

THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO
Proceedings of the Huron City Council
Regular Meeting Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Public Hearing on 2021 Budget

The Mayor called the Public Hearing on the 2021 Proposed Budget to order at 6:30pm on Microsoft Teams video conference. 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 Public Meeting. The following members of Council answered present: **Christine Crawford, Mark Claus, Monty Tapp, Sam Artino, Trey Hardy and Joel Hagy**. Member absent: **Joe Dike**.

Motion by Mr. Claus to excuse the absence of Mr. Dike.

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

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed.

Swear in Witnesses

The Mayor asked if there are any witnesses to be sworn in for the Public hearing. Mr. Swaisgood and Mr. Lasko were then sworn in by the Law Director, Todd Schrader. Both individuals affirmed that the oath was administered and received.

Public Hearing Testimony

Mr. Lasko thanked Mr. Spafford and Mr. Swaisgood for all of the work they have put in on the proposed budget. He also thanked the Finance Committee and members of Council that have been involved in the process. In all of his years with the City of Sandusky and years prior, he is terribly impressed with the level of detail that goes into this budget process and the budget book. It is fairly exceptional and a testament to the transparency we want to put forth in the City of Huron.

Mr. Lasko said positive financial outcome in 2020 was due to some of the fiscal controls that were put into place at the onset of the pandemic, along with some economic development projects are coming to fruition, including Mucci and Firelands Scientific. At the onset of the pandemic there were losses in revenue to plan for whether that be impacts to parks and recreation fees, impacts and state and local government funds, closures of the IAC facility and reductions in gas and permissive tax. With the additional of approximately \$450,000 in CARES Act funding and several BWC dividends have offset some of those losses. He was happy to report that the City has an unencumbered reserve of \$1.1 Million at the end of the year. From a reserve standpoint is to have a reserve balance of 15-20%. We will have a reserve balance of 23%, which is a health balance.

With regard to the 2021 budget, Mr. Lasko said we are projecting an increase of \$200,000 based on estimations by the County Auditor, for a total projection of \$1.2 Million in property tax proceeds. What goes into this budget is a 10-year capital improvements plan. From a capital assets standpoint, there was approximately \$500,000 spent on the new equipment and vehicles in 2020, with a budget of \$600,000 for 2021 for the replacement of two police vehicles and a new street sweeper. As part of the capital

improvement plan included in the budget book, there is approximately \$55 Million in capital projects that are needed. As we go through the budget process, some of those projects will be pushed back, and some of those will get moved up as funds are available. We are projecting that out of that \$55 Million, \$20 Million will be funded with new sources of funding over the next 10 years. In 2021, \$4.5 Million is projected in capital improvement projects, including the Berlin Road infrastructure work, Route 6 Phase II and improvements to the Water Plant to add to capacity. In terms of income tax, we are happy to report that we are looking at only a 2% reduction from projections, which is a great income. Going into 2021, we are projecting a 1% increase over the 2020 receipts thus far.

We also project adding a new full-time police officer in addition to replacing the full-time position created by retirement of one of our current officers. We are also planning for a 6th part-time firefighter per shift, which is a 50/50 split with the Township. We are also anticipating another full-time water maintenance worker, which would allow the plant to go to 24-hour operations in 2021. The budget also calls for a Service Director. Because that position can be accounted for in several funds, the impact on the General Fund is \$25,000.

Mr. Swaisgood thanked City staff and department staff, specifically Mr. Spafford, for their input and assistance during this budget process. He also thanked Mr. Lasko, stating that he has been very helpful and got up to speed very quickly. He also thanked department heads/directors; he said this group of staff and department directors is a special group. They are very passionate and dedicated to their jobs. He thanked the Finance Committee for their patience and input during this process.

Mr. Swaisgood said that just like last year, this budget outlines the City's financial policies, the budget process, an understanding of governmental accounting of City funds, and noting fund performance throughout the years and projected performance going forward. In addition to that, we have a capital replacement cycles list and a capital improvement plan to be discussed in more detail next year. There is also a section on debt obligations and outstanding debt. Consistent with last years budget book, we are still hovering around debt capacity and looking toward 2023 when some of that debt starts to fall off. Some items for Council to consider is creation of a new fund for garbage services and combining Parks and Recreation in Fund 207. Mr. Swaisgood said the part-time police officer was included in the 2020 budget, but that hiring was delayed to 2021 due to the pandemic. The part-time firefighters were included in fire's Master Plan with the Township with the agreement put in place a couple years ago. Mr. Swaisgood thanked everyone again and said that he appreciated everyone's help and dedication during the process.

The Mayor asked Mr. Lasko to explain how hiring the part-time police and fire employees will increase efficiency. Mr. Lasko explained when we run into shortages in personnel, that leads to an increase in overtime pay. More importantly, as much as we are happy to be able to hire and employ part-time individuals at the fire department and police department, those people are looking for full-time positions. It creates challenges at times to have a stable of part-time employees who may leave after a few months or a year or two. So long as it makes sense from an economic standpoint, being able to add to that full-time roster helps from a staffing perspective so there is not an over-reliance on part-time employees. When you deduct for overtime pay, it makes sense to add full-time employees.

There being no further questions, the Mayor called for motion to approve/deny/amend the 2021 budget.

Motion by Mr. Claus to approve the 2021 Annual Budget as presented. He thanked Mr. Swaisgood, Mr. Spafford, Mr. Lasko and all of the staff for the preparation of this document. It is very professional and thorough.

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

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and the 2021 Annual Budget was approved.

Adjourn Public Hearing

The Mayor adjourned the Public Hearing at 6:49pm

Call to Order of Regular Meeting of Council

The Mayor called the regular meeting of Council to order on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 6:49pm.

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, Trey Hardy and Joel Hagy.** Member absent: **Joe Dike.**

Motion by Mr. Claus to excuse the absence of Mr. Dike from the regular City 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 Council voted as follows:

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

There being a majority 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. Hardy that the minutes of the regular Council meeting of November 24, 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 (6)
NAYS: None (0)

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

Audience Comments

None.

Presentation - State Auditor's Office

Mr. Swaisgood introduced Lori Brodie from the State Auditor's Office. Ms. Brodie said that she is here to present an award from State Auditor Keith Faber. This award was won for the City's 2019 audit. The Auditor of State audits about 5,900 entities every year, and only about 8% are eligible for this award. The City of Huron is a part of this select group. The criteria required to get this award include: (1) file the financial report within 150 days of fiscal year end, have a clean audit with no findings for recovery, material citations, material weaknesses, significant deficiencies, single audit findings or question costs, the entity's

management letter contains no comments relating to ethics referrals, question costs less than \$10,000, lack of a timely report submission/reconciliation, failure to obtain a timely single audit, findings for recovery less than \$100, public meetings or public records problems. The entity must have no other financial concerns. It is an extensive list that you have to meet. This award represents the hard work of all of the employees who strive every day to achieve that accounting excellence. She recognized the Mayor and the Council that have done an excellent job accounting for every dollar in the City of Huron. She especially wanted to recognize Cory Swaisgood and his team for their outstanding leadership, professionalism and all they have done to earn this award.

The Mayor thanks to the staff for their hard work. (Applause.)

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 old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution No. 2020-79

Motion by Mr. Tapp that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 2020-79 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO BINDING MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE/OLC/SERGEANTS AND THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE/OLC/PATROL OFFICERS MODIFYING THEIR RESPECTIVE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS WITH THE CITY OF HURON RELATING TO INCENTIVE PAY) 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, Hardy, 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 2020-79 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko said this relates to two distinct but similar MOU's between the FOP Sergeants and Police Offices. Per both the Collective Bargaining Agreement effective through December 31, 2021, both of these bargaining units are eligible for a 1% training bonus that is traditionally paid out at the first pay period in December. Chief Lippert advised that due to pandemic it has become much more challenging for those officers to undertake the traditional trainings they have been able to do in years past. A lot of those training have been canceled or moved online. Those that have been moved online are typically shorter and it has become a challenge to reach the 40 hours of annual training needed to obtain that 1% bonus pay. These MOU's seek to reach a compromise in that the City would agree to move forward in 2020 with the 1% additional bonus pay to both bargaining units. However, there are some sergeants and officers that have

been able to do more training than others. In addition to paying out the 1% in 2020 to everyone, to receive the 1% payout in 2021, the sergeants and officers must accrue 60 hours of training in 2020/2021 combined. It is an overall reduction of 20 hours between the 2 years, but is a good compromise as opposed to just paying out the regardless of the hours met in 2020. Another modification is that the incentive pay would be paid in the second pay period of December. Both of these MOU's are acceptable to the respective bargaining units. The incentive pay totals \$9,000-\$10,000 per 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 Resolution 2020-79. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 2020-79 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Ordinance No. 2020-34

Motion by Mr. Claus that the three-reading rule be suspended and Ordinance 2020-34 (AN ORDINANCE MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020) 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, Hardy, 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 2020-34 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Motion by Mr. Claus that Ordinance 2020-34 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, Hardy, Hagy, Crawford (6)
NAYS: None (0)

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

Mr. Swaisgood thanked Council for approving the 2021 Budget. This item is strictly to adopt the appropriations for 2021 so the administration can legally pay for budgeted expense and payroll. This is just adopting the appropriations that were approved through the budget hearing process through the City's legal level of control.

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 2020-34. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Ordinance 2020-34 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Ordinance No. 2020-35

Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be suspended and Ordinance 2020-35 (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, Hardy (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Ordinance 2020-35 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Motion by Mr. Hagy that Ordinance 2020-35 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: Hagy, Crawford, Claus, Tapp, Artino, Hardy (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, Ordinance 2020-35 was placed as an emergency measure.

Mr. Swaisgood said this ordinance covers two areas. The first is an increase in estimated resources for 2020 relating to the Coronavirus Relief Funds and Marine Patrol Grant. The City received another small CARES Act distribution from the County in the amount of \$4,085.51 based on the November deadline. If we had any unencumbered funds at that deadline, we were required to distribute any unencumbered back to the County, which leftover funds were then redistributed. This ordinance requests an increase in budget for that \$4,000 out of Personnel Services for payroll, and also increase revenue by that \$4,000. Each year, the City applies for a Marine Patrol Grant (April/May/June) through the State. We have to report back to the state by December 15th in reconciliation of this fund to be sure we spend all of the money we received. We still had \$6,600 that we still have to recognize as an expense. The appropriation measure here is an increase of \$2,500 that will be spend on painting and winterizing the boat, and the \$4,100 will be a transfer to the Police Pension Fund. On the second page of the attachment is the cash transfer from the Marine Patrol Grant to the Police Pension Fund. The net overall effect to the budget is \$2,500, but we received funds from the Marine Patrol Grant to offset that.

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 2020-35. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Ordinance 2020-35 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 2020-80

Motion by Mr. Tapp that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 2020-80 (A RESOLUTION WAIVING WATER UTILITY LATE FEES AND INTRODUCING A MORATORIUM ON WATER SHUT-OFFS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, 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, Hardy, 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 2020-80 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko said this is a follow-up to a conversation at the last Council meeting and similar legislation that came before Council at a meeting in late spring. Under this resolution, the City would place a moratorium, suspend water shut-offs and also waive late fees for billings that have a due date of January 17, 2021. This moratorium would extend through March 30, 2021. This moratorium will cover one billing cycle. For those folks who have arrears, they would enter into payment plans with the City to take care of those arrears in 2021.

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 2020-80. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 2020-80 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Ordinance No. 2020-36

Motion by Mr. Hardy that the three-reading rule be suspended and Ordinance 2020-36 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING HURON CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 161.04 (A), EXHIBIT "A" POSITION AND SALARY SCHEDULE 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: Hardy, Hagy, 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 Ordinance 2020-36 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Motion by Mr. Hardy that Ordinance 2020-36 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: Hardy, Hagy, Crawford, Claus, Tapp, Artino (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, Ordinance 2020-36 was placed as an emergency measure.

Mr. Lasko said this is a series of modifications to the salary and position schedules for 2021. The reason for the modification is to ensure that people in those positions, from a base salary standpoint, fall within those ranges. When there are any changes to base salary, we must make sure that those changes are reflected in the pay and position schedule. Secondly, there is an alteration from a part-time and seasonal standpoint to reflect the change in minimum wage in the State of Ohio. This has become an annual exercise, and one of the things discussed in the past is a comprehensive review of the City's compensation and position schedule so that we aren't coming to Council on an annual basis.

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 2020-36. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Ordinance 2020-36 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Ordinance No. 2020-37

Motion by Ms. Crawford that the three-reading rule be suspended and Ordinance 2020-37 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 161.04.1 OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES 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, Hardy, Hagy (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Ordinance 2020-37 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Motion by Ms. Crawford that Ordinance 2020-37 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: Crawford, Claus, Tapp, Artino, Hardy, Hagy (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, Ordinance 2020-37 was placed as an emergency measure.

Mr. Lasko said these are proposed alterations to the base salaries for the Finance Director, Law Director, Service Director, Fire Chief and Police Chief. These modifications would increase the base salaries, specifically for the Finance Director and Police, to reflect base salary increases that were in the recently adopted 2021 budget. In addition, the Law Director's salary was modified to reflect the current Law Director agreement. The Fire Chief's salary reflects a 3% increase. It should be noted that this position is still vacant. There was not modification to the Service Director base salary. Mr. Swaisgood mentioned that similar to the last ordinance discussed, that this process is the same. Any increases relating to the 2021 budget are reflected in the ordinance. They will take a look at this process next year so that we aren't doing this every 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 2020-37. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Ordinance 2020-37 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Board and Committee Appointments

Based on direction from the Law Director, the Mayor said there would be two motions relating to board and committee appointments.

Motion by Mr. Claus appointing Lisa Brady to the vacancy on the Board of Zoning Appeals commencing January 1, 2021 for a term of four (4) years.

Mayor Artino said he spoke with Mr. Sprunk and explained that we had Ms. Brady interested in this position. We talked about his 20+ years of service to the community and he served with him on that Board years ago. He thanked Mr. Sprunk for his years of service. Mr. Lasko expressed his thanks to Mr. Sprunk for his years of service. Ms. Brady comes very highly regarded with her background in finance and real estate during her time at Cedar Fair. It is great to have people of her background serving in several roles. She is well versed in these topics, and she is a great addition. Mayor Artino thanked Ms. Brady for stepping up and volunteering and thinks she will be an asset to the community.

Mayor Artino directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Tapp reappointing Mark Cencer to the Planning Commission for a 4-year terms; Tom Solberg, Jr. to the Huron Joint Port Authority for a 4-year term as a City appointment; Robert Williams to the Huron Joint Port Authority for a 4-year term as the City's joint appointment, contingent on approval of the Huron Township Trustees; Pat Deville to the Income Tax Board of Review for a 2-year term; Tom Solberg, Jr. to the Huron Joint Recreation District for a 2-year term; and Pat Deville to the Personnel Appeals Board for a 3-year term.

Mayor Artino 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, Hardy, Hagy, Crawford, Claus (6)
NAYS: None (0)

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

City Manager's Discussion

Mr. Lasko spoke on several topics:

- US Route 6. The paving, the center islands, the catch basins and sidewalks are completed. We are making adjustments to the striping to remove the previous areas where there was striping that was removed. At night, especially in wet conditions, you can see pretty vividly remnants of the old striping. Crews will be here Thursday to eradicate that issue. As relates to lighting, development of specifications is underway. Those will be completed soon so that we can go out to bid. We will be installing neon cones to the light pole bases for safety. Staff, OHM and CTL did an exhaustive walk-through of the route on Friday. As we know, there was a signage and lighting plan instituted as it was going to be a 4-lane Route 6, so there are certain traffic lights or street lights that must be swapped out to coincide with the temporary striping plan.
- Snow Removal and Leaf Pickup. Mr. Lasko thanked our Streets Department and other departments for their handling of our first snow storm last week – they did a tremendous job. We anticipate a fourth round of leaf pickup starting this week on the east side of town and heading west.
- Economic Development Updates. There was a transfer of ownership of the IAC facility last week. There is not an official press release from the new ownership group yet as they just closed on the property last week. We are still for details of what their plans will be at that facility. The quick repositioning of that site to new ownership that appears to have a tremendous and growing presence in the US bodes well for Huron and the County. Hopefully, we will have more details for Council and the public over the upcoming weeks, but this is certainly exciting news. The Tax Incentive Negotiating Committee made a recommendation last week for a tax abatement request and offer to MOCO Boutique, who are currently located in Commerce Plaza and relocating to Sawmill Parkway. There was an abatement offer recommended that has been accepted by the owner, and will go before the School Board on December 15th and then come before Council on December 22nd.
- Transient Rental Legislation. Staff continues to work through and review the draft overlay legislation. With the holidays coming up, the plan is to reconvene work sessions of Council and public in January, we would love to integrate the Planning Commission and BZA through joint work sessions.
- Santa Event. Mr. Lasko thanked the Chamber of Commerce and our Recreation Department for their efforts relating to the event his weekend. Being able to hold that event and to have Santa take that tour through town brought a sense of normalcy.
- Showboat Fencing. The black chain link fence has been removed and replaced with parking blocks mirroring the western side of the parking lot. The exposed I-beams have been chopped off and ground off level with the concrete.
- Service Agreement with County Auditor for Bed Tax Collection. The County charged a 2% administrative fee in 2020 for that service. Due to the pandemic, there was a slight loss of revenue

due to that fee. He is happy to advise that the County Auditor is suspending any administrative fees in 2021 for collection of the bed tax.

With regard to the new crosswalks with the lighted signs at Berlin Road and Shawnee School, Mr. Claus said he doesn't think people realize they are required to stop for pedestrians, and wonders if we should install signs reminding people that they have to stop. The public needs to be trained to stop. Mr. Lasko said he had an e-mail to two forwarded to him yesterday from residents asking for additional signage and additional public awareness of what it means when the lights are flashing. He agreed with those comments and said we are looking into what we can do to make it more evident what is required at those intersections.

Mr. Claus asked if there is any kind of update from Firelands Scientific regarding the dispensary. It was disturbing with the lawsuit over not being able to have the dispensary, yet they haven't yet built their dispensary. He is wondering why they have not started that project. Mr. Spafford said they switched contractors in May or June. That extended their timeline, but they are in regular communication with the zoning department. They have not yet broken ground.

Mayor's Discussion

Mayor Artino thanked Mr. Swaisgood, Mr. Lasko, the entire staff and the Finance Committee for the great job on the budget, and hopes they get a little rest over the holidays.

We are contemplating having the next meeting on December 22, 2020 in person. If there are any concerns, please let him know.

For the Good of the Order

- **Ms. Crawford** – Congratulations to Cory and his team for the Auditor's award. It was an eye-opener for her to sit on the Finance Committee and that Budget Book is amazing. Thanks to the Chamber of Commerce for trying to orchestrate for some type of festivities, and to South Shore Marine for singing "Deck the Halls" driving Santa around. Thanks to and Mr. and Mrs. Claus – it had to be chilly on that ride.
- **Mr. Claus** – Thanks to Mr. Swaisgood and his staff, and Mr. Lasko jumping in on the process. Thanks to the Recreation Department and the Chamber over the weekend. He is glad to see everyone back healthy.
- **Mr. Tapp** – Thanks to Mr. Swaisgood, the Finance Committee and Mr. Lasko. Things are still in limbo with COVID, but hopefully, we are moving forward and he appreciates everyone's hard work.
- **Mr. Hardy** – Nice work by Mr. Swaisgood on the budget. Like he said next year, we have had great budgets, but this has gone to a whole other level. Job well done!
- **Mr. Hagy** – Nothing.

Executive Session

Mayor Artino said there will be no executive session.

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Hardy 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: **Hardy, Hagy, 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 December 8, 2020 adjourned at 7:43pm.


Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council

Adopted: 22 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 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.