

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

Call to Order

The Mayor called the regular meeting of the Huron City Council to order at 6:30pm on September 14, 2021 in Council Chambers at Huron City Hall. The Mayor called for a moment of silence. After the moment of silence, the Mayor led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call

The Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll for the regular meeting of Council. The following members of Council answered present: **Mark Claus, Monty Tapp, Sam Artino, Trey Hardy and Joel Hagy**. Council members not present: **Christine Crawford and Joe Dike**.

Motion by Mr. Tapp to excuse the absence of Ms. Crawford and Mr. Dike from the meeting.

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

YEAS: Tapp, Artino, Hardy, Hagy, Claus (5)

NAYS: None (0)

There being more than a majority in favor, the motion passed, and Ms. Crawford and Mr. Dike were excused from the meeting.

Staff in attendance: City Manager Matt Lasko, Finance Director Cory Swaisgood, Law Director Todd Schrader, Parks and Recreation Operations Manager Doug Steinwart, City Engineer Russ Critelli, Planning and Zoning Manager Erik Engle and Clerk of Council Terri Welkener.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. Tapp that the minutes of the regular Council meeting of August 10, 2021 be approved as submitted.

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, Hardy, Hagy, Claus (5)

NAYS: None (0)

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

Motion by Mr. Claus that the minutes of the regular Council meeting of August 24, 2021 be approved as submitted.

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

YEAS: Claus, Artino, Hardy, Hagy (4)

ABSTAIN: Tapp (1)

NAYS: None (0)

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

Audience Comments

None.

Old Business

None

New Business

Resolution 60-2021

Motion by Mr. Hardy that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 60-2021 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH OHM ADVISORS FOR THE PROVISION OF SURVEYING, ENGINEERING DESIGN AND BIDDING SERVICES RELATED TO THE SAWMILL PARKWAY RESCONSTRUCTION PROJECT AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-SIX THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$226,550.00) 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: Hardy, Hagy, Claus, Tapp, Artino (5)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 60-2021 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko explained that this is the next step in the Sawmill Parkway reconstruction project. The project is estimated at roughly \$3.5 Million, which is currently covered through a combination of local, state and federal grants. In particular, this resolution is seeking authority to enter into a contract with OHM for final engineering, design, surveying and bidding processes. We are hoping to bid the project in early 2022, with construction to start in mid-2022. The design fee is just under 6.5% of the total project cost, which is in line with OHM's contract. The funds would be funded by the City through the Capital Improvement Fund and then reimbursed through the federal and state grants. The City is excited to get rolling on this project.

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 60-2021. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 60-2021 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution 61-2021

Motion by Mr. Artino that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 61-2021 (A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE CITY'S UPDATE TO ITS MASTER PLAN, ENTITLED

HURON VISION 2020 ACTION PLAN, AS PRESENTED BY CITY ARCHITECTURE, RESTART SMART AND THE ADMINISTRATION) 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: Artino, Hardy, Hagy, Claus, Tapp (5)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 61-2021 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko reminded everyone that this builds on the Vision 2020 Plan, which was done about a decade ago, and more recently, the ECEDC Rising Tides project, which was done in mid-2020. This is an extension of those two initiatives in which we had significant public and community involvement. This process was used to have Council, Planning Commission and staff hone in on that action plan for the next 3-5 years. He acknowledged everyone that has been involved in this endeavor, including the Mayor, Council, staff, Planning Commission (who has made a recommendation to Council for the approval), and our consultants at Restart Smart and City Architecture. Council landed on some really great initiatives to tackle over the next couple of years, and we look forward to getting those projects started through the budgetary process over the next couple of months.

Mayor Artino thanked staff and City Council for their time and effort. There were a lot of other people involved from the community and the Township, who were represented early on. Now the hard work starts.

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 61-2021. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 61-2021 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution 62-2021

Motion by Mr. Tapp that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 62-2021 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE GRANT AWARD AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF WILDLIFE, FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FISH CLEANING STATION AT THE HURON BOAT LAUNCH IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$500,000.00)) 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, Hardy, Hagy, Claus (5)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 62-2021 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko thanked ODNR for their commitment to this project and their belief in the City to deliver a successful project, as well as Russ Critelli, Doug Steinwart and Mike Spafford for getting this project to where we are with all of their hard work. They made a very compelling case for this community to be awarded this project.

Mr. Steinwart provided a brief history of the process, which started a year ago. ODNR Division of Fish and Wildlife contacted us about putting fish cleaning stations along Lake Erie. They wanted to see if we were interested, which we were. While the \$500,000 grant will be used to construct the station, the City's contribution will be long-term day-to-day maintenance of the facility, similar to the agreement we have regarding the Boat Launch Ramp. This maintenance will include cleaning during the 8 months of operation (when it is open 24/7) from mid-April into November. We used a lot of information from South Haven, Michigan, whose DNR is significantly ahead of us with regard to fish cleaning stations. We used their information from the past 5-8 years to model our fish cleaning station. A site plan is included in the agenda packet. A loose timeline would be roughly 30% of engineering would be done at the end of October, and going out to bid at the end of January/February, with construction beginning in early spring and opening by July 1, 2022.

Mr. Hagy asked if there is any estimate on what the O&M will be. Mr. Steinwart said this will be similar to the boat launch. They are already going down there to clean the docks and restaurants, and the station will be added to that, which will add about 30 minutes. There will definitely be a daily cost, but the drains it will be a process of hosing it down. The slurry will be sent into our sanitary with a separator.

Mr. Tapp asked if this station is similar to other stations that are being built in the State. Mr. Steinwart said Avon Lake is currently being built, and we are basically on the same timeline. They are adding their station to an existing facility, while ours will be free-standing. As far as the mechanics go and cutting stations, that will be the same. Mr. Steinwart said there are only 2 supplies that produce the commercial grade fish cleaning stations, and they have been talking to both of them. Something South Haven said they would do differently is to add a stainless steel hand washer. That will now be added to our plans. The goal is to have the nicest station around. Mr. Steinwart thinks that ODNR chose Huron because of its existing relationship on the day-to-day maintenance of the boat launch. They are responsible for long-term capital, and over the past 2 years they have done some rip-rap work, along with light replacements in the near future. Mr. Tapp said everyone is very happy that this is happening. Mr. Steinwart said that one of the reasons the Fish Huron group was established was to get a fish cleaning station. \$500,000 is a big number, but there is a lot involved to include sewer, electric, plumbing and water. There are a lot of trades involved in this small building.

Mr. Hagy asked if this will be an enclosed building. Mr. Steinwart answered that it will be an open-air shelter that is fenced in to allow for shutdown in the offseason. Motion sensors will be used to provide lighting at night so that it doesn't become nuisance lighting.

Mr. Claus asked about the grease interceptor. Mr. Steinwart said that came up in OHM's discussions with the County. Mr. Claus wondered if the slurry would cause clogging in a great interceptor, but there may be some other feature they are adding. Mr. Steinwart said that will be included as a maintenance item for the station.

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 62-2021. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 62-2021 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution 63-2021

Motion by Mr. Hardy that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 63-2021 (A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION 12-2021, ADOPTED FEBRUARY 23, 2021, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT MODIFICATION NO. 1 FROM CITY ARCHITECTURE FOR SERVICES PROVIDED RELATING TO THE CITY OF HURON VISION 2020 ACTION PLAN IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$2,500.00)) 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: Hardy, Hagy, Claus, Tapp, Artino (5)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 63-2021 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko explained that the City entered into a contract with City Architecture for \$25,000 in February of 2021 for the original scope of the action plan. Since then, as we got through the process, we added one additional work session and asked for a few additional renderings in the final document, which totaled up to \$2,500. With the Plan's adoption this evening, this will be the only contract modification, bringing the total up to \$27,500 to be paid from the Economic Development Fund.

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 63-2021. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 63-2021 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution 64-2021

Motion by Mr. Hardy that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 64-2021 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO, TO SUPPORT THE REQUEST OF SAINT PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH ON BEHALF OF ST. PETER SCHOOL FOR THE USE OF CITY STREETS, TRAFFIC CONTROL SERVICES, AND PLACEMENT OF A BANNER IN THE MEDIAN AREA ADVERTISING THEIR 5K RACE AND FUN RUN TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2021) be placed upon its first reading.

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

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

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 64-2021 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko said that this is an annual request from St. Peter School for their October 30th 5K and Fun Run. They have requested placement of a 3'x5' banner in the median of Route 6 just west of Center Street. The administration is okay with this request to be able to advertise and promote the upcoming race. The date has been cleared by our Parks and Recreation and Police Departments, who will be assisting with traffic control services. We look forward to the event and are happy to support them in this request.

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 64-2021. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 64-2021 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Ordinance No. 2021-32

Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be suspended and Ordinance 2021-32 (AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TAX LEVIES FOR THE CITY OF HURON FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2022 AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND CERTIFYING SAID LEVIES TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY) be placed upon its first reading.

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

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

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was suspended and Ordinance 2021-32 placed on its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Motion by Mr. Hagy to place Ordinance 2021-32 as an emergency measure.

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

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

There being five votes or more in favor, Ordinance 2021-32 was placed as an emergency measure.

Mr. Lasko said that he would defer to Mr. Swaisgood on this and the next two ordinances. Mr. Swaisgood said this ordinance is an annual statutory requirement as a result of the City's tax budget submitted to the Budget Committee in July. The City is required by ORC to accept these tax rates from the County Auditor and submit an approved ordinance by the end of this month. The ordinance includes estimated property tax

receipts for 2022 for all 4 City levies, and the levied millage is the same as 2021 (no increase to any levied millage for 2022). The estimated dollar amount of property tax receipts for 2022 according to the Budget Commission is approximately 1% higher than estimated for 2021. The Budget Commission also provides the County's Local Government Funds to be collected by the City for 2022, and the County estimates the City will receive about \$125,000 in 2022, which is the dollar amount projected to receive this year. About a year ago, the projection was the City would only receive about \$110,000 from the County Local Government Fund, but it looks like we are pacing to receive closer to \$125,000, which is a good sign for the local economy.

Mr. Hagy said it looks like the property taxes are off by 1-1/2%, and asked if that was because of budgeting or are those actuals. Mr. Swaisgood explained that the variance is per the budget that was submitted, the Budget Commission came back with a lower estimate for some reason. It is only off by 1%, but that is the difference they came back compared to the Tax Budget submitted back in June. If the actual tax collected is higher, the City would retain those funds. The funds received most likely won't vary very much from these numbers.

The Mayor asked if there were any further questions or discussion on the motion. There being none, he directed the Clerk to call the roll on the final adoption of Ordinance 2021-32. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Ordinance 2021-32 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Ordinance No. 2021-33

Motion by Mr. Claus that the three-reading rule be suspended and Ordinance 2021-33 (AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF BONDS IN THE MAXIMUM PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$300,000 TO PAY COSTS OF IMPROVING THE PORTION OF US-6 LOCATED IN THE CITY BY CONSTRUCTING, RECONSTRUCTING, RESURFACING, PAVING, GRADING, DRAINING AND MAKING OTHER IMPROVEMENTS AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, CONSTRUCTING AND RECONSTRUCTING, AS NECESSARY, CURBS, GUTTERS, SIDEWALKS, CONCRETE APRONS, STORM SEWERS AND RELATED DRAINAGE FACILITIES, AND REPLACING OR ADDING LIGHTING AND TRAFFIC SIGNALS, TOGETHER WITH ALL NECESSARY RELATED IMPROVEMENTS AND APPURTENANCES THERETO, ALL AS DESIGNATED IN THE PLANS APPROVED OR TO BE APPROVED BY COUNCIL, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY) be placed upon its first reading.

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

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

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was suspended and Ordinance 2021-33 placed on its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Motion by Mr. Claus to place Ordinance 2021-33 as an emergency measure.

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

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

There being five votes or more in favor, Ordinance 2021-33 was placed as an emergency measure.

Mr. Swaisgood explained that this ordinance is requesting authorization from Council to issue bonds in an amount not to exceed \$300,000. These bonds would be issued related to Change Orders on the US 6 Project that was initially bonded, anyway, and the US 6 Lighting Project. This issuance will be handled differently than in past bond issuance in that the Revised Code allows the City to issue debt on itself, which is called manuscript debt. This can only be done with cities that are predicted to have cash reserves up to 6 months under the Revised Code. The City will borrow funds from other City funds, such as the General Fund, and pay the loan back with interest over a short period of time. There are no underwriter fees and the City pays interest back to itself rather than to a normal bank. The Capital Improvement Fund will be the fund that will issue the bonds more than likely from the General Fund. That way, any interest being paid back and the principal amount will come from the Capital Improvement Fund back to the General Fund. Instead of taking bonds out again through a bank and paying interest to the bank, the interest will be paid to the General Fund. The City will issue this bond as a 5-year bond, but expects to pay this back in a shorter term of 2-3 years to have a minimal impact on the City's debt capacity. Mr. Swaisgood does not expect the issuance will be for \$300,000 once the actual costs are determined as they go through the strategic plan to us ARPA Funds. This is a formality to use our own funds to pay for these projects in the short term, and to be able to legally transfer funds across funds to help pay for these projects.

The Mayor asked if there were any further questions or discussion on the motion. There being none, he directed the Clerk to call the roll on the final adoption of Ordinance 2021-33. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Ordinance 2021-33 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Ordinance No. 2021-34

Motion by Mr. Claus that the three-reading rule be suspended and Ordinance 2021-34 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2020-34, ADOPTED DECEMBER 8, 2020, TO PROVIDE FOR SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE GENERAL FUND AND OTHER FUNDING SOURCES, AN INCREASE IN ESTIMATED RESOURCES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY) be placed upon its first reading.

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

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

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was suspended and Ordinance 2021-34 placed on its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Motion by Mr. Claus to place Ordinance 2021-34 as an emergency measure.

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

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

There being five votes or more in favor, Ordinance 2021-34 was placed as an emergency measure.

Mr. Swaisgood said that this ordinance includes supplemental appropriations into the Economic Development Fund, Electric Fund, Capital Improvement Fund and the General Fund. The summary and reason for each increase is included in the attachment provided, but the largest increase to the budget would be due to the Sawmill Parkway Project. In the prior resolution, Council approved the contract for the designs of the Sawmill Parkway Project in the amount of approximately \$226,000, so you will see an increase in the Capital Improvement Fund for \$230,000 and an offsetting estimated resources amendment, which is increased revenue budget for the same amount, which is due to the various grants that the City will be receiving from State and Federal funds. The Economic Development Fund increase is strictly due to the temporary road fix at Sawmill Parkway approved by Council at the last meeting. This is expected to be paid back through TIF proceeds over the next few years. There is an increase in estimated resources of \$30,000 in Nickel Plate fees, which brings the total amount of revenue actually received for the year at approximately \$65,000, which other than last year, is still a record-breaking year.

The Mayor asked if there were any further questions or discussion on the motion. There being none, he directed the Clerk to call the roll on the final adoption of Ordinance 2021-34. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Ordinance 2021-34 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:

- ConAgra – As of today, the City has completed all in-person interviews with the three final firms, which were the Rose Company, Hoty Enterprises and NAI Harmon Group. We anticipate making a recommendation to Council at the September 28th meeting in terms of the preferred firm in hopes of securing authorization from Council to begin negotiations with the development firm, and likely a series of agreements will be necessary to bring the development to fruition. He thanked all of the firms in addition to these three that submitted to the RFP process for this site, and those individual involved in vetting those initial applicants, which included Mayor Artino, Bob Howell, Doug Steinwart, Russ Critelli, Mike Spafford and Erik Engle. He thanked the Montrose Group, our consultant for the RFP, which included Nate Green and Jamie Beier Grant. We are happy to wrap up and are looking forward to making a recommendation and introduction of the recommended

firm to the community. This is the start of a long process of negotiation, and certainly, public involvement in what the final development plan is going to be.

- Stride Mobility. Mr. Lasko extended congratulations to Mark and Julie Schnieders and the entire Stride Mobility and Safe Harbor team for their grand opening and ribbon cutting last week. There were hundreds of people that attended that ceremony on September 2nd. They provided tours of the facility, which was absolutely beautiful. We are fortunate to have these companies in the community, and we thank them for choosing to grow and expand in Huron.
- Route 6 Street Lights. Work has commenced on installation of the new street lamps as part of the first phase of Route 6. Crews have been immobilized for about 2 weeks and hope to be finished in another 2 weeks. Soon after, First Energy will follow and remove the older lights when the new lights have been illuminated.
- Berlin Road. The waterline installation and road resurfacing project is substantially complete. There are a few punch list items still being taken care of, however, they were able to complete the project prior to the start of school. The truly did a tremendous job on that project. It looks beautiful and we have received numerous positive comments from residents about the quality of work, their efficiency and the minor level of disturbance throughout the process.
- Huron Public Power. Based on a prior City Manager Report, the City along with AMP-T and FirstEnergy successfully coordinated a major meter change at the City's main transmission point to acknowledge the increased load from the new and anticipated customer base. The partnership with AMP-T was instrumental in getting this project done quickly and cost-effectively. Work was fully completed last Thursday, September 9th and the substation is now energized. He appreciates all of the cooperation and patience from our customers and a lot of coordination done with Mr. Spafford and Mike Spacek, our consultant on the project.
- Personnel. We are working to replace Mike Spafford's position, which was titled Assistant to the City Manager. We anticipate advertising for this position in the next 2 weeks. We have retained the services of Mr. Spafford on an hourly basis just to help transition a few projects that he was working on and certainly, to stay on until the new employee is hired. Prior to the hiring, we anticipate approaching Council on a potential new title for that position – something along the lines of Director of Operations. This will be a more technical type of position that will be focused on Huron Public Power, facilities, communications, information technology and someone that is coordinating all of our capital projects, which cross multiple departments. We hope to approach Council soon to recognize that new title in our Administrative Code.
- Fire Protection Agreement. We are down to the last few items as relate to this agreement, and we hope to bring the agreement to Council at the next meeting or two.
- FOP Agreement. The FOP Patrol Officers and Sergeants have both approved their contracts, and we hope to bring those to Council in the next meeting or two, and we are currently in active negotiations with IAFF and AFSCME.
- Upcoming Meetings. Planning Commission and DRB (Wednesday, September 22, 2021 at 5:00 in Council Chambers); Huron Joint Port Authority (Wednesday, September 22, 2021 at 7:00pm at Huron Township Hall); Safety Committee (Friday, September 24, 2021 at 2:00pm in the main conference room); and a reminder that the next Council meeting on September 28, 2021 will be held at the Boat Basin Amphitheater at 6:30pm, weather permitting.

Mayor's Discussion

Thank you to all of staff for their hard work with everything that is going on this year. We have had several major projects and are planning for other projects in the near future. Thanks to all of our partners, different organizations that have been involved with us in our planning, from the school board, Township Trustees, members of different committees (Planning and Finance) – everybody had some input. The Mayor, Mr. Tapp, the Law Director, Mr. Hardy and Mr. Lasko had a discussion today about issues pertaining to COVID. He asked Mr. Hardy to provide an update on where things are at with the County.

Mr. Hardy said that, unfortunately, COVID cases are trending up significantly higher than the same time last year. Last year at this time, we had about 50 cases reported for this time period. This year, we are at 305, hospitalizations are up about 300%. Deaths are down, which is a good, and he thinks a lot of that is due to some of the vaccine activity that we have seen. The schools are struggling a little bit with cases, as well, so we are working pretty hard to get that under control so that we can keep the kids in the schools. It is turning in the wrong direction. We are working with the State, but are not going to do anything above and beyond what the Ohio Department of Health and the CDC are recommending or mandating at this point. There is some discussion about third shots/boosters. We have started giving the additional shot to people who are immunocompromised if they have had their second shot or their final original COVID vaccine more than 8 months prior. There should be more guidance coming out on the Federal level, and once that finalizes, the State will be rolling out a program for that, as well. We should be starting that later this month.

Mayor Artino said that in the past, during the unfortunate pandemic, we relied on information and recommendations from the Health Commissioner/Health Department, and Mr. Hardy has been very helpful with that. He and Mr. Lasko discussed that they will revisit the matter if something needs to be done more than what we are already doing.

Mr. Lasko said that the signs currently posted on the doors of City Hall state that the policy is that those that are unvaccinated are to wear a mask. It is not being policed and it is something we ask people to self-police. Based on some of the recent trends we are seeing, there are ongoing discussions to discuss if there is something greater we should be doing to not only protect people working in this building, but also to protect people coming to this building for various needs and services. There may be a change to that policy based on some of the upward trends – there may be more to come in the next 24-48 hours.

Mayor Artino said that Mr. Lasko has the ability to implement any procedures without Council's consent. Council would only get involved if there are effects on the work force and with our citizens that come into the building, or it causes a reduction of services. He is asking Council to support Mr. Lasko in whatever his decision is, and give him any help we can. If we have to make it formal, we can do so at the next Council meeting. He is not looking for a vote from Council, just support. He thanked the Health Commissioner, the Health Department and Mr. Hardy for helping us to stay so close to this issue. We have an obligation to make the best decisions with the information we have. Mayor Artino asked if there were any concerns with that, to which there was no response.

For the Good of the Order

- **Mr. Claus** – Mr. Claus expressed his condolences to the Thaxton and Pisano families, as well. Congratulations to staff for the Vision 2020 update and all of the hard work they put in. During the last Finance Committee meeting, we had a discussion about the ARPA Funds and what they might be able to be used for. We asked that we look into possibly setting some sort of a grant fund for local small businesses to assist with losses and/or business changes related to COVID activities and maybe work with the Chamber of Commerce to identify the need so that we can set aside a certain amount of money out of those funds that could go to that project. There will have to be approved uses, of course.
- **Mr. Hagy** – Mr. Hagy asked Mr. Lasko when the new striping will be started on Route 6. Mr. Lasko said that we still need final ODOT approval, but received really good information last week that they only came back with a minor comment or two that OHM has since cleaned up. We anticipate their blessing in the next week, hopefully. OHM, Smith Paving and CTL are already meeting to talk about coordination and we are still hoping for that to occur the first or second week of October. Asked by Mr. Hagy if we are running out of time, Mr. Lasko answered that, weather permitting, we can still do that

in October if we get a stretch of a couple days of good weather. If there is any change or delay, we are going to keep Council and the public aware, but we are still hopeful that it will get done this year and believe there are still some good weeks left in the month of October. Mr. Hagy expressed his condolences to the Pisano and Thaxton families for their losses, and his prayers are with them.

- **Mr. Hardy** – Congratulations to the staff and everyone that contributed to the Vision 2020 update. It wasn't an easy process, but he is looking forward to seeing some of those projects come to fruition over the course of the next 3-5 years.
- **Mr. Tapp** – Condolences to the Pisano and Thaxton families, who lost Mr. Thaxton. His son is one of our full-time firefighters. He has received a lot of positive comments of how good the street lights are looking and will look even better when the other ones get taken down. He thanked Mr. Steinwart, Mr. Gibboney and Mr. Engle for everything they do and stay on stuff and their projects are tremendous. The rest of the staff has been great, and he really appreciates the hard work.

Executive Session

None.

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Hardy to adjourn the meeting.

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

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

There being more than a majority voting in favor of the motion, the Mayor declared the meeting of September 14, 2021 adjourned at 7:18pm.


Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council

Adopted: 12 OCT 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.