

**THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO**  
**Proceedings of the Huron City Council**  
**Regular Meeting Tuesday, April 27, 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 April 27, 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, Joel Hagy**. Member absent: **Trey Hardy**.

**Motion by Mr. Hagy excusing Mr. Hardy's absence from the meeting.** The Mayor asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being none, he directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and Mr. Hardy's absence was excused.

Staff participating in the meeting: City Manager Matt Lasko, Interim City Manager Mike Spafford, Finance Director Cory Swaisgood, Law Director Todd Schrader, City Engineer Russ Critelli, Planning and Zoning Manager Erik Engle, Water Superintendent Jason Gibboney, Parks and Recreation Operations Manager Doug Steinwart and Clerk of Council Terri Welkener.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Motion by Mr. Tapp that the minutes of the regular Council meeting of April 13, 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: Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hagy, Crawford, Claus (6)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

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

**James Bowens**

Mr. Tapp gave the following statement to acknowledge the unexpected passing of James "Bones" Bowens on March 24, 2021:

*James was a veteran of the United States Air Force, serving from 1991 to 1996. After leaving the Air Force, James was hired by the City of Huron Police Department on October 5, 1997. After 23 year of dedicated service, James on December 12, 2020. For those who knew him, they knew James was full of life and always willing to lend a helping hand. To me, James was my friend, my co-worker and most of all, I could call him a brother. My heart goes out to his family and friends, to his partner and love of his life, Cindy, and to all of his brothers and sisters in blue and safety services. You will always be remembered.*

Mr. Tapp said on April 30<sup>th</sup> at 12:30pm there will be a tree planting dedication in honor of James at Firelands Scientific located at 2344 University Drive, Huron. On May 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am, there will be a graveside military service at Riverside Cemetery in Berlin Heights, followed by a celebration at his request at the Harbor House from 1:00pm-6:00pm.

Mayor Artino said this is a great loss to this community. Officer Bowens did a heck of a job here serving our community.

#### **Audience Comments**

None.

#### **Old Business**

None.

#### **New Business**

##### **Resolution 24-2021**

**Motion by Ms. Crawford that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 24-2021 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO, WITH THE PADDLE SHACK, LLC, FOR COMMERCIAL RENTAL OPERATIONS AND STORAGE FACILITY USAGE AT NICKEL PLATE BEACH) 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 24-2021 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko said this is both a license and lease agreement with Paddle Shack LLC for usage of the storage facility and commercial activities at Nickel Plate Beach. The license is specific to the operation of the commercial rental facility (kayaks, paddle boards, etc.) for \$450 this year, payable in equal installments in June/July/August. There is a lease component for the storage facility of \$300 due in one lump sum. This is a great relationship that we have had for multiple years that we look to continue going forward with in the future. This agreement has two built-in one-year renewal options in 2022 and 2023.

Mr. Steinwart said that the Paddle Shack has been a good representation for the City of Huron, especially through the ups and downs and trying times last year. They have been another set of eyes and ears out there for us. It has been nice working with her.

Mr. Claus asked about \$450 rent agreement because the summary sheet listed \$600 over 4 months. Mr. Lasko said that the \$450 is the correct number over 3 months.

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 Resolution 24-2021. 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 No. 24-2021 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

**Resolution No. 25-2021**

**Motion by Mr. Tapp that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 25-2021 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO AWARD THE BID AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH UNDERGROUND UTILITIES, INC. FOR LABOR AND MATERIALS RELATED TO THE BERLIN ROAD WATERMAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED ONE MILLION ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-NINE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED SIXTY-ONE AND 97/100 DOLLARS (\$1,159,661.97)) 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 25-2021 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Gibboney said that for the past decade, Berlin Road is been our prime area for water main breaks. The EPA established an asset management plan requirement about three years ago that created a rating system for all of our assets, be it the plant or the water mains. The distribution tool we use the most is the condition assessment, which takes a look at all of the mains in town and breaks down condition based on age and main breaks. The top main on the list, which means it is in the worst condition, is Berlin Rd. This is in line with our 10-year capital improvement plan, was budgeted for and expected in 2021. This project involves an 8" water main replacement from Cleveland Rd. south to the City limits. We will also be making tile replacements/repairs and will be looping the water main behind the Drug Mart plaza. The project includes resurfacing Berlin Rd. We are expecting most of the work to be done in the summertime, which will be great for Shawnee School. Underground Utilities, Inc. will be doing the work – they also did the sewer work recently for the County, and they were extremely expedient with that work. This project came in under budget. The water portion of the agreement estimated at \$1 Million came in at roughly \$900,000. Mr. Lasko said the contractor's cost estimate was \$1.4 Million, so this is decently under that estimate.

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 25-2021. 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 25-2021 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

**Mr. Dike left the meeting at 6:40pm.**

**Resolution No. 26-2021**

**Motion by Mr. Claus that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 26-2021 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT**

**ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO, WITH SCOOTER DING DING, LLC FOR COMMERCIAL SCOOTER RENTAL OPERATIONS WITHIN THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO) 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, Hagy, Crawford (5)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 26-2021 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko said that he previewed this in the City Manager's Report. This is a license agreement with Scooter Ding Ding, which is a new amenity to have motorized scooters placed throughout the City. Specifically, this legislation relates to the two storage racks that are proposed to be placed on City property – one at the boat basin and one at Nickel Plate Beach. Under the terms of the license agreement, the scooters will have to be removed nightly and maintained in good repair. They can operate between Memorial Day and Labor Day, much like the Paddle Shack agreement. If everything goes well, there are two 1-year renewals as part of the agreement. The license fee is \$150 payable in three equal installments of \$50 each in June/July/August. Mr. Steinwart that he is looking forward to working with Mr. Wright and Scooter Ding Ding.

Mr. Hagy asked if the racks are powered. Mr. Steinwart said that the plan is that they will pick them up every night, charge them elsewhere, and bring them back in the morning. They have also installed rack at some private businesses, so they can probably move them around.

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 26-2021. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS: Claus, Tapp, Artino, Hagy, Crawford (5)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 26-2021 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

**Mr. Dike returned to the meeting at 6:43pm.**

**Ordinance No. 2021-12**

**Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be suspended and Ordinance 2021-12 (AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING INTERNAL POLICIES REGARDING FEDERAL GRANTS 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 a majority of votes in favor, Ordinance 2021-12 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

**Motion by Mr. Hagy to place Ordinance 2021-12 as an emergency measure.**

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

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

There being five or more votes in favor, Ordinance 2021-12 was placed as an emergency measure.

Mr. Swaisgood said there are 8 policies relating to the use and receipt of federal funds that are required under federal uniform guidance, including cash handling deposits and procurement purchasing that relate specifically to accepting and disbursing federal awards. The reason why this is coming forward now is because the City expended over \$750,000 in federal awards last year, primarily due to the CARES Act funds and also US-6, which has never been done before in the City's history. Because we have spent that much, the State Auditor is required to do a separate federal award audit and part of their procedures and requirements is to review that we have internal controls, policies and procedures in place related to federal funds. We have specific policies related to the deposit and procurement of our funds. They do not reference specifically federal awards, so we have to have policies in place just for this. These 8 policies are before Council to get them formally adopted and put in place for 2020 and 2021, since we are expecting to receive more stimulus funds 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 2021-12. 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 2021-12 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

**Ordinance No. 2021-14**

**Motion by Mr. Claus that Ordinance 2021-14 (AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING RATES, TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR ELECTRIC SERVICE THROUGH HURON PUBLIC POWER) 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 a majority of votes in favor, Ordinance 2021-13 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Lasko acknowledged how much time, effort and thought have gone into this piece of legislation – Mike Spafford, Cory Swaisgood, and legal counsel from both Seeley Savidge Ebert & Gourash and Bricker & Eckler, as well as our energy consultant, Mike Spacek. It was very well thought out and presented.

Mr. Spafford said when the City decided to create Huron Public Power, it was done as an economic development tool. It generated when a large employer had shut down or significantly reduced its footprint within the City, largely driven by increasing utility costs. At the same time, the City was contemplating the creation of Huron Corporate Park, in which case working with Ohio Edison realized the City would have to front a lot of the upfront investment for Ohio Edison to pick up additional customer bases within the park. The administration and Mike Spacek established the footprint of Huron Public Power, the footprint of which initially existed within Huron Corporate Park and systematically picked up customers throughout the years. For the entirety of the utility's history, the rate structure matched Ohio Edison's rate structure, albeit the actual costs were different. The whole point of this was to help reduce operations costs for businesses. Where Huron Public Power saw significant growth was in 2018 with the advent of both Mucci Farms and Fireland Scientific. Prior to those two companies, we generally sold about 2 Million kWh annually. Firelands Scientific alone was a substantial increase in our load, since a greenhouse uses significant power for its grow lights. With the advent of Mucci Farms, that took our total capacity upwards of 140-150 Million kWh year. Our revenue was around \$220,000 a year, with expenses around \$190,000 – that is roughly ½ of a monthly bill for power consumption.

This rate modification attempts to acknowledge a couple of things: (1) as the system has grown, we have been able to utilize a lot of efficiencies through general resale purchasing; and (2) because HPP is a very lean organization, we don't have a lot of hard costs, per se – there is no electric department, for example, it is mostly handled a crew, we handle finance and administration through our office, and a lot of the technical work is done through contracting out the work, or the street department pulls it into their existing work product. From that standpoint, we are able to keep our operations costs low and we partner with American Municipal Power to make sure that the power that we are purchasing power at low rates. This rate structure acknowledges the fact that we have been able to control our costs and the AMP-T transaction has made the biggest impact. At the time, HPP had about \$3.5 Million in debt outstanding for the construction of the substation. We were able to sell what is considered the high-voltage piece of that (transmission assets) and reduced our debt load by about 65% to about \$1.5 Million. Between reduction in costs, increase in efficiencies, expansion of the system and reduction of our debt, we are able to cover our costs, receive our rate of return that we feel is appropriate and entitled to as a municipal utility, while offering a rate reduction for customers across the system. One of the things that generally drives our existing strategy is we are implementing, just the same as we do with water, a single rate across the system. We then discount the rate on a marginal basis – the more power your purchase every month, the cheaper those kWh become on a sliding scale. This includes a per customer cap of \$650,000 year. This number is derived through months of he and Mr. Swaisgood doing various cost studies internally to make sure that as we build those proformas out, that all of our costs are covered and that we are continuing to reach fiscal solvency of the City. There is an opportunity to offer alternative energy sources to our customers – onsite generation, however the case maybe, with the easiest application being solar. In the event a customer on our system wanted to offset some of their hard costs with the inclusion of solar on their system, this would contemplate the ability for them to so that (working with use to ensure from an engineering standpoint that it is done safely and appropriately, and is still financially beneficial to both parties). We have been working on this for 18 months, and he appreciates Mr. Swaisgood's help. This legislation is on the first of what he anticipates will be three readings. This will go into effect on July 1<sup>st</sup> – 30 days after adoption of the ordinance at the second meeting in May.

Mr. Tapp asked if the \$650,000 cap relates to existing footprints. If someone expands, that will not apply to that. Mr. Spafford confirmed this and said that in addition to the cap being set by the City's ordinance, it is in Council's discretion to modify that cap as it sees fit. As customers expand or the cap becomes too large

or too small, it is possible to modify that cap. With regard to Mucci, Mr. Spafford estimates that they will hit the cap sometime in October, depending on fluctuations. That means the cost to them in November and December would be the energy itself, plus the kWh tax, which is by State statute. Mr. Hagy said this was truly a multi-variable algebraic equation with a couple of polynomials thrown in – he rarely understood what they were doing, but understood why they were doing it and how they go to where they were.

**Ordinance No. 2021-15**

**Motion by Ms. Crawford that the three-reading rule be suspended and Ordinance 2021-15 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 305.01, TRAFFIC CONTROL MAP, AND CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 305.02 TRAFFIC CONTROL FILE, REGARDING POSTED SPEED LIMIT SIGNAGE OF 25 MPH ON NORTH PORT LANE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY) be placed upon its first reading.**

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

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

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being a majority of votes in favor, Ordinance 2021-15 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

**Motion by Ms. Crawford to place Ordinance 2021-15 as an emergency measure.**

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

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

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, Ordinance 2021-15 was placed as an emergency measure.

Mr. Lasko said he would discuss both Ordinance 2021-15 and Ordinance 2021-16, which are somewhat related. The ordinances relate to amendments to our codified ordinances and traffic control map as relates to North Port Lane. Ordinance 2021-15 relates to the installation of two 25mph speed limit signs on the roadway, which currently do not exist, which was brought to our attention by a resident. If approved, we will move forward with installing those speed limit signs. Based on resident feedback and also at the strong recommendation of our streets department, Ordinance 2021-16 calls for the installation of four No Parking signs – one would be installed within the cul-de-sac at the end of the road, with the other three additional signs installed on the north side of the roadway, which is where the fire hydrants are located. It is a tight, congested road and with parking on both sides of the road you can only get one vehicle through. This will also provide access to the fire hydrants. Mr. Hagy asked if feedback was obtained from residents on that street. Ms. Crawford said this issue came before the Safety Committee approximately a year ago. They looked at it at that time and there was minimal traffic and got pushed to the side. When the issue resurfaced again, it was determined that it is overdue, but this legislation is needed to amend because this is a relatively new road and it is needed to give police the ability to enforce the speed limit and parking.

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 2021-15. 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, Ordinance 2021-15 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

**Ordinance No. 2021-16**

**Motion by Ms. Crawford that the three-reading rule be suspended and Ordinance 2021-16 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 305.01, TRAFFIC CONTROL MAP, AND CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 305.02, TRAFFIC CONTROL FILE, REGARDING NO PARKING SIGNAGE ON NORTH PORT LANE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY) be placed upon its first reading.**

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

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

There being a majority of votes in favor, Ordinance 2021-16 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

**Motion by Ms. Crawford to place Ordinance 2021-16 as an emergency measure.**

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

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

There being five or more votes in favor, Ordinance 2021-16 was placed as an emergency measure.

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 2021-16. 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, Ordinance 2021-16 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

**Ordinance No. 2021-17**

**Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be suspended and Ordinance 2021-17 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2020-34, ADOPTED DECEMBER 8, 2020, TO PROVIDE FOR CASH TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY) be placed upon its first reading.**

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



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

There being a majority of votes in favor, Ordinance 2021-17 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

**Motion by Mr. Hagy to place Ordinance 2021-17 as an emergency measure.**

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

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

There being five or more votes in favor, Ordinance 2021-17 was placed as an emergency measure.

Mr. Swaisgood said Ordinance 2021-17 relates to quarterly budgeted cash transfers. This was all planned out in the budgetary process last year. Specifically, these cash transfers relate to transfers from various funds, mainly the General Fund, to Capital Funds, Debt Fund, Pension Liability Funds, IT costs and the Payroll Stabilization Reserve. These are in line with what was budgeted in the current budget.

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 2021-17. 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 2021-17 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

**Motion by Mr. Dike to recognize extension of the City's emergency sick leave policy through September 30, 2021 in accordance with the new federal guidelines.**

The Mayor if there was any discussion the motion. Mr. Lasko said it was foreshadowed in the last Manager's Report that this was forthcoming. Mr. Swaisgood said that when the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) was passed, where employers were required to give up to 80 hours of paid sick leave, without using the employee's sick leave, for any type of Covid-related leave time. That expired at the end of the December, and at that time Council passed a motion extending that through the end of March, 2021. With the new American Rescue Plan Act, the Act allows for employers to extend another 80 hours to employees for any type of Covid-related illness. They also added obtaining vaccines and recovery from that vaccine as appropriate uses of that sick time. This is before Council not as a requirement under the Act, but as a voluntary act of the employer to extend that sick leave through the end of September.

The Mayor asked if there was any further discussion or questions. There being none, the Mayor 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 in favor, the motion passed.

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

Mr. Lasko spoke on the following topics:

- **ConAgra RFP/RFQ.** As we go through the planning process and identify initiatives to be targeted over the next five years, one project that always bubbles to the surface is development of the ConAgra site. Staff has been moving forward with the ultimate issuance of an RFQ/RFP for that development because it is a long process to find someone and to negotiate the terms of a development agreement and site control. With that said, we engaged The Montrose Group out of Columbus, which is an economic development agency, that among other things is very good at attracting and reaching folks in the development world that develop projects on this scale and in this area. We had a follow-up conversation with them today and ultimate hope is that we will be issuing that RFP/RFQ late next week. We envision receiving proposals anywhere from 45-60 days after issuance to allow people to do the necessary site visits to have a good understanding for the site. We plan to move forward with that process simultaneously with the overall planning and visioning process that we discussed during the work session.
- **Sawmill Parkway.** We have crossed the finish line on a few funding hurdles as relates to the Sawmill Parkway redevelopment. On April 19<sup>th</sup>, the State's Controlling Board approved a \$1 Million grant through Jobs Ohio and the Development Services Agency 629 Roadwork Program. We will execute the grant agreement upon receipt; Council has already approved execution of this agreement. We also executed the \$250,000 grant with ODOT Jobs and Commerce on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Those two funding sources are now in place, along with the former \$412,500 grant in place from OPWC. At this point, we are waiting on the result of our funding request made to EDA. We hope to have an answer in the next 2-3 weeks.
- **Speed Limit Radar Sign.** We ordered 2 additional sets of School Zone radar signs to be installed in front of the high school and middle school. Those are anticipated to be received and installed either the first or second week of May. Along with that installation, we ordered addition beacons for the back side of the signs in front of Shawnee Elementary.
- **Ohio Edison Tree Trimming.** Ohio Edison has commenced their annual tree trimming in the City as of mid-April. The trimming is being performed by Nelson Tree Service, and will continue through the fall. They are usually able to cover the entire city on a 4-year cycle. A list and map of streets being maintained this year, along with a map, are attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and incorporated herein. Trees on private property will be tagged prior to trimming.
- **US Route 6 Phases 1 and 2.** OHM is continuing their traffic study data collection on the road diet striping plan and will continue to do so through mid-summer. Based on this data, coupled with community feedback, it is anticipated the decision will be made on a final striping plan shortly thereafter (mid to late summer) so that final striping can be done in September. OHM is continuing to develop renderings of what more formalized and delineated bike lanes could look like in a final striping plan, which we hope to be able to distribute publicly in early May. The City is also continuing to finalize the bid package for the lighting to be installed along US Route 6, and we will hopefully bid that project in the upcoming weeks. OHM is also continuing to collect data as it relates to potential designs for Phase 2 of Route 6.
- **Water Department.** Engineering blueprints for the tube settlers are expected this week. Once completed, we will move forward with advertising for bids for the construction of the project. While we anticipate this to occur in the upcoming weeks, the project is slated to be completed roughly around the end of the calendar year, give or take a few weeks. Mr. Lasko thanked crews that are completing/have completed road repairs from water main breaks over the winter. People should be able to see crews getting out there and making those final repairs. Mr. Lasko thanked Mr. Gibboney for a great introductory meeting last week with folks from Erie County and Poggemeyer about the

potential increase/purchase of water from the City by the County, which was made possible by the tube settler project slated to generate another 2.4 Million gallons of water per day.

- Personnel. Mr. Lasko introduced Erik Engle as the new Planning and Zoning Manager. He started last week and we are thrilled to have the additional reinforcement of someone of his caliber joining the City. As relates to the Police Department, we have extended conditional offers to two candidates who are going through the pre-employment psychological and physical exams. We hope to be finished with those processes shortly to get those individuals on board.
- Upcoming Meetings. The Planning Commission/Design Review Board meeting is tomorrow, Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm in Council Chambers. Looking forward to early May, there is a Huron Joint Recreation District meeting on Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in Council Chambers and a BZA meeting on Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in Council Chambers.

Mr. Dike asked what the timeline is for installation of utilities at the ConAgra site. Mr. Lasko said when staff met with Mr. Critelli and OHM last week, they are nearly finished with the final engineering for that project. We could be in a position to bid that project very shortly.

Mr. Dike asked if speed signs would be placed back on Laguna Drive. Mr. Lasko and the Clerk verified that those signs would be returned to Laguna Drive in mid-May. The two sets of speed signs mentioned earlier relate to school zones.

Mr. Dike asked what the tree trimming costs are for Ohio Edison, considering how bad some of the trees look after trimming. Across their entire portfolio, they estimate spending \$22 Million.

Mr. Dike asked if we have a schedule for resurfacing projects. An individual asked him about Vine Street – it is in pretty bad condition. Maybe we could add this small resurfacing project to a larger project. Mr. Spafford said from a capital perspective, with the two Route 6 projects, Berlin Road, Sawmill Parkway being on the horizon, and knowing that Chaska Beach and Old Homestead are scoring fairly low – those are the main priorities for the next 2-3 years for paving, but at one point it was contemplated that Vine Street may be repaved as part of the Route 6 Phase 2 project because, depending on what the eventual traffic layout is going to be, Vine Street and Shirley were going to be part of that structure. That being said, Mr. Spafford said that internally staff could discuss doing some mini-paving, fix potholes, etc.

Mr. Dike asked if there is going to be any festivals that may happened this summer – there is a lot of disappointment among our residents. Mr. Lasko said the City has generally taken the position of having a second half of summer calendar for activities. Mr. Steinwart said that the plan is to roll things out starting in the early part of July, and we can then still capture 8 weeks of Boppin' at the Basin, Movies by the River, Arts & Amphitheater, etc.

Mr. Dike congratulated Mr. Lasko and his staff for securing funding for the Sawmill Parkway funding.

Mr. Claus asked about the schedule to repaint the temporary striping. Mr. Lasko said we are looking to get approval for 1 day to restripe the markings that have become faded through the winter. Nothing is going to change – it will just be refreshing what it there. Mr. Claus asked for a status on the mock-ups for the bike lanes.

### **Mayor's Discussion**

Mayor Artino expressed his condolences to the Bowens family. The Mayor thanked Council and staff for their efforts in the planning process – it is good for the citizens and the City, and he thinks it will help the staff to be more efficient.

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

- **Ms. Crawford** – Friendly reminder that it is lawnmowing season – blowing grass clippings into the street is a no-no. Extended her sympathies to the Bowens family. Welcomed Erik Engle aboard – it is nice to hear about adding some personnel spots. As long as she has been on Council, we have been talking about trying to get staff into a proactive position as opposed to being reactive. It is great to see some of those plans starting to happen. She will not be in attendance at the next Council meeting on May 11<sup>th</sup> due to an annual business commitment.
- **Mr. Claus** – Congratulated the staff on the Sawmill Parkway grants that are ongoing. Thanks to Mike and Cory and everybody else's hard work on the Huron Public Power rate updates. Welcome to Mr. Engle – he will see him tomorrow night on the Planning Commission.
- **Mr. Hagy** – Nothing.
- **Mr. Dike** – Condolences to the Bowens family – that was very tragic and he was very sorry to hear that. He will be remembered. Welcome to Mr. Engle and congratulations – there are lots of things that are going to be happening. It was very interesting to see the controlled burn at the spoil site – that smoke was going straight out over the lake and there were a lot of people out there checking it out. Baseball and softball started and things have been going well out there. It's great to see kids out there playing – his family lives out there during the summer. It's nice to see all of those fields nice and neat – we have great facilities out there. A couple of weeks ago, someone approached him and said it has been quiet and asked what we are doing up here. He answered that it is Covid and we are doing whatever we want because no one can come in (in a joking manner). Seriously, everyone has been very engaged, giving their comments – he thinks Council is communicating well and also, with that, he thinks the staff has been doing a very good job helping Council – it goes both ways. Congratulations to not only the staff, but also to everyone on Council, the Vice-Mayor and the Mayor. We have done a lot during Covid. He takes his hat off to everyone and thanks everyone for allowing him to be a part of it.
- **Mr. Tapp** – Welcome to Mr. Engle – he is glad he is on board and hopes everything is going well for him and knows that he will be busy. The staff is doing a great job – he can't be more impressed and they are doing a great job working together. Thanks to Mr. Gibboney for everything he is doing following through on the water plant – it is amazing and he is right on top of it. Thanks to Mr. Steinwart – it has been a trying year, and trying to get stuff put together is great. Thanks to Council for the work on the planning and vision – there have been a lot of good discussions. Everything is coming together and he thinks everything is going really well. Condolences to the Bowens family and his friends and co-workers – he is going to be greatly missed.

### **Executive Session**

Mayor Artino said that there would be no executive session.

### **Adjournment**

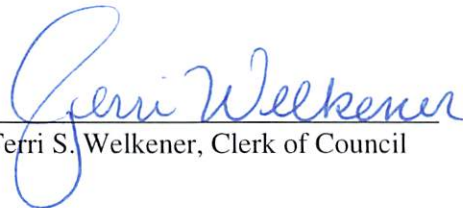
**Motion by Mr. Tapp to adjourn the meeting.**

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

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

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being more than a majority voting in favor of the motion, the Mayor declared the meeting of April 27, 2021 adjourned at 7:23pm.

  
Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council

Adopted: 25 MAY 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.*