

THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO
Proceedings of the Huron City Council
Regular Meeting Tuesday, February 9, 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 9, 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, Trey Hardy and Joel Hagy.**

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

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. Dike that the minutes of the regular Council meeting of January 12, 2021 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, Hardy, Hagy, Crawford, Claus, Tapp, Artino (7)
NAYS: None (0)

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

Audience Comments

None.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Resolution No. 8-2021

Motion by Ms. Crawford that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 8-2021 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH A&E SAFETY, INC. FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO (2) RADARSIGN SCHOOL ZONE FLASHING BEACONS SAFETY SYSTEMS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED TWENTY-EIGHT THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY-EIGHT AND 50/100 DOLLARS (\$28,558.50)) be placed upon its first reading.

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

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

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 8-2021 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko said that in an effort to update the City's signage infrastructure, and in partnership with the Huron City Schools, we are recommending acquisition and installation of two (2) additional sets of radar signs at Huron High School and at McCormick Junior High. These signs are similar to those installed in front of Shawnee on Cleveland Road. We did take this before the Safety Committee and they are in full support of the project. The City did budget just over \$33,000 in the 2021 budget for the acquisition and installation. Based on the estimates included in the agenda packet, that purchase would be for \$28,558.50, roughly \$5,000 below the budgeted amount. Mr. Green said that he discussed the purchase with the schools, and they are in support.

Mr. Hagy asked if the City is bearing the entire cost of this purchase. Mr. Lasko said that is correct. Mr. Claus asked about getting lights on the back sides of those signs. Mr. Green said that he would contact the company to get more information. Mr. Claus said when you come out of the side streets by Shawnee, you can't see if it is flashing if you are in between the signs. The old signs had lights on both sides. In response to a question from Mr. Tapp, Mr. Lasko said that this is the purchase of new signs to replace the existing signs.

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 8-2021. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 8-2021 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 9-2021

Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 9-2021 (A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION 2020-3, ADOPTED JANUARY 28, 2020, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FROM KIRK BROTHERS CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR LABOR AND MATERIALS RELATED TO THE HURON WATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT IN AN INCREASED AMOUNT OF FOUR THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED FORTY-THREE AND 14/100 DOLLARS (\$4,943.14)) 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 9-2021 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko deferred to Mr. Gibboney. Mr. Gibboney explained that as they get ready to close out this project, they were unable to avoid all change orders. This change order involves the addition of some controls on the sludge mechanisms (addition of torque switches). There was a need to install hand off auto switches in the event technology fails them. The engineers for the project, Poggemeyer, came in well below anticipated

hours of observation, so at a later time as we close this project out, we are expecting a savings well above this \$5,000 change order. This project should come in under budget at completion.

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 9-2021. 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 9-2021 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 10-2021

Motion by Mr. Claus that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 10-2021 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT AN ADDITIONAL EDA CARES ACT RECOVERY ASSISTANCE GRANT APPLICATION TO THE U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION FOR POTENTIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TOWARD THE SAWMILL PARKWAY PROJECT; AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT SAID GRANT AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE EDA 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: Claus, Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hardy, Hagy, Crawford (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 10-2021 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko said this legislation is similar to that approved by Council last fall for an application to the EDA for a \$2 Million grant for the Sawmill Parkway reconstruction. More information has come out publicly as relates to the investments that Ardagh is making at the end of the Parkway. That, coupled with some recent conversations with EDA as relates to their strong encouragement for the City to reapply and the fact that they are still sitting on additional funding that was not disbursed, they strongly encouraged the City to make reapplication for full reconstruction. This request, similarly, would be a \$2 Million grant request. Coupled with the OPWC commitment of \$412,500, that would reduce the City's match to just under \$1 Million. Mr. Lasko stressed to Council that staff is also in conversations with ODOT Jobs & Commerce and JobsOhio for additional funds to reduce the City's local match.

Asked by Ms. Crawford how soon the award would be made, Mr. Lasko said that the feedback they have gotten, they are hoping to make application by this Friday (if not, early next week) and although they haven't promised anything, they said they could get back to us as early as late February.

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 10-2021. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 10-2021 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Ordinance No. 2021-3

Motion by Mr. Hardy that the three-reading rule be suspended and Ordinance 2021-3 (AN ORDINANCE TO REVISE THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES BY ADOPTING CURRENT REPLACEMENT PAGES; 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 Ordinance 2021-3 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Motion by Mr. Hardy that Ordinance 2021-3 be placed as an emergency measure.

The Mayor asked if there was any discussion on placing Ordinance 2021-3 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: Hardy, Hagy, Crawford, Claus, Tapp, Artino, Dike (7)

NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, Ordinance 2021-3 was placed as an emergency measure.

Mr. Lasko said this legislation seeks authorization to move forward with replacement pages of the City's codified ordinances based on action that has been taken here on the local level, and also updating codified ordinances for any changes to the State code (specifically, the general offenses code and traffic code).

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 2021-3. 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, Ordinance 2021-3 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:

- Water Department. Kudos to Mr. Gibboney and his team for the ice event we went through late last week. The City went through something similar 2 years ago, so they were much better prepared late last week.
- Streets Department. Thanks to Mr. Didelot in the Streets Department for the snow event early last week. We got a lot of good feedback from residents throughout the City. Thank you to everyone – there were a lot of long days involved.
- Sawmill Parkway. We got authorization this evening to make application to EDA for the \$2 Million grant, but we also have had ongoing conversations with ODOT Jobs & Commerce and JobsOhio.

We have submitted emails of interest in terms of making funding requests to those two entities. We are hoping to receive feedback later on this week or early next week. If those are positive, they will ask us to make formal application for funding through both of those entities. If that is the case, we will come back to Council for permission to apply for that funding.

- Firelands Scientific Dispensary. The Design Review Board approved their package and signage for the dispensary construction, which has commenced. They are hoping to be complete by summer of this year.
- Ardagh Group. Their initial site plans have been submitted. They are going to start with a \$25,000 addition in the front of the building before they approach the City with a larger potential project. The initial approvals have been provided for the small addition to the building. We are excited to have ground broken on that project.
- City Architecture. We have been looking at the idea of going through an exercise with Council and staff to look at priorities amongst the bodies and the public. With that feedback, one of the things want to put forth before Council is the possibility of engaging City Architecture, who most may be familiar with facilitating the City's Vision 2020 Plan. The thought is we engage City Architecture for about 2 months, which would involve a couple of work sessions with Council, staff and the potential for some external stakeholders we can agree upon. They would lay out high level priorities for development – that can be private development, public realm improvements, or programming. They would lay out those 8-10 priorities that we really want to tackle in the next 3-5 years versus taking a step away and doing a long, drawn out master plan. We have engaged City Architecture to prepare a proposal for us to review. At the end, we will have a document that lists out those priorities and some visual representation of those priorities. This is a thought process we had to engage those stakeholders and Council in moving forward to develop that list of priorities. There will also be a report regarding the Vision 2020 Plan of what has been done, what is partially done, what hasn't been done, and also the economic development plan that the City and staff have a lot of time involved in from 2020, but was never formally adopted. There is some anxiousness to get going on some projects, but we want to make sure that we are working in unison and have consensus on what those projects are. These priorities will include the entirety of the City.
- Transient Rentals. Based on the work session and the last Council meeting, the working group has commenced meeting again. We met last Friday and are committed to meeting this Friday and possibly next Friday, if necessary. The work session of February 23rd will be used to review the revised legislation for consideration.
- Transmission Assets Sale. The transmission assets sale transaction has closed. He offered a big thank you to Mr. Spafford and Mr. Swaisgood and all Council members that were involved in this very complicated transaction. Those funds have been deposited into the City accounts. We have learned, and as was brought up at the Finance Committee meeting last night, that those funds must be applied toward repayment of the debt of the substation.
- Mucci Farms Power Supply. Staff is working with AMP to finalize a new 3-year power supply purchase for Mucci's load. The power market continues to stay very low and affordable, and it's a good opportunity for us to be able to reduce Mucci's costs and potentially the costs of several other customers. The likely rate from AMP is expected to be lower than what originally acquired in 2018. This is just the energy portion of the rate, and not Huron Public Power's distribution charge added on top.
- Income Tax. January income tax collections were up \$10,000, which is a 5% bump compared to 2020. This is a really good sign as we head into 2021.
- Personnel Updates. We have closed the application process for the Planning and Zoning Manager. We are in the process of setting up interviews for that position. Mr. Gibboney has started his process for interviewing for the water filtration plant full-time position as it moves to 24/7 operations.
- Doug Green, City Engineer. We have been notified by Mr. Green that after 10 years of being with OHM and the City's community representative, he will be leaving us at the end of the month. He

has been a huge member to the team and Huron. We are going to miss him, and certainly wish him well during the transition. Thank you, Doug, for everything.

Mr. Dike asked if we can look at Huron street and the crosswalk between St. Peter's School and Valley Ford. Cars have the tendency to pull there and only look to the east and continue to go, and there was a tragic accident there years ago. He wants to see if there are any opportunities for a flashing crosswalk sign like the ones near Marconi's. Mr. Lasko said that we can certainly engage OHM in those discussion, as well as the Safety Committee, to see what the treatment may be. It may be different than what is in front of the other schools give the difficult logistics around that facility. We can have someone work on that internally and bring a recommendation back to Council.

Mr. Claus asked if we have any information on when Ardagh will start operations. Mr. Lasko said, in a perfect world, they have told us they would love to be up and operational in full production in October. In recent conversations they have hedged a little bit with difficulties getting their operation set up. They told us that the worst-case scenario would be January 1st.

Mayor's Discussion

Mayor Artino mentioned the Huron Municipal Court's 2020 Annual Report, which will also be available on our website. A few months ago, we took a look at putting together a Utilities Committee, and he and Mr. Lasko had some conversations about that committee. We didn't really finish staffing that committee, so we talked about some changes to make at this time to provide better efficiency. He and Mr. Lasko think that committee should be comprised of 5 members instead of 9, knowing that we will bring in expertise as needed. He said that Mr. Lasko asked if we can identify the makeup of that committee as 2 council members, 2 citizens and 1 staff member (Mr. Lasko or his appointee). Mr. Lasko said the Utilities Committee is in its infancy stages that has a lot of opportunity moving forward. We'd like to narrow down the membership of that committee, but also acknowledge that we have the opportunity to bring in staff and expertise as needed based on the topic. We are looking at a membership base that is really driven by Council and citizens, and that staff could be brought in as needed, depending on the topic.

Motion by Mr. Tapp to amend the Utilities Committee to the size of 5 people with 2 citizens, 2 council members and 1 staff member.

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

YEAS: Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hardy, Hagy, Claus (6)
ABSTAIN: Crawford (1)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed.

Mayor Artino said that a citizen has applied for appointment to the Utilities Committee, namely, Dr. Stephanie Walls, who helped us with the committee for the City Manager search. The Mayor asked for a motion appointing her to the Utilities Committee.

Motion by Mr. Dike to appoint Dr. Stephanie Walls to the Utilities Committee.

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. Member of Council voted as follows:

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

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed.

Mayor Artino thanked Mr. Gibboney and his crew for helping us through the issue with the intake. He thanked Mr. Green for his years with the City and wished him the best of luck on his new venture.

For the Good of the Order

- **Ms. Crawford** – Hats off to Jason and crew – I can't imagine hitting the button for the emergency backup and nothing happening. Nice job keeping cool (no pun intended) and getting us through that. Good job. Doug, thank you so much for everything over the years – you will be missed. Talking about unsung heroes in our staff (and just for the public's acknowledgement), even after a major show event, you can go and walk the trails at Fabens. You can maneuver around town on all of the features that we use all summer. Parks is behind the scenes making sure that we can use those all winter long, as well – recognition and acknowledgment to that area of staff that we don't always talk about in the winter months. We are thinking that they are waiting for the grass to grow, and that is not the case.
- **Mr. Claus** – He would like to congratulate Doug and thank him for his service.
- **Mr. Tapp** – Thank you to Mr. Green. He is hoping the best for him and his family. Jason, good job. He actually stopped out there that day and he was pretty calm, cool and collected. He didn't show a lot of emotion, but it got done and the guys were out there working fixing up a pad when he got there. Great job. Kudos to the Parks Department that Christine brought up, and the rest of the staff. He thinks everybody's moving along. He agrees with Mr. Hagy, as far as the Utilities Committee, they can look into that and he hopes there's conversation that gets moving forward on that.
- **Mr. Hardy** – Thanks and good luck to Doug. The Scott Cemetery Board met last week and approved the financial statement for 2020 – big thanks to Terri for preparing that and getting it all set up. That has to be submitted to the State Auditor at some point in the next month or so. The main flagpole blew over in one of the recent wind storms, but rest assured, we've another one coming and will get that taken care of. Mr. Hardy asked if we need legislation for the road study. Mayor Artino said we would have that legislation at the next meeting. There no need for a motion.
- **Mr. Hagy** – Congratulations to Mr. Green – we will miss you and Huron County's gain is our loss. He encouraged all of Council to get moving on the transient rental property legislation – it has been very long time and he feels like we have rehashed most of the major points multiple times. In talking to another Councilmember today, it was brought up that we are getting close to that point when the transient owners say it is too close to the season and can't pay the tax. He encourages the Council to get moving. Speaking of the Utilities Committee, we had a great meeting the other – there's a lot of really exciting stuff going on. One thing he would like to get Council consensus on is, as we all know, we are doing the expansion on the Water Plant from about 3.4 to 5.8 Million gallons/day. The peak usage for us will be somewhere around 4 Million gallons/day. We on the Utilities Committee feel that this gives us an opportunity to go out and look for other consumers of that extra 1.8 Million gallons/day. We are obviously months and months out from being able to do this, but he would like a consensus from Council to start thinking about who those other consumers of the 1.8 million gallons/day are. The Mayor asked if there was any opposition to that – there was no response from any member of Council.
- **Mr. Dike** – Congratulations to Doug and thank you very much and best of luck. To the rest of the staff, Jason, thank you for all of your hard work and efforts. He truly appreciates it. Condolences to the

Donald Ritzenthaler family – he was a good man and will be missed. Mayor Artino said he was unaware of that - he was a great guy and was one of his first supervisors at New Departure.

Executive Session

Mayor Artino said that staff has requested an executive, and that there won't be any action taken after the executive session.

Motion by Mr. Tapp to move into executive session to consider the appointment, employment or compensation of a public employee or official, and to invite Mr. Lasko, Mr. Schrader and Mr. Swaisgood.

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 five or more votes in favor of the motion, the motion passed and Council moved into executive session at 7:03pm.

Return to Regular Session

Council returned to regular session at 7:24pm.

Adjournment

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

There being more than a majority voting in favor of the motion, the Mayor declared the meeting of February 9, 2021 adjourned at 7:24pm.


Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council

Adopted: 09 MAR 2021

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