

THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO
Proceedings of the Huron City Council
Regular Meeting Tuesday, December 22, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Call to Order

The Mayor called the meeting of the Huron City Council to order at 6:30pm 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, Trey Hardy and Joel Hagy.**

Staff participating in the meeting: City Manager Matt Lasko, Interim City Manager Mike Spafford, Finance Director Cory Swaisgood, Law Director Todd Schrader, City Engineer Doug Green and Clerk of Council Terri Welkener.

Also in attendance: Russ Critelli of OHM Advisors.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. Hardy that the minutes of the regular Council meeting of December 8, 2020 be approved as presented.

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: Hardy, Hagy, Crawford, Claus, Tapp, Artino, Dike (7)
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.

There was no update on tabled legislation.

New Business

Ordinance No. 2020-42

Motion by Mr. Tapp that the three-reading rule be suspended and Ordinance 2020-42 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 305.01, TRAFFIC CONTROL MAP, AND CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 305.02, TRAFFIC CONTROL FILE, 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: Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hardy, Hagy, Crawford, Claus (7)

NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Ordinance 2020-42 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Motion by Mr. Tapp that Ordinance 2020-42 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, Hardy, Hagy, Crawford, Claus (7)

NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, Ordinance 2020-42 was placed as an emergency measure.

Mr. Lasko said this ordinance is a modification to the traffic control map and control file in the codified ordinance to comply with the removal of the street light at Berlin Road and Cleveland Road East for enforcement purposes. The result is that there will be unimpeded right-of-way for those traveling on Cleveland Road East, and those on Berlin Road will have the stop sign they will have to abide by. This cleans up the codified ordinances based on the removal of that traffic light.

Mr. Hardy asked if this is something that typically happens after the project is done, or is that something that could have been done when the project was happening and the light was taken down. Mr. Lasko said it probably could have been done a little bit sooner when the light was removed and stop sign installed

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 2020-42. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hardy, Hagy, Crawford, Claus (7)

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Ordinance 2020-42 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 2020-81

Motion by Mr. Tapp that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 2020-81 (A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE REPAIR AND MARKING OF U.S. ROUTE 6 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION) 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, Hagy, Crawford, Claus (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 2020-81 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko said this resolution is somewhat similar to the prior ordinance. It is the adoption of ODOT's recommendations for temporary striping along Route 6. By adopting this resolution, our safety forces will be able to enforce the temporary traffic code and laws along Route 6. This is a temporary measure and will be finally determined when the final striping plan is approved. In the meantime, this will allow enforcement.

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 2020-81. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hardy, Hagy, Crawford, Claus (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 2020-81 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Ordinance No. 2020-38

Motion by Ms. Crawford that the three-reading rule be suspended and Ordinance 2020-38 (AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING THE COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA AGREEMENT WITH ALDRIDGE BOUTIQUE LLC (DBA MOCO BOUTIQUE); AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA AGREEMENT SUBSTANTIALLY IN THE FORM ATTACHED TO THIS ORDINANCE UPON EXPIRATION OF THE 14-DAY REVIEW PERIOD PROVIDED FOR UNDER SECTION 5709.83 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE; 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: Crawford, Claus, Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hardy, Hagy (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Ordinance 2020-38 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Motion by Ms. Crawford that Ordinance 2020-38 be adopted 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: Crawford, Claus, Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hardy, Hagy (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, Ordinance 2020-38 was placed as an emergency measure.

Mr. Lasko said we are seeking approval of a Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) Agreement with MOCO Boutique, which many of you are familiar with. They are currently located in Commerce Plaza in several of the retail spaces. With approval of this agreement, the company will be relocating to a 6-acre property at 1708 Sawmill Parkway. They will be constructing a 40,000 sq. ft. facility on that site for their headquarters and warehousing operations. Per the terms of the agreement, the project calls for \$2.7 Million in investment, of which \$1.5 million is physical construction. They would also be retaining all 33 employees that are currently employed at the company, and agreed to a minimum payroll of \$564,000 annually. The agreement establishes a baseline valuation for the property of \$375,000 to prevent them coming back after construction asking for a reduction in valuation during the term of the abatement. This is a very similar abatement to the one recommended for and ultimately approved for Stride Mobility. It is a 15-year abatement in which the first 5 years would be at 75%, the next 5 years at 50%, and the final 5 years at 25%. That was the recommendation of the Tax Incentive Negotiating Committee earlier in December, and this has also been approved by the Huron City School Board as of December 15th.

Mr. Dike congratulated MOCO and said it is awesome to see a young man and his wife who grew up here doing great things.

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 2020-38. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Crawford, Claus, Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hardy, Hagy (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Ordinance 2020-38 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Ordinance No. 2020-39

Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be suspended and Ordinance 2020-39 (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, Hardy (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Ordinance 2020-39 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Motion by Mr. Hagy that Ordinance 2020-39 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, Hardy (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, Ordinance 2020-39 was placed as an emergency measure.

Mr. Swaisgood said this ordinance contains three separate items:

- Increase in estimated resources. This increase is mainly due to budgetary law. We have to have total appropriations that cannot exceed total budgeted revenue for the year. We had one payment out of the General Fund into the HJRD Fund to pay for financial statement preparation. There is no additional cost there; it is just cleaning up the books for the end of the year.
- Final appropriations. The lengthy format is intended to save the auditors some time at the end of year. Instead of auditing every single Council meeting and going through every budget transfer and supplemental appropriations, they can just pull this last meeting and the final appropriations. Hopefully this will save some hours and costs. To be more specific about what is in the final appropriations, the total adjustment column is zero. Total budget transfers are at zero throughout all of the funds so the net budget does not change. The only specific thing he mentioned is that there are additional transfers out of the General Fund and the Street Fund. This was brought to the attention of the Finance Committee last Monday and was also discussed at the legislative agenda review meeting on Thursday. Those transfer include one transfer out of the General Fund of \$200,000 - \$100,000 going in the Economic Development Fund and \$100,000 going into the Capital Improvement Fund. That is mainly due to cost-cutting procedures and processes that were put in place at the beginning of this pandemic, and also that the City is going to be receiving the BWC dividend (fourth distribution) – that \$160,000 is unrestricted and will be going into our General Fund, which will bring the general fund reserve above 25%. According to policy, we must remain between 15%-25% of that general fund reserve. This additional revenue and cost-cutting measures, in addition to the CARES Act funds, put the City in a good financial position to move over \$100,000 each to the Economic Development Fund for future economic development, and to the Capital Improvement Fund specific to US 6 just in case there are any change orders coming relating to Phase 2 or any other emergency capital improvement throughout the next year. In Fund 212 Street Maintenance Fund, we are requesting an additional \$200,000 be transferred out of there into the Capital Equipment Fund. Mr. Swaisgood commends the Street Department for their cost-cutting measures throughout the year. Although it's not sustainable throughout the coming years, the Street Department really cut costs and we are recognizing a \$200,000 excess of what we would like to keep in that fund as a reserve. Those funds were moved to Fund 403, which is our Capital Equipment Fund to reserve for future major purposes. As anyone on the Finance Committee knows, we went through the capital replacement list to determine what needs to be purchased by the Street Department over the next few years, with the street sweeper being the biggest expense in the next year or so. Having the option to purchase that with cash rather than finance it or lease it out would be beneficial.
- Cash transfers. We are requesting cash transfers be made following approval of this ordinance.

Mr. Hagy asked about the reserve being over 25% - is that before or after making the adjustments/changes made in this ordinance. Mr. Swaisgood answered that the reserve is over the 25% now (before passing this ordinance) – we are at 29% now, and these moves will put us at 24% - 25%.

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 2020-39. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Hagy, Crawford, Claus, Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hardy (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Ordinance 2020-39 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Ordinance No. 2020-40

Motion by Mr. Claus that the three-reading rule be suspended and Ordinance 2020-40 (AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING FUND NO. 207 – PARKS AND RECREATION 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, Hardy, Hagy, Crawford (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Ordinance 2020-40 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Motion by Mr. Claus that Ordinance 2020-40 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, Hardy, Hagy, Crawford (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, Ordinance 2020-40 was placed as an emergency measure.

Mr. Swaisgood said he will address both Ordinances 2020-40 and 2020-41 since they are both establishing funds. Ordinance 2020-40 establishes the newly combined Parks and Recreation Fund, which combines Funds 208 and 209 into Fund 207. This is a fund we have been talking about over the last two budget cycles. Now that the Parks Department shares a lot of functions and personnel with the Recreation Department, and HJRD revenue being split between the two funds, it would be cleaner administratively and operationally to create one fund. Any remaining balances at the end of the year in Funds 208 and 209 will be transferred into the newly-created Fund 207 starting January 1, 2021.

Ordinance 2020-41 establishes Fund 201 - Garbage Recycling and Yard Waste Fund. This fund was also discussed during this budgetary cycle, and throughout the year with the Finance Committee. This fund will be moving out garbage services into one new fund so we can monitor and track the financial activity of that fund. In addition to revenue and expenses of the garbage contract, any overhead costs and administrative cost loss will be attributed to that fund, as well. We have budgeted a transfer of \$290,000 out of the General Fund into the newly established Fund 201 for seed money as the quarterly payments are made. We will monitor that as January and February payments are received. He doesn't expect to use that much out of the General fund – that is the worst-case scenario.

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 2020-40. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Claus, Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hardy, Hagy, Crawford (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Ordinance 2020-40 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Ordinance No. 2020-41

Motion by Mr. Claus that the three-reading rule be suspended and Ordinance 2020-41 (AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING FUND NO. 201 – GARBAGE, RECYCLING AND YARD WASTE 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, Hardy, Hagy, Crawford (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Ordinance 2020-41 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Motion by Mr. Claus that Ordinance 2020-41 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, Hardy, Hagy, Crawford (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, Ordinance 2020-41 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 2020-41. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Claus, Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hardy, Hagy, Crawford (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Ordinance 2020-41 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 2020-82

Motion by Mr. Hardy that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 2020-82 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EXTENSION TO AGREEMENT WITH OHM ADVISORS FOR THE PROVISION OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE CITY OF HURON FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2021) 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: Hardy, Hagy, Crawford, Claus, Tapp, Artino, Dike (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 2020-82 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko said the City previously entered into a 2-year contract with OHM Advisors, which expires on December 31, 2020, for zoning services and general engineering services. We are in discussions and negotiations about an extension of that contract or a new contract for presentation to Council sometime in January. In the meantime, we propose a 1-month extension of the existing contract, exclusive to the general engineering services component. As of January 1, 2021, zoning services will be moved in-house in line with the staffing plan discussed with Council two weeks ago. Our goal is to bring a new proposal to Council for consideration in January.

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 2020-82. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Hardy, Hagy, Crawford, Claus, Tapp, Artino, Dike (7)

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 2020-82 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 on several topics:

- US Route 6. The striping plan is fully completed. We had crews out 1 to 1-1/2 weeks ago to circle back to some of the pavement markings that had been removed that needed some work. As relates to the lighting throughout the corridor, we have authorized proposals with OHM and EPS to undertake the design and to prepare bid documents for the lighting along the corridor. The pole bases were installed as part of the project, so this will be for installation of the actual poles themselves. We are hoping to advertise for bids in the spring with installation sometime in the summer. Regarding signage and traffic lights, the updated signs will be installed depicting the alterations to the temporary striping plan. We do need to swap out some of the signs that were installed reflecting the non-road diet striping plan. We have received a few requests and/or comments as it relates to the crosswalks regarding adding some additional signage for both pedestrians and vehicles, such as yield to pedestrian signs to be more explicit. Those are on order and will be installed shortly. The catch basins will be painted tomorrow per a request that came up at Council.
- Leaf Pick-Up. Mr. Lasko thanked our Street Department for completing four passes of the City last week. He appreciates all of their hard work on the leaf season this year.
- Con-Agra. Prior to his arrival, there was some discussion about utility connectivity and utility installation at the site. OHM came up with two proposals/options for connecting utilities through that site, one through the City's right-of-way and one through Norfolk Southern Railroad property. At this point, we had some discussions with Norfolk Southern that, from a timing standpoint, may not be a legitimate route. He wouldn't say that option is completely dead, but we are moving forward as if the City right-of-way will be the best means of getting utilities to that site from a timeliness standpoint. He wanted to mention and foreshadow some requests we will be bringing before Council sometime in early 2021. There is an existing TIF on the ConAgra property that is about 10 years old. It has not been enforced in the sense there has been no development and revenue stream coming in from that TIF. Our recommendation is to at some point in 2021 terminate that TIF and come back to Council at an appropriate time with a new 30-year TIF that would be harmonious with the selection of a developer or project for that site so that the City and the community can receive the full 30year benefit of that TIF. We have had discussions with SSEG, who has blessed us working with outside counsel to handle the TIF documents and outline and lay out a path forward as relates to those TIFs.

- Transient Rentals. As relates to transient rental legislation, things have been on hold for a few weeks but we expect in January to restart that process in earnest not just with the existing amendments to the legislation from the fall, but also overlay legislation. We are going to kick off those work sessions in January, and will also include the Planning Commission in those work sessions so that we can do that simultaneously.
- Pole Removal. All of Council was copied on some things brought to our attention by a resident who live just off of Main Street and Route 6. We have talked internally and broke that up into things that we can handle quickly and things that will have to involve committees or outside parties. We are addressing her complaints somewhat systematically and will follow up with her directly so she has a direct line of communication to staff. He appreciates her reaching out. One of her items was the badly leaning pole on Main Street, which was replaced today.
- AMP-T Deal. We are hoping to bring this purchase agreement to Council in January 2021. The Board of AMP has approved that purchase agreement; we are just working on a very quick operations and maintenance agreement on how to handle the transition process for a couple months.
- Jason Gibboney. Congratulations to Jason Gibboney, our Water Superintendent, for receiving an Operator Emeritus Award in Treatment from the American Waterworks Association. He was recognized for his operation of the plant and overseeing critical upgrades to those facilities and upgrades to our technology. Congratulations to both Jason and his team.
- Dispatching. We were involved in a 3-year agreement with Erie County to provide dispatching services for our police department and fire department. That agreement was set to expire at the end of the year, but did have an automatic renewal provision that the City left to select that automatic renewal. We reached out to the police and fire departments – both were very satisfied with the dispatching services. That agreement will be renewed for another 3 years.
- Merry Christmas to Council, staff and the whole community. He looks forward a break and rest.

Mr. Hagy asked is the discussion regarding the AMP-T proceeds would be held at the Finance Committee level. Mr. Lasko answered that his expectation is that it will go before the Finance Committee to determine if it is best to hold some of that cash back for future capital improvements or to pay down debt, or some combination of the two. Mr. Swaisgood said there is a possibility that there would be a joint meeting of Council and the Finance Committee to address the issue. Mr. Claus asked if the proceeds are accounted for in the budget. Mr. Swaisgood answered that it is accounted for in the budget as a sale and then debiting out the remaining outstanding balance. Depending on the conversations in January or February, the budget can be changed accordingly.

Mr. Claus asked if the administration has had the chance to talk with OPC (now Firelands Scientific) regarding construction of the dispensary – it looks like the slab is in and they are starting steel and earth work – what is their completion date? Mr. Lasko said he had a call with Firelands Scientific this morning and their expectation is that they will be completed with the dispensary by April. Nothing is a foregoing conclusion, but there is some discussion regarding expansion of the facility on the greenhouse side of things.

Mayor's Discussion

Mayor Artino said that 2020 brought was unprecedented with the COVID-19 issue, and he knows that our staff and this Council has had to navigate through many hurdles because of that. For him it has been exciting and challenging, mixed with sadness due to the impact on some families. He would like to thank the City employees for their dedication and hard work through these extraordinary circumstances. He will be the first to say they did a good job and these kinds of things, but he wants to say based on everything that went on this year, they did an extraordinary job. Thank you. This also proves that when Council and the City employees get together, they can overcome any hurdle that we face and continue to move forward. He appreciates the citizens who remain involved wherever they are participating, be it on committees or boards, or just providing comments and concerns to us about our community. He has said for a long time – it's not

about us, it's about our community, and the only way we can succeed and make the best decision that we can is with the input of people – he appreciates our citizens. He thanked the leadership of Huron Township and said our partnership with those folks is a very needed and is a great relationship. Together we provide a lot of opportunities for the citizens of the Township and the City, and he wants to continue that partnership for a long time. He believes that we have been successful this year despite all of the unfortunate issues we have had, and he looks forward to 2021 being an even better year. Please be safe and Merry Christmas and happy holidays to everybody.

For the Good of the Order

- **Ms. Crawford** – Thanked Mr. Lasko for getting that utility pole on Main Street fixed today. She had a couple of calls about the flashing pedestrian signs and she exchanged a few emails with Mr. Lasko, and she is glad to see that is happening. She encouraged everyone in our community to keep supporting small business – we are not out of the woods on this COVID thing and restrictions, and it is not too late – grab some gift cards for your favorite local businesses to give as Christmas gifts. She also wants to congratulate Jason Gibboney and the entire Water Department – they are getting ready to go 24/7 and she doesn't know that the community fully understood what all is involved in that, and she knows there have been multiple conversations about the Water Department in these meetings. It is a very valuable resource and we are fortunate to have a good team working out there. Ms. Crawford said that in years past, Council has held a year's planning work session, and while she knows with COVID and the regulations we can't meet in large groups, wanted to know if Mr. Lasko could put that on his radar if all of Council agrees that is valuable. That planning session would discuss what we didn't get done that we wanted to get done last year, and what are his priorities, Council's priorities, etc. Ms. Crawford shares Mayor Artino's sentiments of what a year 2020 has been. The staff and administration of this City is amazing. Her hat comes off for all of the staff, particularly Mr. Spafford and the team that rallied together to get through the interim process. Thank you to the entire staff for all of their hard work, all of their extra efforts and all of the hurdles jumped. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, happy holidays to everyone in the community. Let's hope 2021 shapes up a little bit better.
- **Mr. Claus** – Said it's hard being last. He thanked staff especially for this first year on Council. There was a big learning curve and with everything going on – COVID, etc. – it has been an even steeper learning curve with a lot of differences and changes. We have a first class, A-Team staff here with the way Mike, Cory and their team ran things during the transition. He is really excited about Mr. Lasko coming on board. There are great things to come in 2021. Congratulations to Mr. Gibboney and his team. When he was elected to Council, one of the first things he did was take a tour of the water plant, and anyone who has not done that should do that. It is very impressive and Mr. Gibboney is very knowledgeable and explains everything very well. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
- **Mr. Dike** – He saw that Stride Mobility has broken ground – it is neat to see them moving forward. Congratulations to MOCO in their future endeavors here in the City of Huron. Congrats to Jason Gibboney – that is a very neat honor and it's awesome to see him and his team being awarded like that. He thinks there are going to be a lot of big things happening in 2021, so he is excited for it. He knows it has been challenging, and he said that the individuals that spoke before him have said some very positive and nice things, and it was very well said, so thanks for saying that. He wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
- **Mr. Hardy** – Congratulations to the Water Department and all the staff during this trying year. They have done a good and we will hopefully have a better year in 2021. Merry Christmas to everyone.
- **Mr. Hagy** – Congratulations to Jason and his team – that is a great accomplishment and happy holidays and Happy New Year to everybody.
- **Mr. Dike** – Congratulations to Jason Gibboney and his staff – he does a great job running that place. The staff of Huron, its legal counsel, Mr. Swaisgood, Mr. Lasko, Mr. Spafford, everybody – you guys did a great job. He appreciated everything that they do. Speaking for himself, he didn't expect a first

year like this, but we got through it and he doesn't think anybody expected it to end up the way it was, but I think we are doing great things. He has learned a lot and is still learning. He wanted to thank the community for all of its support, and thanked the other Council members. There have been some ups and downs but got through it. He thanked Mr. Hardy for the updates every week from the Health Department. He thanked Mr. Lasko saying he probably didn't expect a year like this when he came on, but he appreciates his hard work. We are doing great things, and he expects great things next year. Happy holidays and Merry Christmas to everybody we see.

Executive Session

Mayor Artino said there will be no executive session.

Adjournment

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

There being more than a majority voting in favor of the motion, the Mayor declared the meeting of December 22, 2020 adjourned at 7:15pm.


Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council

Adopted: 26 JAN 2021

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