. Based on a tentative offer on the trade-in value, we were able to get this lower than the other quotes received. This will replace a 2011 vehicle having mechanical issues. This is the new package of the Police Interceptor Ford Explorer. For a point of reference, we have been looking at upgrading the cruisers as part of our Police Department cruiser program, but these are difficult to find right now.

The Mayor asked if there was any further discussion on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the final adoption of Resolution 2020-76. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hardy, Crawford, Claus (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 2020-76 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

City Manager's Discussion

Mr. Spafford spoke about several topics:

- 2021 Budget. Mr. Swaisgood has shared with Council the original plus revisions of the 2021 budget book. This past Monday, they concluded the general public works service department facilities' budget discussion. Parks and Recreation is being discussed tomorrow.
- US-6 Phase I. We had a little bit of a wrench thrown into the schedule with weather, which is affecting the concrete work. If we can get a couple of nice days, Erie Blacktop will get out to do the final course of paving as soon as Friday or Saturday. The new radar signs at Shawnee have been installed, and will work with Ohio Edison to have the service on the existing or previously existing poles removed. Regarding crosswalk closures at Main St./US-6 and Berlin Rd./US-6, we will let Council know the exact date traffic will be diverted.
- Leaf Pickup. Leaf pickup has officially started as of October 26th and runs through December 4th, weather permitting. We extended the program an extra two weeks last year. In years past, we have been able to make 4 or 5 passes throughout the entire community, so we have had a lot of success with the leaf pickup. There seems to be high use of the weekly yard waste pickup, as well, so that give residents additional options.
- Fish Huron – Walleye Tournament. Fish Huron sponsored a fairly significant walleye tournament the second and third week of October. In coordination with LESI, they did work on a marketing video – we received a copy and will share it with Council and get it out on social media.
- Erie County Health Department. We are working with the Erie County Health Department to locally put together an acceptable public health plan on salvaging some sense of Winter Fest this year. It is tentatively scheduled for December 5th, but there are a lot precautions, safety and public

health regulations to be considered. We are working through the logistics. We may go back to something similar to what we did for the Easter with the parade throughout town with Santa.

- Halloween. Mr. Spafford reminded everyone to have a safe Halloween from a public health standpoint. Trick or treat is this upcoming weekend.
- Retirement of Officer James Bowen. Mr. Spafford advised Council of the planned retirement of Officer James Bowen in November. During Chief Lippert's entire tenure, we haven't had any turnover within the department. We wish James the best and will work toward potential replacement via new hire in 2021. Ms. Crawford asked how long he has been with the department, but Mr. Spafford did not know, but believes it is 10+ years.

Mr. Claus asked if the island at Berlin Road has been mocked up yet. Mr. Spafford believes it has been drafted, and once it is laid out they will work with the Fire Department to test the turn radius.

Mr. Lasko said he doesn't have anything of substance being only two days on the job, but wanted to let Council know staff has just been tremendous for the last two days of the onboarding process. That includes Mr. Spafford, all of the department heads and all the staff in terms of their institutional knowledge and have made him feel very welcome from the minute he walks in the door, so he wanted to thank them. He also wanted to let Council know that he appreciates Mike stepping in tonight. His thought was a lot of the legislation predated his arrival.

Mayor's Discussion

Mayor Artino said he would like to say that as far as the Showboat property goes, we are in litigation relating to that property and there's not much he can say about it other than the fact that he looks forward to the day when that is settled and we can talk about that in detail. He feels that our citizens are our best assets and he will do the best he can to ensure that there is an environment here in the City, with the Chamber of Commerce, with Council and with the City's staff, where they feel comfortable enough to come to us to address any issues they may have with us. He will make sure he monitors the meetings and any other issues along those lines.

For the Good of the Order

- **Ms. Crawford** – Welcomed Matt to his first official meeting. Thanks to Mike for filling in one more time. Matt has a cracker staff to work with – she wishes him nothing but the best for his tenure. The Fish Huron group, LESI, our staff and the Chamber of Commerce stepped up. She heard comments from some of the fishermen that were in town that on the first day in town, by far, of all of the cities they have fished around the country, that Huron felt the most welcoming - the signage, the programs, the limited events due to COVID. We got a lot of great compliments from visitors. We will have double that in June, and that is terrific publicity for our City. They had live feed and broadcasts are nationwide. Nice job by everybody who collaborated to get that done. Thank you to the community for bearing with us and hanging tight through the US-6 project. She knows there have been moments of inconvenience. She appreciates everybody's occasional frustration, but really big picture, she thinks this has gone fairly smoothly. She congratulated some of the Huron Tiger sports teams. We have had multiple sporting events – we did very well this fall. It is hard because we can't go watch our teams like we usually do – it's limited on attendance, but she believes our football teams did tremendous this year. There are multiple sports teams still in the hunt. Congratulations to all of those kids, particularly the seniors – it has been a tough year. Bless their hearts and good job to all of them.
- **Mr. Claus** – Welcomed Mr. Lasko – he is probably already learning what an amazing staff he has to work with. He wants to commend Mr. Swaisgood and his finance staff, Mr. Spafford and everyone in the budgeting process and on the Finance Committee, with the preparation and presentation of everything they have put together. The Budget Book is a good read if you want to fall asleep, but you

can jump through the departments to get a lot of really good information, a lot of explanation on why we are doing certain things. It is an amazing document and very accessible. Mr. Lasko has to jump into this now and see us to the end.

- **Mr. Dike** – Congratulations to Mr. Bowens on his retirement – he thinks he is too young to retire. Regarding the transient rentals, there was a lot of discussion and a lot of individuals had questions. Please keep sending them to Council because they want to get them answered and they want to get this done right the first time. If it has to take longer, he is all for that. He had the opportunity to go down and be part of the Fish Ohio walleye tournament event. It was pretty impressive for having 47 boats. They are talking that in June there will be another type of tournament here, and that will bring anywhere from 120-125 boats. There were a number of individuals who were apprehensive about sponsoring, but there are some that did. It really showed the few days they were here how involved they were and he knows some businesses did well. He wants to thank all of them for putting forth the effort. He thinks that will be repaid threefold when June comes around.
- **Mr. Tapp** – Welcome to Mr. Lasko. He wants people to know that Council is working on the transient rental regulations and they do want to make sure we get it right. We have Mr. Lasko's knowledge and our Law Directors are working on this to get it taken care of. We are not going to rush it and will make sure it's done right. Fish Huron was a great event. He talked to some fisherman, and they were really pleased with the way Huron greeted them and everything that was available, and all the people that were involved. That's a good thing for us. Thank you to Mr. Hinners for coming in tonight and speaking – we are taking everything from everybody that expressed their opinions and are working on this. He wants this over with, and he gets it. Hopefully things keep moving the way they're supposed to.
- **Mr. Hardy** – Congratulations to Officer Bowens.

Executive Session

Mayor Artino said there will be no executive session.

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Dike to adjourn the meeting.

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

YEAS: **Dike, Hardy, Crawford, Claus, Tapp, Artino (6)**
NAYS: **None (0)**

There being more than a majority voting in favor of the motion, the Mayor declared the meeting of October 27, 2020 adjourned at 7:12pm.


Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council

Adopted: 24 NOV 2020

Upon approval by the City Council, the official written summary of the meeting minutes will become a permanent record, and the official minutes shall also consist of a permanent audio recording, excluding executive sessions, in accordance with Section 121.01(III) of the Administrative Code.

“During our October 13, 2020 council meeting, I expressed my frustration with the status of ongoing litigation involving the City of Huron. My comments were grounded in frustration, and, after reflection, I regret that I did not express my views with more clarity. With the passing of time, I realize I should have communicated better and more clearly. Therefore, I would like to go on the record to apologize if anyone was offended or confused by my comments or felt them unwelcoming as I was expressing my frustration late in the meeting. I want to ensure all citizens that I value and welcome your participation and input , regardless of the topic, particularly when this involvement assists the administration in being better informed and better all-around.”