

THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO
Proceedings of the Huron City Council
Regular Meeting Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Call to Order

The Mayor called the meeting of the Huron City Council to order at 6:30pm on February 23, 2021 at Huron City Hall. The Mayor called for a moment of silence. After the moment of silence, the Mayor led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call

The Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll for the regular meeting of Council. The following members of Council answered present: **Christine Crawford, Mark Claus, Monty Tapp, Sam Artino, Joe Dike and Joel Hagy**. Member absent: **Trey Hardy**.

Motion by Ms. Crawford to excuse Mr. Hardy from 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: Crawford, Claus, Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hagy (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. Dike that the minutes of the joint work session with the Planning Commission and regular Council meeting of January 26, 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: Dike, Hagy, Crawford, Claus, Tapp, Artino (6)
NAYS: None (0)

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

Audience Comments

The Clerk said that she received an email addressed to Council from Mikalyn Wasco, 314 Elmwood Road regarding transient rental properties, which e-mail is included in the agenda packet and will also be incorporated into the minutes of this meeting (see e-mail attached hereto as Exhibit "A").

Commendation

Mr. Lasko read a commendation received from the Ohio Senate honoring the City of Huron (more specifically, its Parks and Recreation Department) for outstanding attainment on its Andrew L. Fabens Memorial Park receiving a 2021 Reader's Choice Award from the SportsEvents Media Group. (Applause). A copy of that commendation is attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit B".

Mr. Lasko thanked and congratulated Doug Steinwart, Rick Reinbolt, Brian Croucher, Dan Weaver (who were in attendance at the meeting) and Patricia Irvin for this well-deserved award.

Mr. Steinwart thanked his staff, including Dave Claxton, who takes pride in going out, there to Shannon Gonzales and everyone else who works part-time. None of this would be possible without our partnerships in the Joint Recreation District. The Township's commitment goes back 10-11 years.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Ordinance No. 2021-4

Motion by Mr. Claus that the three-reading rule be suspended and Ordinance 2021-4 (AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$1,500,000 OF BONDS, TO PAY COSTS OF IMPROVING THE MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC SYSTEM BY CONSTRUCTING A NEW SUBSTATION, TOGETHER WITH ALL NECESSARY APPURTENANCES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY) be placed upon its first reading.

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

YEAS: Claus, Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hagy, Crawford (6)

NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Ordinance 2021-4 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Motion by Mr. Claus that Ordinance 2021-4 be placed as an emergency measure.

The Mayor asked if there was any discussion on placing Ordinance 2021-4 as an emergency. 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, Dike, Hagy, Crawford (6)

NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, Ordinance 2021-4 was placed as an emergency measure.

Mr. Lasko deferred to Mr. Swaisgood to walk Council and the public through this ordinance, as well as the next two ordinances.

Mr. Swaisgood said Ordinance 2021-4 is before Council at the recommendation of Sudsina & Associates, our financial advisor. The ordinance will authorize paydown \$2.1 Million of substation notes, and for the issuance of revenue bonds in the amount of \$1.5 Million. Back in 2018, the City took out \$3.5 Million for the construction of the substation. That note has been rolled over in 2019 and 2020 with only interest payments being made during those years. Finalization of the AMP-T on the sale of transmission assets in the amount of \$2.3 Million, resulted in \$2.1 Million of funds that must be used to pay down any outstanding debt on the substation. After factoring in those proceeds and including the cost of issuance for the bonds, as well as 2021 interest on the current note payable at the end of March, the amount requested is \$1.5 Million to be taken out over a 20-year period in revenue bonds. This is expected to result in an annual debt service payment of approximately \$100,000/year. Bonding out the \$3.5 Million would result in approximately \$250,000 in debt service if we didn't make the \$2.1 Million paydown from the AMP-T

proceeds. The sale of those assets reduces our indirect debt limit capacity for the long-term and, at the request of Sudsina & Associates, this item is before Council for approval for the advisor to go out and receive 20-year bonds by the end of March.

The Mayor asked if there were any questions or discussion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the final adoption of Ordinance 2021-4. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Ordinance 2021-4 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Ordinance No. 2021-5

Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be suspended and Ordinance 2021-5 (AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AN INVESTMENT POLICY FOR THE CITY OF HURON AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY) be placed upon its first reading.

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

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

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Ordinance 2021-5 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Motion by Mr. Hagy that Ordinance 2021-5 be placed as an emergency measure.

The Mayor asked if there was any discussion on placing Ordinance 2021-5 as an emergency. 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 (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, Ordinance 2021-5 was placed as an emergency measure.

Mr. Swaisgood said that he would be addressing both Ordinance 2021-5 and Ordinance 2021-6, since they are both policy-related. Ordinance 2021-5 sets an investment policy to formally document procedures and investment strategies for investing government funds. This policy must, by law, be adopted by Council. The last time the investment policy was updated and presented to Council for approval for the City of Huron was 1997. This policy modernizes the investment strategy for the City and includes more recent references to Ohio Revised Code sections and eligible depositories, which includes STAR Ohio. The Finance Committee and this policy will be designated as the Investment Advisory Committee, so he will be providing and reviewing investment strategies with the Finance Committee on an ongoing basis. The policy requires annual review, but the review can be done on an "as needed" basis if necessary.

Ordinance 2021-6 sets a Cash Handling Policy for the City. The primary reasons for this policy is to formalize the cash handling policy around the City, and is a best practices from the Government Finance Officers Association, and also includes a petty cash amount policy. The Finance Department is the only department that currently has a petty cash amount, but there are also cash drawers in the Finance

Department, the Courts and the Parks and Recreation Department. This formalizes those dollar amounts, which hasn't been done in the past, and keeps everyone on the same page with consistent practice. Both policies were recommended for approval by the Finance Committee. The Mayor asked if Mr. Sudsina and his group would still be involved in the investments. Mr. Swaisgood said our investment advisor is UBS. There is also a debt management policy we are working on with Sudsina & Associates that will be finalized at the Finance Committee and then come before Council sometime this year.

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 Ordinance 2021-5. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Ordinance 2021-5 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Ordinance No. 2021-6

Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be suspended and Ordinance 2021-6 (AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A CITY-WIDE CASH HANDLING POLICY FOR THE CITY OF HURON AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY) be placed upon its first reading.

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

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

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Ordinance 2021-6 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Motion by Mr. Hagy that Ordinance 2021-6 be placed as an emergency measure.

The Mayor asked if there was any discussion on placing Ordinance 2021-6 as an emergency. 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 (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, Ordinance 2021-6 was placed as an emergency measure.

The Mayor asked if there was any further discussion on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the final adoption of Ordinance 2021-6. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Ordinance 2021-6 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 11-2021

Motion by Ms. Crawford that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 11-2021 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO GRANTING A LICENSE FOR THE HURON BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL PROGRAM, INC. TO UTILIZE ANDREW L. FABENS MEMORIAL PARK BASEBALL FIELDS AND CONCESSION STAND) be placed upon its first reading.

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

YEAS: Crawford, Claus, Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hagy (6)

NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 11-2021 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko asked Mr. Steinwart to walk Council and the public through this resolution. Mr. Steinwart said this is our annual contract with Huron Baseball and Softball Program, Inc. The only change from last year is they requested a 2-week earlier start, from April 15th to March 29th, which is not a problem, weather permitting. Council adopted a similar agreement last year, but due to COVID-related regulations, they were unable to have their season. We are excited to see them back on the fields – they will be using 7 fields and the concession stand.

Mr. Dike said the have the fields until dark Monday through Friday. He remembers one citizen making mention that the tournament schedule says Friday through Sunday – will there be any conflicts when they are setting up for the tournaments on Friday? Mr. Steinwart said they will be aware of the tournament schedule (a copy of that schedule is attached to the Agreement), so there shouldn't be a problem with communication during the season. Mr. Croucher lets them know that a tournament is coming up. Mr. Dike said he has children that participate in the baseball program, and he has also had children that participate in tournaments, and the one thing he would want to see as a goal is for the individuals that come in from out of town and use our amenities, that we gain a little revenue from them to offset the costs to the Huron Baseball Parks and Rec. In looking at the daily use of what they pay, he thinks it is very low versus other things, and he thinks we are overreaching for the baseball program. He would like to see something in the future to where we are helping alleviate those costs by charging these tournaments that come in. If you look at what they are charging versus what we are charging them per day to rent based on how many fields they are getting. They are charging for parking – they are making a lot of money out of that beautify facility that we put a lot of hard work and tax dollars into. He would like to see something where we can help our own and offset those costs – let the Huron Baseball Program make a few extra bucks and maybe do something and have nicer things for the citizens of Huron and the Township. Mr. Steinwart said we are all about that. There is a tournament rental fee set for outside organizations that come in of \$950/day. We have raised that bar every year, and once again this year. You can see in the contract that it's a portion of the Health Department permit, it is the use of 12-months for storage, some electricity – to Mr. Dike's point, \$3,000 is a low cost for those exclusive rights for those 4 months from the outside. Sometimes we want to try to bring in people to the community for our local businesses, so it has an economic impact. It's just finding that fine line where it's fair for everybody. Mr. Tapp asked if it looks like we are going to have a baseball program this year. Mr. Steinwart said that they are confident that they are going to follow through – Mr. Croucher has met with their President and they are moving forward and ready to go. There will still be guidelines to work within, and if those guidelines are changed, they will be ready to adjust as they did last 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 11-2021. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Crawford, Claus, Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hagy (6)

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 11-2021 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 12-2021

Motion by Mr. Tapp that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 12-2021 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH CITY ARCHITECTURE TO REVIEW, ADVANCE AND OVERLAY RECENT PLANNING INITIATIVES FOR THE CITY OF HURON IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$25,000.00)) be placed upon its first reading.

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

YEAS: Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hagy, Crawford, Claus (6)

NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 12-2021 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko said he provided a foreshadowing of this proposal at the last meeting. Over the last couple of meetings there has been discussion about staff, stakeholders and Council getting together and talking about priority initiatives for the next couple of years. What we have before Council for consideration is a 2-3 month process that would be facilitated by City Architecture. Most of you are familiar with this company, as they were the facilitator of the Vision 2020 Plan. We are proposing a 2-3 month process that will engage staff, Council and certain stakeholders that we feel are relevant, as well as OHM Advisors, in a process in which we would first have a work session to identify broad goals and ideas for the community. After those goals are set and there is consensus, we would work through several work sessions we would identify concrete projects and initiatives to undertake over the next 3-5 years. This is viewed as a master plan update of the Vision 2020 Plan in conjunction with the economic development plan that was facilitated by ECEDC in 2020. We also want to make sure that there is collaboration with Mr. Swaisgood and his team to make we are putting forth projects that have a clearly defined financing strategy. The proposal is for \$25,000 out of the Economic Development Fund. Alex Pesta and his team from City Architecture was available via video conference at the meeting.

Alex Pesta of City Architecture thanked Mr. Lasko and his team for the opportunity and introduced Michelle Bandy-Zalatores from his team. Mr. Pesta said it is always a pleasure to come back and be able to engage with communities that they have worked with in the past. Huron holds a special place in his heart – they started the Master Plan and ConAgra was imploded three months after his son was born. It is humbling to have the opportunity to come back and work with this group and make sure that the new focus areas are consistent with the work that was done before. Ms. Bandy-Zalatores thanked everyone for the opportunity to be back – thanks to Mr. Lasko for reaching out to them and said it's great to be able to come back into communities where they have done work and do their part to help that work progress and see new levels of implementation. We are delighted to have this opportunity.

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 12-2021. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hagy, Crawford, Claus (6)

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 12-2021 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 13-2021

Motion by Mr. Dike that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 13-2021 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT A ROADWORK DEVELOPMENT (629) FUNDS APPLICATION TO JOBSOHIO FOR POTENTIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TOWARD THE SAWMILL PARKWAY PROJECT; AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT SAID AWARD AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH JOBSOHIO UPON AWARD) 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, 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 Resolution 13-2021 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko said that he would address Resolutions 13-2021 and 14-2021 collaboratively. As has been well documented over recent meetings, the City with Council's blessing is moving forward with full reconstruction of the Sawmill Parkway corridor, which we know is an approximately \$3.5 Million project. The City has an award from OPWC for \$412,500 and we have also successfully made reapplication to EDA as of last Friday for a portion of that project. What these two resolutions look to do is to apply to potential State funders as we continue to turn over every stone to lessen our local match on this project. Resolution 13 -2021 requests permission to apply to JobsOhio through their Roadwork Development 629 Program. Resolution 14-2021 requests permission to apply to ODOT Jobs and Commerce. We have had several conversations with both JobsOhio and ODOT Jobs and Commerce, and they gave us confidence to make application for these funds. We look to make an application and hopefully have word on what the potential award would be in the upcoming weeks.

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 13-2021. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Dike, Hagy, Crawford, Claus, Tapp, Artino (6)

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 13-2021 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 14-2021

Motion by Mr. Dike that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 14-2021 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT A JOBS & COMMERCE GRANT APPLICATION TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ODOT) FOR POTENTIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TOWARD THE SAWMILL PARKWAY PROJECT; AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT SAID AWARD AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH ODOT UPON AWARD) 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, 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 Resolution 14-2021 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

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 14-2021. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 14-2021 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Set Public Hearing

Motion by Mr. Claus to set the public hearing on amendment of Chapter 1369 – Transient Rental Property ordinance for March 23, 2021 at 6:30pm.

Mr. Schrader said this is not a hearing that is required by ordinance; it is being done gratuitously as the Mayor, this Council and the administration has said from the outset that before the transient rental legislation is adopted, there would be a public hearing to garner the input of the general public prior to passage of the ordinance. It is gratuitous and not required by ordinance. We are trying to determine the precise location of the public hearing. It would be helpful for those that are watching or listening if you can kindly contact Terri Welkener, our Council Clerk, to advise of your attendance. It is not a requirement – if you don't call Terri, you can still attend the public hearing and speak – we are just trying to get an idea of the number of citizens that wish to attend and speak to determine the location, which remains somewhat undetermined. That location will be posted on the website and on Facebook once we have determined the location.

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

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

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and a public hearing on Chapter 1369 – Transient Rental Property was set for March 23, 2021 at 6:30pm.

City Manager's Discussion

Mr. Lasko spoke on several topics:

- Follow Up to Route 6 Phase 2 Work Session. There was a general consensus to move forward with entering into a contract with OHM Advisors to begin the traffic study for Phase 2. It struck us after the meeting that we discussed the cost being just over \$15,000 and that we would bring legislation before Council at the next meeting, but we have since realized that it fell below the \$25,000 threshold and we did execute the contract to cut down the timeline. OHM has already started that process.
- US-6 Striping. The winters storms have done quite a bit of damage to the temporary striping along Route 6. There are several areas where it is starting to fade. Understanding that we are not going to make a final determination until sometime in the summer, we have already begun discussion with Mr. Critelli and his team at OHM about coming in sometime when the weather breaks, more likely around April, to do a restriping of parts of Route 6. That has been noticed, and we will take care of that when the weather breaks.
- Safety Committee. At the last meeting, as it relates to the school radar signs, we got some feedback from residents that have streets that bisect in the middle of the school zones that they don't know if the signals are activated. Mr. Green did some great research and found out that you can buy sets of beacons for the back side of each sign so that if you do pull out in the middle of the two zones in a school zone you will know that the school zone radar signs are on. Those are \$600 each, so we are going to purchase those and install them when the two new sets of signs are installed.
- Sawmill Parkway. We successfully reapplied for EDA funding on Friday and are hoping to know in the next couple of weeks what the result is. Mr. Lasko expressed his gratitude to Mr. Spafford and Mr. Green for all of their help. We also had outside assistance from Stephanie Mercado and Abbey Beamis, who were instrumental in pulling narrative for that application. Thank you to everyone for their help on that application.
- Parks and Recreation – Transient Marina. The City entered into a 1-year agreement with Dockwa. For those that are familiar, we will use Dockwa to try to reach new transient dockers at the Huron Boat Basin. It is a very similar application to Snag a Slip. It is a marketing software connecting boaters to marina slips in real time. The Huron Boat Basin will use Dockwa to fill slips and let marina workers take dockage requests online, as well as collect dockage payment, to hopefully build the customer base. We will review the results of that partnership after 1 year.
- Reminder Regarding Water Bill Moratorium. The moratorium on water shutoffs expires on March 31st unless action is taken by Council to extend that deadline. As of today, there are 239 delinquent accounts and \$41,000 in outstanding bills. This is 90 more delinquent accounts than we had at that time in 2020. We sent out second notices, so we expect that number to drop significantly. So Council is more informed with real time information, we will provide an update of that number 2 weeks from now at the next meeting to see if it warrants an extension. Mr. Lasko expects those numbers to be significantly better, but wants Council to be informed in terms of understanding if there should be an extension of that deadline.
- Finance Department. Finance staff is planning to generate monthly financial reports for the Finance Committee and Council, beginning with the February financials. Everyone should get an email link to the report in mid-March. The monthly report will be created through OpenGov. Please let Cory know if you would like to see any specific financial data on a recurring basis, and we can include that in the monthly reports starting in March.
- Archive Social. One of the things we are changing internally as relates to transparency and public records, is the ongoing struggle municipalities and public bodies are struggling with relating to social media, such as our Facebook page – those are public records, as well, and we need to find a way to document and archive those. To further those efforts, the City has contracted with Archive Social, which is one of the foremost entities as it relates to public records on social media. They will archive our social media accounts and our website activity. As I mentioned, these are public

records and we must be prepared to respond to any records that are requested as relates to those types of mediums.

Mayor's Discussion

Mayor Artino thanked Mr. Steinwart and his staff, and asked him to pass on our gratitude and congratulations.

For the Good of the Order

- **Ms. Crawford** – Reiterated what everyone else has said, and Don Ritzenthaler is smiling down and would be very proud of what Parks is accomplishing – congratulations.
- **Mr. Claus** – Congratulated Doug, his staff and the entire Parks and Recreation Department for their great award and commendation and the great job they do. He thanked staff, the administration, the law department and everyone else involved in the transient rental ordinance revisions and changes, and he thinks we are very close and will be glad when that is concluded. He thanked the Streets Department for all of snow plowing with the weather we have had in the last couple of weeks. We got some relief today with some melting that hopefully helps us out a little bit. Thanks to the Water Department with their hard work with waterline breaks. They jumped on things and let us know quickly about those breaks so if we get a call, we are right on top of things.
- **Mr. Tapp** – Thanked Doug and the Parks Department – it's a pretty big award. Kudos to all the departments, especially with the snow storm. Thanks to Mr. Lasko and staff for keeping them updated on everything.
- **Mr. Hagy** – Nothing.
- **Mr. Dike** – It was awesome to see that award. We have some wonderful amenities we can offer to the citizens. He truly appreciates it, and his kids appreciate it. Congratulations to everybody and their hard work with all of the snowstorms – it was a real pain. We should be prepared for the summer, because he thinks people are ready to get outside, he knows he is. Thanks again, everybody, and have a great week.

Executive Session

None.

Adjournment

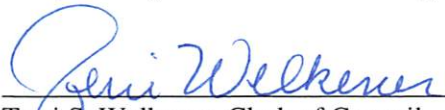
Motion by Ms. Crawford to adjourn the meeting.

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

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

There being more than a majority voting in favor of the motion, the Mayor declared the meeting of February 23, 2021 adjourned at 7:13pm.

Adopted: 09 MAR 2021


Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council

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.

EXHIBIT "A"

Terri Welkener

From: mikalyn.wasco@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, February 8, 2021 6:55 AM
To: jzimmerman@hurontwp.org; terri.welkener@huron.us; Terri Welkener; Mike Spafford
Subject: Commercial lodging businesses operating in R-1 residential zoned property/neighborhoods

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good morning,

The transient rental issue in Huron continues to plague us and shows zero signs of improving. What is the city doing to protect ALL residents and property owners who are complying with zoning regulations and living in single family, R-1 dwellings within residential zoned neighborhoods? Our residential communities are overrun with commercial lodging businesses. What is in place to prevent more commercial businesses from operating within R-1 zoned single-family neighborhoods? How can the city discriminate and allow commercial lodging businesses operate in R-1 zoned properties but not other commercial businesses?

The city, this government, have a responsibility to the citizens of Huron to rectify and remedy this situation promptly. The past three years have driven families away from the city (including their income tax revenue) due to unaffordable housing in addition to living next door to party houses all year long with new neighbors each week. The few dollars made today are already costing more when considering the declining quality of life for Huron's regular residents, the exit of regular residents (impacting revenue) added on top of the costs we'll face in an economic downturn. Huron residents' property taxes have all increased as well due to the unsustainable real estate prices driven by commercial lodging businesses buying all real estate within the average first-time home buyers budget. All economic indicators point to a decline (most likely within the next 24 months) in the economy – what is the city's plans when investors pull out and leave us with declining real estate prices and no regular year-round residents willing to live in Huron... a repeat of the 70s and 80s. You are just welcoming Huron's decline with open arms.

I found an article on the Economic Policy Institute's website (epi.org) which discusses both the costs and benefits of Airbnb. In the end, are the costs really worth the benefits?

[The economic costs and benefits of Airbnb: No reason for local policymakers to let Airbnb bypass tax or regulatory obligations | Economic Policy Institute \(epi.org\)](#)

These homes invite party houses, drugs, human trafficking, and other criminal acts all within our once quiet, single family residential neighborhoods. Now empty lots are being purchased for the sole purpose of building MORE transient rentals in R-1 zoned neighborhoods. I sold my home in July 2020 and decided to leave the city after 30 years due to these rentals. My mom's property (I am co-trustee) in Rye Beach is now my main concern as her quality of life continues to diminish as she is surrounded by commercial lodging businesses on a tiny one-way street with zero parking. On Friday there was an incident at her neighbors on 47 Oakwood where a guest at the commercial lodging property of 43 Oakwood parked their vehicle in their driveway without permission and when the police were called they advised there wasn't anything they could do and would not tow the vehicle. They finally agreed to try and reach the vehicle owner and the car eventually moved but it was back in their driveway by 7 AM the next morning (again without permission).

The city's inaction on this subject has pushed many residents into a corner and, quite frankly, considering what our own legal options are to protect our own investment in our R-1 single-family properties which are no longer in truly residential neighborhoods.

I can appreciate if members of our local government; including council; have a vested interest in these properties but those interests should never supersede your duty to the city and it's residents. Bottom line, these commercial lodging businesses are illegally operating in residentially zoned properties. You have a duty to rectify and remedy this situation.

Regards,

Mikalyn Wasco
314 Elmwood Rd
419-433-5554

Sent from Mail for Windows 10



HONORING THE CITY OF HURON
FOR OUTSTANDING ATTAINMENT

On behalf of the members of the Senate of the 134th General Assembly of Ohio, we are pleased to congratulate the City of Huron on its Andrew L. Fabens Memorial Park receiving a 2021 Reader's Choice Award from the SportsEvents Media Group.

This prestigious distinction is a fitting tribute to the City of Huron, for this fine community has worked diligently to provide its population with outstanding recreational facilities. Among its amenities, the Andrew L. Fabens Memorial Park includes baseball/softball fields, batting cages, a playground, shelter houses, and nature and biking trails, and it has maintained a reputation as a competition sports destination that has drawn many visitors to the Huron area. As a result, it placed third in the all-star outdoor sports venues category of the 2021 Reader's Choice Awards, sponsored by the SportsEvents Media Group, and this accomplishment is a justifiable source of pride and an excellent reflection not only on the athletic complex, but also on the city as well as its people.

America is only as strong as her individual communities, which are unique and which make a significant contribution to the culture of our state and nation. Throughout its history, the City of Huron has become known for its population's cooperation, integrity, and willingness to work hard, and its citizens have certainly continued their exemplary efforts to make the area a pleasant and friendly place in which to live and work. We look with optimism to a promising and bright future.

Thus, with sincere pleasure, we commend the City of Huron on its recent accolade and extend best wishes for ongoing success.



Matt Huffman

Senator Matt Huffman
President of the Ohio Senate

Theresa Gavarone

Senator Theresa Gavarone
2nd Senatorial District