

THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO
Proceedings of the Huron City Council
Regular Meeting Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Call to Order Public Hearing on the 2022 Annual Budget

The Mayor called the Public Hearing on the 2022 Annual Budget to order at 6:30pm on December 14, 2021 in Council Chambers 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 for Public Hearing

The Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll for Public Hearing. The following members of Council answered present: **William Biddlecombe, Mark Claus, Monty Tapp, Joe Dike, Matt Grieves, Joel Hagy**. The following member was absent: **Sam Artino**.

Swear in Witnesses

Mr. Schrader swore in all witnesses for the Public Hearing, which included William Biddlecombe, Mark Claus, Monty Tapp, Joe Dike, Matt Grieves, Joel Hagy and Cory Swaisgood.

Public Hearing on Approval of the 2022 Budget

Maryanne Geist – 214 Rose Avenue. Ms. Geist said that she doesn't have any objections to the budget, however, she has two concerns. She asked about the possibility of installing electric charging stations, and asked if anyone knows about the \$3.8 Million available in Ohio for grants. There is only 1 grant being awarded in Erie County (Elyria). The City would have until the end of January to fill out the form and she thinks Huron would qualify. She doesn't understand why Lorain County has 18 charging stations given to them for free. She thinks there are 2 spots for installation of charging stations, right across from Sawmill Creek and one next to Costa Azul. Those are two eyesores, and she doesn't know who owns the land and how the City could get the land. She thinks the City should apply because we could get maybe 5 in each location. What concerns the public is that you need an easy place to get in and out. The location across from Sawmill used to be a gas station, so there is an in and an out. The corner where McDonald's is located is not a good spot. She thinks that we are missing a great opportunity and all it would take would someone to fill out the application. Cedar Point does a great job of brining the business, but that is a great location. Getting on the highway, you have the one on the right side, and you have one on the outbound leaving Huron to Cedar Point. The only charging station is located across from Wendy's at the hotel, and in two years she wants to get an electric car so she is looking ahead for herself. She saw a story on Channel 19 News about how well Ohio is doing. There is not one charging station awarded through this program near Huron. One requirement is that the station has to be near some kind of a business.

Mr. Schrader interjected to ask Ms. Geist to reiterate that she received the oath. Mr. Schrader recommended to Council, while being very sensitive to all of the comments that were raised, he thinks we should consider continuing our public hearing on the budget and defer response until we get to the public comments where we can address all of these comments at that time. The purpose of our time here, right now, is specific and while it is close, he thinks there is another section of our meeting to address this issue.

Mayor Tapp asked if there was anyone else that would like to speak regarding the budget.

Mr. Swaisgood testified that he had a brief summary on the budget to present to Council and the public. The 2022 budget before Council for consideration this evening is for approval during this public hearing. The budget was sent to Council on November 30, 2021. In accordance with the Charter, the budget must be sent to Council prior to December 1st of every year and approved by Council by December 31st. The budget submitted to Council followed numerous Finance Committee meetings during the months of

October and November, where City staff presented the 2022 budget and Capital Improvement Plan. He thanked the Finance Committee members for their passion and dedication time during that process. He also thanked Mr. Lasko, Captain Nash, Captain Hohler, Chief Lippert, Steve Didelot, Doug Steinwart, Jason Gibboney, Erik Engle, Russ Critelli and Julie Ortega for their time and assistance during this process. He has said this before, but this City has very dedicated and passionate staff that he is proud to work with. They are great public servants that work very hard for the City, which was proven once again during this budget process.

General fund revenues are anticipated to remain or be above budgeted expenditures. The City's general fund reserve is expected to remain at the upper level, if not more than, the general fund reserve policy that was put in place about 3-4 years ago, which is about 25% of annual expenditures. The 2022 budget includes the addition of a new police officer, a parks maintenance worker, and the purchase of a new ambulance, as well as much-anticipated capital improvement projects such as Sawmill Parkway improvements and the fish cleaning station. When the Finance Committee recommends approval of the 2022 at this hearing, the Finance Committee removed one item for consideration included in the initial proposed budget, which was for the purchase of a new vehicle for the City's street department, that being a Vactor truck. That was removed from the budget and is being reviewed more in detail at the Finance Committee in 2022. The truck purchase may be added back to the budget at some time. The City currently uses a contractor for those services. Consideration was made to purchase a Vactor truck for the street department. With the timing of everything and the current street facility, the Finance Committee took it out of this year's budget, but it could be added back in at a later date. The Finance Committee made recommendations to the City staff and Council to consider review and increase of the permissive tax by May of 2022, and to move forward on a water rate study.

Mr. Lasko reiterated his thanks to department heads, staff, the Finance Committee and Councilmembers. It is a very thorough process that goes through cross-departmentally as part of the budgetary process. We provided a 2-3 page summary touching not only on multiple points that Mr. Swaisgood mentioned related to upcoming capital projects, capital equipment purchases, alterations to staffing plans for 2022, but also highlighting some of the new or increased revenue streams we are anticipating come 2022. These include everything from potential income tax increases to starting to see our first revenue from the Rye Beach TIF, which has now been formalized, and we are also hoping to see additional revenue coming from the Sawmill Creek Resort annexation and TIF. We are very excited to be in the position we are in, and while we are still cautiously optimistic, we are also feeling good and positive about the ability to make some pretty significant capital investments and also capital improvement purchases, as well as some additions to staffing in critical areas to ensure we remain the high level of services that is expected and desired throughout the community.

Mayor Tapp thanked Mr. Lasko and Mr. Swaisgood, who are doing a great job.

Motion

Motion by Mr. Claus to approve the 2022 Annual Budget as presented.

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

YEAS: Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed.

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe to adjourn the Public Hearing.

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

YEAS: Biddlecombe, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Hagy (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and the Public Hearing was adjourned at 6:44pm.

Call to Order of the Regular Meeting of Council

The Mayor called the regular meeting of Council to order at 6:44pm on December 14, 2021 in Council Chambers at Huron City Hall.

Roll Call for Regular Meeting

The Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll for regular meeting of Council at 6:44pm. The following members of Council answered present: **William Biddlecombe, Mark Claus, Monty Tapp, Joe Dike, Matt Grieves, Joel Hagy**. The following member was absent: **Sam Artino**.

Motion by Mr. Claus to excuse Mr. Artino from attendance at the meeting.

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

YEAS: Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe (6)
NAYS: None (0)

Staff participating in the meeting: City Manager Matt Lasko, Law Director Todd Schrader, Planning and Zoning Manager Erik Engle and Clerk of Council Terri Welkener.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. Dike to approve the minutes of the regular Council meetings of October 26, 2021 and November 9, 2021 as written.

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

YEAS: Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Claus, Tapp (1)
ABSTAIN: Biddlecombe (1)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, the motion was approved,

Audience Comments

The Mayor advised any audience members wishing to speak to approach the podium, state their name and address for the record, and they will have 3 minutes to address Council.

Ms. Geist reapproached the podium and said that she found the amount available for grants, which is \$3.25 Million given to Ohio by the EPA. Erie County got one \$15,000 grant and Lorain got 12 for over \$255,000. There are 26 counties represented in the awards list, and 48-50 of the grants are up for grabs. Mr. Claus asked if this is through Ohio EPA. Ms. Geist answered that she got all of the information from the Ohio EPA and Dinah Pierce has the phone number listed -614-644-2160. The money is there and is going to be wasted – why shouldn't we get some. Mr. Claus said that they could have staff look into that. Mr. Lasko said there are significant dollars available through the Ohio EPA (they had a funding round earlier this year) and additional funds are going to be available early next year, too. It generally covers close to 100% of installation costs. It is something that staff can take a look at, but he doesn't know if there is enough time to go through the formalized Utilities Committee, but relevant staff members can get together and discuss potential proposed locations, if it would make sense. Obviously, there are parking lots within the City we have to be cognizant of in terms of traffic control and use, but we can certainly look into it. Ms. Geist is absolutely right, there are significant resources involved. Ms. Geist said that there is a requirement that it has to be near a business and she is sure Sawmill Creek qualifies, and she is sure Costa Azul qualifies. Mr. Lasko said we are happy to involve our partners at the Township – the two areas Ms. Geist mentioned are within the Township proper, but we can look at it both from the Township location and also a City location, as well. Mayor Tapp said the staff would look into that.

Ms. Geist asked if she could ask another question. When properties are evaluated - perhaps she should address Mr. Swaisgood – does that mean taxes are going to go up. Mr. Swaisgood said that it depends on the levies that are affecting the property.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Resolution 84-2021

Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution 84-2021 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THE 2021-2025 FIXED VOLUME ENERGY SUPPLY SCHEDULE WITH AMERICAN MUNICIPAL POWER, INC. ("AMP")) 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, Biddlecombe, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves (6)

NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 84-2021 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko said there are multiple pieces of legislation on the agenda, and he will be deferring to Mr. Swaisgood to walk Council and the public through this legislation.

Mr. Swaisgood said that he would be addressing Resolutions 84-2021 and 87-2021 at this time, since they go hand-in-hand. Resolution 84-2021 is solely related to the purchase of power at a fixed rate for Mucci Farms. The City currently has a Master Agreement with American Municipal Power (AMP) to purchase at a fixed rate up to 61MW from AMP for Mucci Farms. Any power that is bought in excess of this 31MW is currently purchased on the market. With the addition of Phase 3 beginning in October, Mucci Farms will begin to exceed 31MW, and Mucci Farms is requesting the City to lock in a rate with AMP for an additional 6MW, and this is the agreement before Council today. This contract, if approved by Council, will allow

AMP to receive fixed rate quotes from power suppliers. The City will work with Mucci to choose a supplier and lock in a rate for an additional 6MW through 2025. Approval of this resolution does not mean that the City has to lock in a rate with AMP. This is solely to give Mucci an option to lock in that rate. If they want to stay on the market, they can, or they can ask us to lock in a rate from AMP. If approved, beginning tomorrow we can start receiving competitive rates from suppliers and send them off to Mucci Farms to determine if they would like the City to lock in a rate.

Resolution 87-2021 is similar to Resolution 84-2021. Upon acceptance, this will allow the City to lock in a rate with AMP for the rest of Huron Public Power (HPP). The reason for this additional need, which is only 0.1-0.4MW, is due to Firelands Scientific's recent and future expansion. The City wants to have an option to lock in any rates exceeding the current amount allotted. The financial impact to the City is net zero dollars. The City will pay for the power usage up front, and bill HPP's customers. The Electric Fund will account for these transactions. The benefit here is more of an economic development incentive to help out the commercial park and Mucci Farms to receive competitive rates through HPP and AMP.

Mr. Dike asked if Mucci Farms came to us a while back and said they are going to use 31MW, and now they are at that amount and are asking us to get more. Mr. Dike asked when they came to the City estimating 31MW. Mr. Swaisgood said, from his understanding, is that when they were estimating this 31MW was when they initially came onboard in 2018. That's why the 31MW was locked in back in 2019, when this contract started. Over time, with the purchase of more acreage and the load increasing, they are experiencing more than the 31MW. They are requesting an additional 6MW, which they were at first okay with purchasing on the market. With the rates starting to skyrocket, they want to secure those rates. Mr. Dike said they were good with purchasing it on their own.

Mr. Hagy said it is important to point out that what they did purchase was Phase 1 and Phase 2, and now that Phase 3 is online, they have been buying from the market and now want to see if we can get them a locked-in better rate deal. This is all due to their growth.

The Mayor asked if there were any further questions or discussion on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the final adoption of Resolution 84-2021. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Hagy, Biddlecombe, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 84-2021 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution 85-2021

Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution 85-2021 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO MAKE AN ANNUAL PREMIUM PAYMENT TO THE BUREAU OF WORKERS COMPENSATION FOR THE POLICY PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2022 THROUGH JANUARY 1, 2023 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FORTY THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-TWO AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$40,152.00)) be placed upon its first reading.

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

YEAS: Biddlecombe, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Hagy (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 85-2021 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko once again deferred to Mr. Swaisgood to walk Council through this legislation. Mr. Swaisgood said Resolution 85-2021 requests Council authorization to pay for the full BWC compensation premium for the City for the policy period of January 1, 2022 through January 1, 2023 for \$40,152. The City prefers to pay the full amount upfront rather than in monthly installments, because the City earns a 2% premium refund if the entire amount is paid before January 1st. If approved by Council, payment will be made before the end of the year. The premium is approximately 11% less than last year's annual premium, which was about \$45,000.

The Mayor asked if there were any further questions or discussion on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the final adoption of Resolution 85-2021. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Biddlecombe, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grievess, Hagy (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 85-2021 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution 87-2021

Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution 87-2021 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THE 2022-2028 ENERGY SUPPLY SCHEDULE WITH AMERICAN MUNICIPAL POWER, INC. ("AMP")) 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, Biddlecombe, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grievess (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 87-2021 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko said that he had nothing further, but would be willing to answer any additional questions.

The Mayor asked if there were any further questions or discussion on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the final adoption of Resolution 87-2021. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Hagy, Biddlecombe, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grievess (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 87-2021 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution 88-2021

Motion by Mr. Dike that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution 88-2021 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT FOR PRIVATE STORM WATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NORTH PORT SUBDIVISION) WITH LARRY THAXTON AND VALJEAN THAXTON RELATING TO THE DETENTION POND AREA OF NORTH PORT SUBDIVISION (PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 42-00666.039) be placed upon its first reading.

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

YEAS: Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Claus, Tapp (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 88-2021 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko explained that this in relation to the North Port Subdivision. It is very customary for any type of subdivision installation that there be stormwater control measures installed per the City's code and per the building code. In this instance, there is a detention pond on the north side of the road about halfway down the block. In certain instances, particularly after a control measure is installed, there is typically a maintenance agreement that is entered into between the City and, in most instances, the homeowners association or condominium association, to ensure proper maintenance of that stormwater control measure. That maintenance includes everything from semi-annual inspections to ensuring the detention pond is free of debris, etc. In this instance, there is no HOA; the detention pond is privately owned by the Thaxtons, who live next door. This resolution is seeking authority to enter into that maintenance agreement with the Thaxtons, which does a couple things: ensures that they inspect the detention basin twice a year, keep it mowed, keep it free of debris, and also allows the City, if necessary, to step in and do our own investigations, inspections. If we do need to correct something, the City will be able to bill the property owners. This is to ensure the long-term maintenance of that detention pond in North Port.

Mr. Claus asked if the property owner is responsible for the maintenance per the agreement. Mr. Lasko confirmed that the owners are responsible for inspections, to keep it mowed and free of debris. However, it does allow the City the right, with proper notice, to do our own inspections and to make necessary repairs of the owners aren't willing to.

The Mayor asked if there were any further questions or discussion on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the final adoption of Resolution 88-2021. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Claus, Tapp (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 88-2021 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Ordinance No. 2021-41

Motion by Mr. Claus that the three-reading rule be suspended and Ordinance 2021-41 (AN ORDINANCE MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 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 Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was suspended and Ordinance 2021-41 placed on its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Motion by Mr. Claus to place Ordinance 2021-41 as an emergency measure.

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

YEAS: Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, Ordinance 2021-41 was placed as an emergency measure.

Mr. Swaisgood said that these are the annual appropriations for 2022, as required to be set per Ohio Revised Code based on the budget that was approved through the public hearing.

The Mayor asked if there were any further questions or discussion on the motion. There being none, he directed the Clerk to call the roll on the final adoption of Ordinance 2021-41. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Ordinance 2021-41 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Ordinance No. 2021-45

Motion by Mr. Claus that the three-reading rule be suspended and Ordinance 2021-45 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2020-34, ADOPTED DECEMBER 8, 2020, TO PROVIDE FOR SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE GENERAL FUND AND OTHER FUNDING SOURCES, AN INCREASE IN ESTIMATED RESOURCES, AND 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 Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was suspended and Ordinance 2021-45 placed on its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Motion by Mr. Claus to place Ordinance 2021-45 as an emergency measure.

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

YEAS: Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, Ordinance 2021-45 was placed as an emergency measure.

Mr. Swaisgood explained that Ordinance 2021-45 is an appropriation measure and increase in estimated resources related to the 2021 budget. This is primarily to properly budget for and clean up the annual budgetary items for the rest of the year. There will most likely be one more, final appropriations measure at the last meeting in December. He noted that this appropriations measure includes increases to cash transfer budgets to accommodate for year-end cash transfers, as was discussed last night with the Finance Committee. These transfers are related to the payroll stabilization fund and the garbage fund. There also increases in appropriations to economic development activities, the Marine Patrol Grant, as we clean up the Marine Patrol Grant that is due to be reported on by the end of the year, building permits has been increasing every month, and to properly budget for the 27th pay of 2021, which need additional appropriations. With regard to the reduction in the transfer budget, you will see \$120,000 reduction related to the garbage fund. If you recall, with the 2021 budget, we had an appropriation in there for approximately \$195,000, but we were not sure how much to transfer into the new garbage fund from the general fund. As discussed last night at the Finance Committee meeting, we are going to need about \$75,000 to be transferred from the general fund to the garbage fund to get us through the end of the contract, which is June of 2022. Most of the supplemental appropriations are offset by an increase in estimated resources, such as the budget cash transfers and the building permits. The cash transfers on page 2 of the exhibit, the transfers out of the general fund to the garbage fund and the payroll stabilization funds, as well. There is also a transfer to the water payroll stabilization fund. That is the reason for the increases and the budget items on the exhibit.

The Mayor asked if there were any further questions or discussion on the motion. There being none, he directed the Clerk to call the roll on the final adoption of Ordinance 2021-45. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Ordinance 2021-45 was adopted. The Ordinance 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:

- Firelands Scientific – The City has received final plans from Firelands Scientific relating to a fairly substantial expansion at their facility in Huron Corporate Park. The site plan is going to be considered and reviewed at a Planning Commission meeting set for tomorrow. This is truly an exciting project, and we are appreciative of the company's willingness to expand its operations in the City. We look forward to that project moving forward.
- Buckeye Sports – Several weeks ago, we reported on the addition of Buckeye Sports to Lake Erie Parkway. We have received plans for the construction of their water marine craft facility on the

Parkway. This is another wonderful addition to the City and Corporate Park, and will result in the last remaining available parcel being developed. We are hoping to see that construction commence very soon.

- Ardagh – We do plan to introduce for Council’s consideration a Community Reinvestment Area tax abatement request from the company at our next meeting on December 28th. The company is seeking a 15-year tax abatement. However, he believes it is important to note that the company has verbally agreed to ensure that the abatement keeps Huron Schools and EHOVE whole in terms of the taxes they would otherwise have received without the abatement, which was very important for us in the negotiations on behalf of the school districts. We will have to memorialize keeping the schools whole through two separate compensation agreement, which would have to come to Council in addition to the CRA agreement. He noted that EHOVE has already approved their school compensation agreement, and he believes Huron Schools will be considering their compensation agreement at their next meeting on December 21st.
- ConAgra – At a previously Council meeting, the Council referred the rezoning application for the ConAgra property from General Industrial to Mixed Use – Granary District to the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission will be holding a public hearing on the potential rezoning tomorrow, December 15th. If approved, the matter will be referred to City Council for a public hearing, hopefully set for sometime in January. The City has entered into an agreement with KS & Associates the undertake an analysis of the revetment areas around the ConAgra peninsula that will result in (after divers at the site investigate the conditions of the revetment) a report that will detail the necessary reconstruction or repairs needed, along with an economic estimate. This is very important for our discussions and negotiations with NAI Harmon. We believe, based on an email we received today, that the diving will be occurring on Thursday and Friday this week, and we will be receiving a report by December 31st of this year. The City has made a request of both Huron Schools and EHOVE for the consideration, as well, of school compensation agreements related to the development as part of a larger tax increment financing package to aid in the financing of necessary infrastructure, which includes roadways, utilities and seawall restoration and reconstruction. These are absolutely critical requests in order for the public improvements to be undertaken and can be financed as part of the larger development. We are hoping these entities consider these school compensation agreements at their next scheduled board meetings in December and January, respectively, of the Huron Schools and EHOVE.
- Leaf Pickup – To date, crews have completed seven total trips throughout the City, which is a great number. Obviously, with delays in the leaves falling from the trees, as long as weather permits, crews are going to continue to make rounds throughout the City from east to west. It is anticipated that they will be able to make another two trips across the city, if possible.
- Street Lights – We are happy to report that the street lights that were inadvertently removed from the bridge have now been reinstalled. The City still anticipates having discussions with Ohio Edison come 2022 to ultimately replace those lamps with something more similar to what exists throughout the corridor. There are a few metal poles on the west side of the bridge that will also have to come down over the next couple of weeks.
- Route 6 Striping and Signage – All of the new signage has been installed, but there is still a flashing beacon that still needs to be installed right in front of the housing complex just west of Shawnee. There is a punch list walkthrough that is scheduled later one this month, and we anticipate presenting legislation to Council at the next meeting in December, formerly adopting the new traffic pattern and striping plan so that it can be enforced by our safety services.

- Route 6 Safety and User Guide – Staff is putting the finishing touches on a safety and user guide for Route 6. He noted that some Council members have provided some good feedback on that document, and he thanked Erik Engle and his team for putting that together. Once that is finalized, we are going to have several hundred copies of that printed for the public and will also have that available on social media and on our website.
- ODOT Marine Assistance Program Grant - In previous City Manager Reports, we mentioned that the City, in partnership with the Huron Joint Port Authority, made application to ODOT through their Marine Assistance Program, seeking funding for dredging within the river. We knew that it was a long shot given that we do not have a functioning port owned by the Port Authority. We received news from ODOT that the grant request was denied. However, the good news is that ODOT strongly encouraged the City and the Port Authority to make that application in hopes that we can open up discussions moving forward in future funding rounds for what was an ineligible project could potentially become eligible. We will continue those conversations with ODOT and the Port Authority moving forward.
- ODNR CMAG Program – Yesterday, the City submitted two applications to ODNR through the Coastal Management Assistance Grant Program for the installation of the walkway to the beach behind the water plan, and also a planning grant for the area between Lake Front Park and the northern terminus of Main Street. We are hoping to hear sometime next year as relates to the results of those grants, but we are truly appreciative of the work put to get everything submitted. Mr. Schrader was involved as well, and he would be remiss if he didn't mention his involvement.
- Ice Skating Rink. Mr. Lasko thanked Doug and his team for the nearly complete installation of the ice skating rink. It is weather-dependent to actually fill the rink, but we have it and are thankful to the philanthropic partners that have been involved. Crews have set it up and were able to troubleshoot anything they saw. We are hopeful that weather cooperates in the upcoming weeks to get that filled and tested. We are certainly looking forward to that amenity come January 1st and thereafter.
- Winter Fest. Mr. Lasko sent out a huge thank you to the Chamber of Commerce, all of the volunteers and city staff, particularly our Parks & Rec Department and our safety forces, for all of their efforts putting on a tremendous Winter Fest on December 4th. Feedback has been tremendous, and organizers are already thinking about ways to improve and expand the amenities for next year. It was a great event and a great job by everyone involved.
- Ohio Builds Program Grant Application – The City has submitted a \$5 Million grant application through the Ohio Builds Program, which would predominantly fund a new 2 million gallon water tower to be placed somewhere on the west side of town. Unfortunately, we were not awarded that \$5 Million grant. It was not all that shocking, as most of the projects that were funded were very labor-intensive waterline and sewer line projects. We will continue to work with our partners to look for ways to build what is a \$6 Million water tower somewhere on the west side of town to service our commercial customers. Overall, Erie County really struggled. Of the \$250 Million awarded through the program, Erie County only received about \$50,000. This area, unfortunately, very much underperformed in that grant application. We will continue to have those discussion to be able to try to finance that project in the future.
- Annual Report – We plan to reinstitute production of an Annual Report for the benefit of the community. We hope to publish this report in February, which is meant to provide the public with a summary of departmental outcomes and accomplishments for 2021, and also provide a snapshot of the City's financial position. We think it's really important to celebrate the accomplishments and hard work

of our departments and staff, while also increasing the avenues to increase communications with the public. We hope to have that available sometime in mid to late February.

- Garbage Contract – We had a recent meeting with the folks from Republic Services last week to start talking about the upcoming contract expiration in June of 2022. We are meeting with their personnel to start to lay out a calendar over the next couple of months. We are going to integrate the Utilities Committee, Finance Committee and Council as we progress, but we think it's important and prudent to start those conversations as early as January of next year.
- Upcoming Meetings – Planning Commission on December 15, 2021 at 5:00pm in Council Chambers; City offices will be closed for the Christmas holiday beginning at noon on Thursday, December 23rd, and will reopen on Monday, December 27th; City offices will also be closed for the New Year's holiday beginning at noon on Thursday, December 30th and reopening on Monday, January 3rd.

Mr. Hagy asked if the stormwater management applies to all parts of the city, including Grand Force Beach. Mr. Lasko answered that the City recently met with OHM Advisors about undertaking a stormwater management plan for the entirety of the City, which would include both private and public streets. What we are anticipating is probably breaking that into two phases, with the first phase being the investigation of our existing infrastructure to look at age, condition, etc. and will include some hydraulic modeling in terms of what they are able to hold and process, and the second phase would be to come up with a stormwater version of capital improvement plan, which will come with recommendations and costs for making improvements to the stormwater infrastructure within the City. We anticipate it being exhaustive in terms of what is accomplished, and also, all areas will be included. Mr. Tapp asked if the City would have to obtain easements from every property owner if the street is private. Mr. Lasko answered that anything that would have to be done from an improvement standpoint on private property, without questions if not already existing, would require an easement. Another way to accomplish this may be to make improvements in the public realm that may also benefit private properties. A license agreement could also be used for private property access. Mr. Schrader stated that he thinks it is important that we take a look at which properties are involved and see if there is already some type of easement there. In addition, sometimes you will find there may not be an easement recorded with the Recorder, but the easements may have been platted. There are a couple of alternatives that can be looked at. Mr. Claus asked if this information is needed just to do the study. Mr. Lasko answered that we do not.

Mr. Biddlecombe said that he had an inquiry from a resident regarding the double streetlights at the River Rd. intersection with US6. Mr. Lasko answered that there are 3 older, taller lamps that were previously there, and obviously do not match the new lamps in terms of scale and based. Those are City poles, so the City is going to retain, and ultimately remove, those 3 poles. We are trying to work with Ohio Edison to get the arms and heads moved onto the bridge. If you look at the light on the southwest corner of that intersection, there are actually 4 heads and arms, but the pole on the southwest corner is actually the arm and head mounted to a wood pole, and that is what we are trying to accomplish on the bridge as an interim step. We are going to remove those 3 larger poles and retain them in the hopes that we can reuse them elsewhere in the City.

Mr. Biddlecombe said that during Phase 2 of the US 6 Repaving Project, they replaced the poles for the traffic lights at the intersection of Main St. and US 6. If you are going southbound, you have a sign hanging down that says straight and a sign hanging down that says left turn. However, going northbound, you only have a sign hanging down that says straight and there is nothing for the left turn. Mr. Lasko said that they are happy to look into that. He said that we usually don't do the signs on wires, but there is obviously no room in the right-of-way to put signs. He will talk to Mr. Critelli about this matter.

Mayor's Discussion

Mayor Tapp thanked staff for all of their hard work as we come to the end of the year, as well as the Finance Committee and Mr. Engle in Zoning. He thanked Mr. Lasko on the Ardagh CRA, and it is a big deal that the schools were kept whole. He also thanked Ardagh for working with the City. He thanked everyone for giving him the opportunity to serve as Mayor. He thanked the previous Councilmembers and welcomed the new Councilmembers. There is a lot of good stuff going on in the City he hopes that we can continue that. Staff, Council and all the other departments are working well together. The Mayor expressed his condolences to the Laurel Cooley family - she was tragically taken away from us. She did a lot in the community and she will be dearly missed.

For the Good of the Order

- **Mr. Biddlecombe** – Mr. Biddlecombe expressed his condolences to the Cooley family. He thanked staff and the Winter Fest team. The River Fest Court definitely enjoyed the parade, and his nephews enjoyed all of the other activities going on that day. If you are looking for a last-minute gift idea for Christmas, he recommended the latest version of Huronopoly being offered by the Chamber of Commerce, which can be purchased at Lucky Stone. The net proceeds will be reinvested in the community. Huron High School games schedule: Boys basketball vs. Port Clinton on Saturday, December 18th, Girls basketball is on Friday, December 17th against Port Clinton and Monday, December 20th again St. Mary's, and bowling on Thursday, December 16th vs. Willard. Go Tigers!
- **Mr. Claus** – Congratulations to the Chambers of Commerce, the Parks and Recreation Department and staff for the Winter Fest program. It was great. There were a lot of people around town and the fireworks were wonderful. It was an improvement over last year, and he is sure it will improve next year. He thanked Mr. Swaisgood and his team, Mr. Lasko and the administration and department heads on the budget process. Being on the Finance Committee, he gets to experience that a little more first-hand and it's a really thorough process. Merry Christmas!
- **Mr. Dike** – Mr. Dike gave his condolences to the Cooley family. That was a very tragic and he is very sorry to see that happen. He thanked everyone for their efforts and he is looking forward to 2022.
- **Mr. Grieves** – Mr. Grieves expressed his condolences to the Cooley family. He thanked everyone who helped put together Winter Fest. He and his family got to enjoy that awesome experience with the fireworks and everything. He thanked everyone for their work on the budget – it took him forever just to read it and he imagines it took a lot more to put it together.
- **Mr. Hagy** – On behalf of the Finance Committee, Mr. Hagy thanked Mr. Swaisgood and the rest of staff – a lot of work did go into the budget. As a follow-up to the recent Utilities Committee, he wanted to point out that there is going to be a water rate study done early this year. He wanted to point out that (1) we haven't had a water rate increase since 2007, (2) if you look at our rate stacked up against all other surrounding communities, we are less than half of everybody else, (3) the EPA is looking hard at the fact that we are not increasing our water rates and it's almost a black mark because it could be an indication that we are not keeping up with our infrastructure, (4) we need to start accruing money for future large capital expenditures, and (5) everyone should keep in mind that if you look at your water bill and it's \$150 per quarter, the rate increase would only affect 1/3 of that – it's not 2% or 1% on that \$150, it's on \$50, which would be less than \$5 per quarter. Those are some things to keep in mind. He knows Winter Fest was a lot of fun, but it really drove a lot of commerce, as well. We do it for fun, but it also helps local businesses. Thank you to the staff and the Chamber of Commerce. He also expressed his condolences to the Cooley family. It is absolutely tragic and a very big loss for our community and our schools.

Executive Sessions

They Mayor said that there would be two (2) consecutive executive sessions and there will be action taken when Council returns to regular session.

Motion by Mr. Claus to enter into two (2) consecutive executive sessions for consideration of the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of public employees, and to invite Mr. Lasko, Mr. Schrader and Mr. Swaisgood.

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, Dike, Grievess, Hagy, Biddlecombe (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being at least five (5) votes in favor of the motion, Council entered into executive session at 7:30pm.

Return to Regular Session

Council returned to regular session at 7:58pm.

Resolution 86-2021

Motion by Mr. Claus that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution 86-2021 (A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT WITH ANDREA F. ROCCO FOR THE PROVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES AS PROSECUTING ATTORNEY FOR THE CITY OF HURON FOR A PERIOD OF ONE (1) YEAR) be placed upon its first reading.

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

YEAS: Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grievess, Hagy, Biddlecombe (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 86-2021 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko stated that the administration is seeking Council's consideration of a 1-year agreement with Ms. Andrea Rocco to handle City prosecutorial duties as relates to traffic violations, criminal misdemeanors, violations and also code and zoning prosecutions. Similar to our previous agreements, the compensation is \$25,000.00 annually, and also includes a 60-day contract termination clause in favor of the City if we want to make a transition out of the position. We are certainly looking forward to Mr. Rocco taking this position as we ramp up across all fronts everything from the criminal side of things to code and zoning.

Mr. Claus asked about the term of the contract. Mr. Lasko answered that the effective date of the contract will either be today or tomorrow, if approved by Council, and will continue for 1 year following the effective date. She would be officially sworn in tomorrow and be on the job immediately.

The Mayor asked if there were any further questions or discussion on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the final adoption of Resolution 86-2021. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grievess, Hagy, Biddlecombe (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 86-2021 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Adjournment

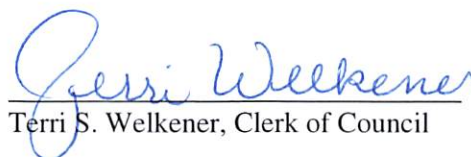
Motion by Mr. Hagy to adjourn the meeting.

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: Hagy, Biddlecombe, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves (6)

NAYS: None (0)

There being more than a majority voting in favor of the motion, the Mayor declared the meeting of December 14, 2021 adjourned at 8:01pm.


Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council

Adopted: 08 FEB 2022

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.