

**THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO**  
**Proceedings of the Huron City Council**  
**Regular Meeting Tuesday, May 26, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.**

The Mayor called the regular meeting of Huron City Council to order at 6:33pm on Tuesday, May 26, 2020 via Webex teleconference. 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.

The Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll. The following members of Council answered present: **Christine Crawford, Mark Claus, Monty Tapp, Sam Artino, Joe Dike, Trey Hardy and Joel Hagy.** (Note: Trey Hardy was having audio problems and joined the meeting at 6:34pm).

Staff participating in the Webex teleconference: Interim City Manager Mike Spafford, Finance Director Cory Swaisgood, City Engineer Doug Green, Law Director Benjamin Chojnacki and Executive Administrative Assistant and Clerk of Council Terri Welkener.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Motion by Mr. Tapp that the minutes of the regular meeting of April 28, 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: Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hardy, Hagy, Claus(6)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**  
**ABSTAIN: Crawford (1)**

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

**New Business**

**Resolution 2020-32**

**Motion by Mr. Tapp that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 2020-32 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO, WITH THE HURON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RELATIVE TO THEIR LAKE FRONT MARKET EVENT TO BE HELD AT LAKE FRONT PARK ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 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: 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 2020-32 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Spafford explained that this is the annual agreement with the Chamber of Commerce authorizing the use of Lake Front Park (third annual). This would authorize the use of Lake Front Park. In prior years, this event has been held in June. With all of the COVID-19 restrictions, they Chamber requested that the date be moved back to September 12<sup>th</sup>. The agreement falls in line with previous years. This is a very successful

program, and it has been impressive to see the growth over the past three years. The Mayor asked if the event would have to adhere to regulations in place at the time, which Mr. Spafford answered in the affirmative.

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 2020-32. 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 2020-32 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

#### **Resolution 2020-34**

**Motion by Mr. Hardy that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 2020-34 (A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING TEMPORARY OUTDOOR PATIO DINING AREAS, 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, Dike (7)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 2020-34 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

#### **Motion by Mr. Hardy to declare an emergency.**

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 passed and Resolution No. 2020-34 was placed as an emergency measure.

Mr. Spafford said that the City would like to assist local restaurants to add some additional seating capacity to help recoup losses over the last couple of months, through the option of utilizing outdoor space for additional seating. During the work session, Council appeared to be in general agreement, but expressed a desire to have the drawing not be required to be "to scale" and to move the end date to after Labor Day weekend.

#### **Motion by Mr. Dike to amend Resolution 2020-34 to not require a scale drawing and to re-evaluate after the Labor Day weekend.**

Ms. Crawford said that she thought that the time period should be extended to September 14<sup>th</sup> to the Monday following the Lake Front Market event. Mr. Dike agreed with the proposed revision.

The Mayor asked if there was further discussion on the proposed amendments to Resolution 2020-34. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being a majority in favor of the proposed revisions, the motion passed.

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 2020-34. 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 2020-34 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

#### **Resolution 2020-35**

**Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 2020-35 (A RESOLUTION WAIVING WATER UTILITY LATE FEES AND 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: 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 Resolution 2020-35 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

#### **Motion by Mr. Hagy to adopt Resolution 2020-35 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 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 of the motion, Resolution 202-35 was placed as an emergency measure.

Mr. Spafford said this resolution would temporarily suspend the late penalties and other various penalties and fees related to non-payment or late payment of any water utility bills. In addition, the City recognizes the order from the State eliminating the ability to shut off any water utility due to non-payment. The purpose of the legislation is to offer financial assistance where we can to the residents and businesses that utilize the City's water. This resolution would raise or suspend those fees on the first quarter billing, and as we continue through what the reopening phases look like, we would reevaluate that as we approach the next

billing quarter. Mr. Swaisgood indicated in the financial review that payment compliance was fairly strong, and that it was one of the strongest quarters we have had. In addition, the late penalty portion of revenue is not a significant number, and we are forecasting a 10% decrease overall from a budgetary standpoint. Mr. Hagy stated that this is only the late fate, not the actual fees for service.

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 2020-30. 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, Resolution 2020-35 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

#### **Ordinance 2020-36**

**Motion by Mr. Tapp that the three-reading rule be suspended and Ordinance 2020-36 (AN ANNUAL RESOLUTION EXPRESSING COUNCIL'S INTENT TO SELL PERSONAL PROPERTY DEEMED TO BE NO LONGER NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE OR FOUND OBSOLETE OR UNFIT FOR THE USE FOR WHICH IT WAS ACQUIRED BY INTERNET AUCTION UTILIZING GOVDEALS, INC.) 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 2020-36 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Spafford explained that this is a housekeeping piece of legislation, outlining the City's intent to use GovDeals for internet auctions if the City was to sell property no longer necessary. We have used them in the past to sell vehicles. In the past, we discussed a City-wide in-person auction where we disposed of quite a few pieces of equipment and infrastructure over the year. In terms of individual requests, GovDeals is widely used.

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

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

#### **Motion**

**Motion by Mr. Hagy setting the Public Hearing for the 2021 Tax Budget for June 23, 2020 at 6:30pm.**

Mr. Swaisgood explained that this an annual statutory requirement. Under the City Charter, the tax budget for the ensuing fiscal year must be submitted to Council prior to June 1<sup>st</sup>. If this motion passes, we are required to submit the final tax budget to the County Budget Commission prior to July 18<sup>th</sup> following

Council approval. The tax budget is the start of the budget system. It was established as a tool for taxing authorities, mainly school districts, to use to assess the financial condition of the jurisdiction and to place tax levies on the ballot, if necessary. Most political subdivisions, including the City of Huron, determine this much earlier. This is just a statutory requirement that we are required to do every year. We are asking for the motion to set the hearing for the end of June.

Mr. Spafford said this is the unofficial kick-off to the 2021 budget season. He would like to work with Mayor Artino to set up a series of work sessions amongst Council members so that we can really include the overall policies, goals and objectives in the discussion with Council, and build that into the funding plan for 2021. A point we have often missed in previous budgetary discussions is the importance of that document in terms of funding the overall priorities of City Council and setting the direction of the City from the legislative body. As we finalize the tax budget itself, it is our internal cue to start working to put those meetings together so that we can meet our overall goal of having a Council adopted goals and objectives list, and we can review all of the capital improvement plans and projects that have been included in prior years' budget books. This year's budget discussion is going to be a little bit unique because of the nature of COVID-19, but would like to utilize June and July so internally staff would have the ability administratively to complete the full detailed budget for initial presentation to the Financial Committee in September.

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 motion. 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, the motion passed and the Public Hearing for the 2021 Tax Budget was set for June 23, 2020 at 6:30pm.

#### **Resolution 2020-37**

**Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 2020-37 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A LICENSE AGREEMENT AUTHORIZING SMITH PAVING AND EXCAVATING, INC. TO USE PERMANENT PARCEL NUMBER 42-61270.001 TO STAGE EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS FOR USE IN CONNECTION WITH THE US ROUTE 6 PAVING PROJECT NO. ERI-6-17.49) 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 Resolution 2020-37 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Spafford explained that this legislation officially authorizes Smith Paving and its subcontractors to use the southeastern quadrant of the former ConAgra property for the purpose of staging their project. We chose the site because of its proximity to the work site, and trying to minimize the amount of construction traffic already going through the community. The typical spot would be the City's landfill on S. Main Street. We wanted to avoid that to reduce the amount of traffic going through town. General construction materials and equipment would be placed there, and they will keep the ingress and egress areas clean so as

to not interfered with the recreational activities going on in the area. In response to Mr. Hagy's question, Mr. Spafford stated that there is no fee being charged. Mr. Tapp asked why the water tower lot isn't being used. Mr. Green said that the water tower was his first choice, but there is a County project going on there at the pump station, and he doesn't want to get into fighting with County for space. The only other option is the landfill, but we don't want a parade of equipment going through downtown every day.

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 2020-37. 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, Resolution 2020-37 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

**Motion by Mr. Hardy accepting Cottage Design's proposal for Jennifer Kilbury to develop and print the Huron City Manager recruitment brochure, and to work with the Interim City Manager to execute the agreement in his capacity as purchasing agent for the City of Huron.**

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 motion. 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, the motion passed.

#### **City Manager's Discussion**

Mr. Spafford provided an update regarding upgrades at Nickel Plate Beach. We have been awaiting the final resolutions and regulations from the State regarding opening procedures and operating procedures at beaches. We finally received those late Friday night. We discussed that as we have been targeting May 31<sup>st</sup> as our opening date, it gave us an opportunity to put all procedures in place. We are targeting getting all of our projects completed at the park by Friday evening, in anticipation of being able to open on June 1<sup>st</sup>. There is no guarantee, but that is our goal. He will keep Council updated with updates of the status. In addition, he highlighted that we tried to get communications out there better. As we progress through the week, he would like to highlight all of the safety improvements that have been made over the winter and spring as a result of the swim study. The main purpose of keeping the park closed was to prevent any kind of uncontrolled or unmitigated gathering space. Obviously, once the park is staff and we are able to mitigate and enforce social distancing and gathering requirements, we will be in a better position. All of our public records are now open, and we are bringing in the temporary restroom facilities we typically bring in at Nickel Plate Beach in anticipation of the park opening. Facilities are also being brought in at Fabens Park on Thursday. Baseball and softball programs can now continue, and we have several tournaments scheduled in June, and we will be adding a waiver requiring the tournament operators to enforce those regulations at the park. We will be keeping an eye on that as well. We will be adding a swing shift to the police department, primarily a person who is going to be devoted mostly to parks and recreation to keep an eye on things. It will add some additional manpower to the force as we get into summer activities. We will be using a part-time officer to keep costs in check, but still have the added benefit of additional help at Nickel Plate Beach. That officer will bolster the new red flag and warning procedures. That officer will be in charge of the Police Department's response to any red flag warning and weather system at Nickel Plate Beach. Mr. Tapp asked if the Huron Baseball and Softball Program has decided not to continue the league this year. Mr. Steinwart confirmed that they are not continuing the program, but there are other

tournaments still coming up later this year. Mr. Hardy asked about the fees from the program. Mr. Steinwart said that he is not 100% sure what they do. There were options such as make a donation, leave the money in there. He will add a link to the website. Mr. Steinwart will be refunding the fees paid to the City, except for their lease payment for rental of a shed at Fabens Park. We have been working with the Health Department regarding Responsible Restart Ohio to work together to be sure all of the tournament directors are going to follow all procedures. Mr. Claus asked for an update on the boat basin. Mr. Steinwart said there have been a lot of groups cancelling, including a lot of the affiliated groups. We still have some things going on, for example, a group of 20 might drop to a group of 6. The uptick is that seasonal dockage is up – we have all of our 24' filled, and we are working through our 20's. The hope is that the second half of the season through August will be positive transitive revenue for us. Right now, June and half of July, most of the groups have cancelled.

#### **Mayor's Discussion**

Mayor Artino said he had several phones calls this weekend. A couple were about Nickel Plate Beach being closed. Mr. Spafford has addressed that. Other calls relate to the sidewalk in front of Pied Piper to free that up. Mr. Spafford hasn't had a chance to touch base with Mr. Green. We will follow up first thing in the morning. Regarding sidewalks in front of Colonial Colony, Mr. Green said he is going out there tomorrow morning to meeting with the folks from the County Sanitary Department. They have a lift station that runs through that area, and there may be a possibility that has something to do with that section of sidewalk sinking. He believes the resident that called also complained of a sanitary sewer smell. As for the rest of the sidewalks, the owner was put on notice last year, and the owner responded after a couple back and forth that they were going to do something about it this spring. He will contact the owner to push that along.

#### **For the Good of the Order**

- Ms. Crawford – nothing.
- Mr. Claus – nothing.
- Mr. Tapp – nothing.
- Mr. Dike – nothing.
- Mr. Hardy – he has been working with Ms. Welkener on the Scott Cemetery Board on an audit for 2018/2019. It is pretty standard and was an issue a few years back, so we are on some type of a schedule with them. This is to fulfill those obligations.
- Mr. Hagy – thanks to Mike and the team for keeping us moving forward during the global pandemic.

#### **Executive Session**

The Mayor said there will be an executive session.

**Motion by Joel Hagy to enter into executive session for the purpose of consultation with legal counsel regarding a pending or imminent court action, and to invite Todd Schrader and Ron Yacobozzi, Gary Ebert and Mr. Spafford.**

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

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, the motion passed.

Council moved into executive session at 7:23pm.

**Return to Regular Session**

Council returned to regular session at 8:01pm.

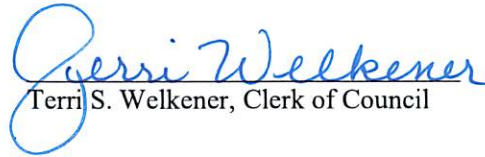
**Adjournment**

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

There being more than a majority voting in favor of the motion, the Mayor declared the meeting of May 26, 2020 adjourned at 8:02pm.

  
Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council

Adopted: 23 JUN 2020

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