

THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO
Proceedings of the Huron City Council
Regular Meeting Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:30pm on Tuesday, November 24, 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 Joel Hagy**. Member absent: **Trey Hardy**.

Motion by Ms. Crawford excusing the absence of Trey Hardy.

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, Hagy (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 and Clerk of Council Terri Welkener.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. Claus that the minutes of the Work Session of October 27, 2020 and the regular Council meeting of October 27, 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, Hagy, Crawford (6)
NAYS: None (0)

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

Audience Comments

None.

Tabled Legislation

Ordinance No. 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.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance No. 2020-31

Motion by Mr. Claus that the three-reading rule be suspended and Ordinance 2020-31 (AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING FUND NO. 202 – PROPERTY MAINTENANCE FUND AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY) 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, Hagy, Crawford (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Ordinance 2020-31 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Motion by Mr. Claus that Ordinance 2020-31 be placed as an emergency measure.

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

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

There being five votes or more in favor, Ordinance 2020-31 was placed as an emergency measure.

Mr. Lasko said this ordinance creates a new property maintenance fund as it relates to the property maintenance ordinance that was revamped several weeks ago to abate nuisances on private property. This fund will allow us to track assessment payments received by the City and expenses going out. Mr. Swaisgood said there will be a transfer from the General Fund as seed money either later this year or early next year. This is to properly account for the sidewalk repair program, and any other assessment program, such as grass cutting.

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 Ordinance 2020-31. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Ordinance 2020-31 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Ordinance No. 2020-32

Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be suspended and Ordinance 2020-32 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2019-27, ADOPTED DECEMBER 10, 2019, TO PROVIDE FOR ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE GENERAL FUND AND OTHER FUNDING SOURCES AND AN INCREASE IN ESTIMATED RESOURCES AND FURTHER APPROVING CASH TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY) 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: Hagy, Crawford, Claus, Tapp, Artino, Dike (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Ordinance 2020-32 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Motion by Mr. Hagy that Ordinance 2020-32 be placed as an emergency measure.

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

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

There being five votes or more in favor, Ordinance 2020-32 was placed as an emergency measure.

Mr. Lasko said under this appropriations measure, funds will be moved from certain activities to other activities between accounts with zero effect on the City's budgetary status. These are funds relating to building permit revenue and payments to the Township, as well as transfer relating to CARES Act funds. Mr. Swaisgood said the supplemental appropriations and estimated resources are strictly due to the increase in building permit fees received. This building fees do get remitted out to the Township each month. There are no additional revenue or expenses relating to the Coronavirus Relief Fund, it due to personnel services on the payroll side of expenses has been a lot more than anticipated over the last few months. The included in this Ordinance, mainly due to some of the transfer to our budget stabilization fund for payroll that were not made during the year, and other capital transfers that were not made due to the pandemic. After closing out October, he is confident that our operational funds have sufficient cash reserves at this point in the year, and we can confidently make these budgeted transfers without impacting essential city services for the rest of the year. These transfers include pension transfers and other debt service transfers, all of which were planned for this year.

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 Ordinance 2020-32. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Ordinance 2020-32 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 2020-77

Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 2020-77 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO MAKE THE ANNUAL PREMIUM PAYMENT TO THE PUBLIC ENTITIES POOL OF OHIO ("PEP") FOR THE POLICY PERIOD DECEMBER 1, 2020 THROUGH NOVEMBER 30, 2021 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED SEVENTY-THREE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FOUR AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$73,574.00)) 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: Hagy, Crawford, Claus, Tapp, Artino, Dike (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 2020-77 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko said this is a request for authorization to pay the entire insurance premium to Public Entities Pool of Ohio from policy year December 1, 2020 through November 30, 2021. This premium is a 7% to 7 ½% increase from the prior year, primarily due to standard rate increases and additional of new vehicles and property. We do expect to look for opportunities to shop that rate in 2021. We did not do that this year because there are some active claims outstanding that we expect to drop off. Mr. Swaisgood said that shopping the rate was not advised because of active claims, but will shop the rate next year.

Ms. Crawford asked what the claim activity relates to. Mr. Swaisgood said there wasn't any specific mention of the rate increase being related to claims activity. The substation property was a prorated item last year, and we also added the new fire engine.

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 2020-77. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 2020-77 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Ordinance No. 2020-33

Motion by Mr. Tapp that the three-reading rule be suspended and Ordinance 2020-33 (A CONSENT ORDINANCE GIVING THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION CONSENT TO COMPLETE THE BRIDGE REHABILITATION ON US ROUTE 6 AT SLM 18.10 OVER THE NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAIL ROAD IN THE CITY OF HURON IN ERIE COUNTY) 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, Hagy, Crawford, Claus (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Ordinance 2020-33 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Lasko said this is a request to undertake certain rehabilitative work activities on the US 6 bridge over the Norfolk Southern railroad. The work will include reconstruction of the bridge decking and new railings and walkways on both sides. This will be funded 100% by ODOT and will be completed in 2025. If there is utility relocation required, that will also be funded by ODOT. They are merely looking for consent to undertake this project in 2025 at no cost to the City.

Motion by Mr. Tapp that Ordinance 2020-33 be placed as an emergency measure.

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

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

There being five votes or more in favor, Ordinance 2020-33 was placed as an emergency measure.

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 Ordinance 2020-33. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Ordinance 2020-33 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 2020-78

Motion by Mr. Tapp that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 2020-78 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO MAKE AN ANNUAL PREMIUM PAYMENT TO THE BUREAU OF WORKERS COMPENSATION FOR THE POLICY PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH JANUARY 1, 2022 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FORTY-FIVE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED THREE AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$45,303.00)) 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, Hagy, 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 2020-78 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko said this is a request for authorization to pay the entire Workers Compensation premium for 2021 in the amount of \$45,303. This is an approximately 7% reduction from the prior year. If the premium is paid in its entirety prior to January 1st, the City will be eligible for a 2% premium rebate. Mr. Swaisgood said that, in our call with our account management group, they noted that over the past few years our claims have been pretty low, with zero claims in 2020. The premium should not see much more of an increase in the BWC premiums.

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 2020-78. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 2020-78 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. Lasko spoke about several topics:

- US Route 6. That project is wrapping up – the crosswalks are substantially completed, the catch basins are installed, the pavement is substantially completed, the center islands have been constructed and the crews have been busy the last few days doing the striping. The turn lanes were not striped at River and Tiffin, but crews were out there today to make sure those lanes will be installed. He appreciates everyone's patience with that.
- Leaf Pickup. Crews are working their way from east to west across the City. We had a delay due to an equipment breakdown, but the crew are now completing their third trip across the City.
- Cleveland Road Sidewalks. Those repairs have been made today, and crews are now seeding the landscape and tree lawn areas.
- Transient Rental Legislation. There has been a lot of work put in between Council, staff and legal counsel. Counsel is working on draft overlay legislation, an initial draft of which is being reviewed. He is hoping to have a work session at the next meeting to review the draft legislation. We are working hard to get something in place that makes sense.
- Winter Day on Main, formerly Winterfest. Unfortunately, we must cancel the fireworks display that we had hoped to have. Mr. Steinwart and his team are working feverishly to make sure that at a minimum, we will have an activity where Santa will be driving through the community and interacting in a distanced manner with families and children. This is scheduled for December 5th between the hours of roughly 11am to 1pm. We still want to do something for the community to maintain a sense of normalcy, albeit in a very safe manner.
- Budget. On Monday the Finance Committee held their fifth and final meeting as it relates to the budget process. The Finance Committee made a recommendation for the draft budget as currently written to be presented to Council. We are hoping to have that be at the first meeting in December. We will need a public hearing, and we ask that Council consider having that hearing at the first Council meeting in December.

Motion by Mr. Claus to set the Public Hearing date for public review of the upcoming budget for 2021 for December 8, 2020 at 6:30pm during the regular Council meeting.

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, Hagy, Crawford (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority of votes in favor, the motion passed and the Public Hearing on the 2021 budget was set for December 8, 2020 at 6:30pm.

- Happy Thanksgiving. Mr. Lasko wished staff, Council and the community a healthy and happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Claus asked if there was any further discussion about highlighting the catch basin grates. Mr. Lasko said that request has been shared with the contracting team to highlight those grates near the borders of the road, which should happen as part of the striping project. Mr. Lasko thanked Mr. Claus for bringing this to his attention. Mr. Lasko said he has been talking to the contractors as relates to temporary safety measures to cover the light pedestals that have the bolts sticking up.

Mr. Claus asked if it would be possible to have a schedule for the leaf pickup. Mr. Lasko said that is a good recommendation and would happy to have those conversations to see how we can make the schedule more predictable.

Mayor's Discussion

Mayor Artino said that the fence at the Showboat property needs some attention and there are a couple of I-beams sticking up out of the concrete, which may be a tripping hazard. Mr. Lasko said Mr. Steinwart is looking into some alternatives for the fencing, and will look into the other issue and make a recommendation. Mayor Artino wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and hopes that most of our people are back now from Covid-19. Mr. Lasko said there have been some spikes in the County, particularly in some of our governmental entities. We are in good shape and everyone is generally back and healthy. He hopes that we have made it through what he hopes is the biggest of the waves, but we need to hunker down this winter. There is a lot that is unexpected, but hopefully the vaccine is on the way.

For the Good of the Order

- **Ms. Crawford** – We have a Safety Committee meeting on December 2nd at 4:00pm and a Utilities Meeting at 5:00pm. The Chamber is still trying to put together Home for the Holidays, and she asked Mr. Lasko to check in with Amy Roldan. Amy Roldan has been working with Jen Kilbury on a full-page spread in Lake Erie Shores and Islands travel guide – she saw the proof today and it looks great. Happy Thanksgiving to everyone, and congratulations to the Huron Tiger volleyball team on the State Championship.
- **Mr. Claus** – Wished a happy and safe Thanksgiving to everyone. Condolences to the Round, Bowers and Kilbury families. Thanks to Mr. Swaisgood and his staff for the good work on the budget. Mr. Swaisgood and Mr. Spafford have done getting Mr. Lasko up to speed.
- **Mr. Dike** – Condolences to the Kilbury, Round and Bowers families. Congratulations to the volleyball team and all of the other fall athletic teams that participated and did tremendous jobs during this Covid pandemic. Asked for a reduction in speed limits in R-1 neighborhoods – for example Wexford, Wheeler Avenue, Chaska – 25mph is too fast. He would like it discussed at the next Safety Committee meeting. This would include all R-1 neighborhoods, except those areas that include Route 6 and Route 13. Ms. Crawford said that they would add that to the Safety Committee agenda.
- **Mr. Tapp** – Happy Thanksgiving and stay healthy and safe. Condolences for the family of Robert Bowers, and we are thinking about them.
- **Mr. Hardy** –
- **Mr. Hagy** – It has been a very difficult week for the City of Huron. Condolences for the families of Robert Bowers, Len Round and Judy Kilbury. Kudos to staff with the Route 6 project, and all of the Covid-related issues.

Mayor Artino said we have had some issues with water shutoffs. Mr. Lasko wanted to see if Council would like to extend its resolution waiving utility late fees and water shutoffs, which expired at the end of May. The City reverted back to normal processes during the last two quarters. We are moving into what may be a difficult time of year and asked if there is any action Council would like to take. At this time, there are 9 shutoffs, but several of those may be shutoffs due to seasonal closure of vacation homes. Mr. Tapp suggested that the moratorium should be continued because water should not be turned off during the holidays. Mr. Schrader said it would be appropriate to amend the existing resolution to have it extended to a date Council deems appropriate. Mayor Artino suggested sometime in the second quarter of 2021. Mr. Lasko said there will be a bill due in January, with the next round due in April. If Council chooses to extend it through the second cycle, they should look to extend it through the end of April. Council should look into turning the existing 4-5 accounts back on, and to discuss waiving late fees. We are not waiving the bill in its entirety, so we have to have a plan in place for payment of the past due balance once the moratorium is

lifted. Mr. Swaisgood suggested that the deadline through at least March, which will stop shutoffs on the next billing cycle. If we do amend the former ordinance, he asked if the City would have to go back through the last two billing cycles to waive any fees. Mr. Schrader said that it would be appropriate to credit those fees. For the time being, the City can elect to stand by until the next meeting when we can have an appropriate resolution before us to extend the time. Mayor Artino asked what should be done for the people that had their water shut off in the meantime. Mr. Lasko said we are looking for motion tonight to turn the shutoff accounts back on immediately, and come back at the next meeting to consider additional legislation.

Motion by Mr. Tapp to restore water service to those customers that have been turned off since the moratorium for non-payment.

The Mayor asked if there was any further discussion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion.

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

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

Executive Session

Mayor Artino said that he does not anticipate any action after the executive session.

Motion by Mr. Tapp to move into executive session for the purpose of consultation with legal counsel regarding a pending or imminent court action, and to invite Mr. Schrader, Mr. Lasko and Mr. Ebert.

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

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion passed and Council moved into executive session at 7:30pm.

Mr. Hardy joined the executive session at 7:40pm.

Return to Regular Session

Council returned to regular session at 7:52pm.

Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Crawford 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: Crawford, Claus, Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hardy, Hagy (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being more than a majority voting in favor of the motion, the Mayor declared the meeting of November 24, 2020 adjourned at 7:53pm.


Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council

Adopted: 08 DEC 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 video and/or audio recording, excluding executive sessions, in accordance with Section 121.01(III) of the Administrative Code.