

THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO
Proceedings of the Huron City Council
Regular Meeting Tuesday, December 27, 2022 at 6:30pm

Public Hearing

Public Hearing on the annual 2023 Municipal Budget

Call to Order

The Vice-Mayor called the Public Hearing to order at 6:30pm. The Vice-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 Vice-Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll for the Public Hearing. The following members of Council answered present: **William Biddlecombe, Sam Artino, Mark Claus, Joe Dike, Matt Grieves and Joel Hagy.** Council member absent: **Monty Tapp.**

Swear in Witnesses

Law Director Todd Schrader swore in witnesses for the Public Hearing, including all members of Council, City Manager Matt Lasko and Finance Director Cory Swaisgood.

Witness Testimony

Mr. Lasko said that Mr. Swaisgood will handle the majority of the content prior to opening up for any questions, he thinks it is important to recognize the very thorough process that the City and the Finance Committee go through on an annual basis. A lot of that is driven by our Finance Department and all of the department heads put a lot in, some of those that are with us tonight, and some of those that aren't. Again, he really wants to thank everyone for their thoroughness to the process and attention to detail, again, under the guidance of Mr. Swaisgood, his team and obviously, our Finance Committee. We have got a tremendous group that's very involved in that process, several of which are on Council. Again, thank you to everyone, Mr. Swaisgood and his team, especially. With that, he turned things over to Mr. Swaisgood.

Mr. Swaisgood stated that in accordance with the City Charter, the City Manager's recommended budget as submitted to Council on November 29, 2022, was to be presented at tonight's Public Hearing for approval. If approved he does respectfully ask for Council's approval of the 2023 appropriations, which is on tonight's agenda as Ordinance 2022-69.

First off, he would like to thank the Finance staff, department directors, Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Lasko, specifically, for their help in putting together the 2023 budget. He says this every year, but the amount of dedication and the passion of the staff of the City of Huron has just been tremendous, and it is truly amazing and he is just glad to be a part of this team. He would also like to thank, like Mr. Lasko said, the Finance Committee members for their time and their very valuable input during this process. Again, this is just one of the best committee he has ever been a part of in his time in municipal government.

High Level Review. Council should have received the outlined Budget Book line, which is also on the City of Huron's website and also a PDF copy of it, as well. A high-level review of the 2023 budget shows the City is committing to spending over \$30 Million in 2023, with \$5.6 Million coming from the City's General Fund for public safety, services and City operations. The 2023 budget was built with the mindset of cautious optimism, especially with the uncertainty of the current economic downturn and inflationary trends that

have been ongoing during 2022. Staff has projected that we will end fiscal year 2022 with approximately \$1.7 Million in unencumbered funds in the General Fund, which amounts to a 30% reserve balance. Budgeting conservatively for the next 10 years out of General Fund, the City is expected to maintain an 18% or higher fund balance reserve. If Council recalls, the General Fund balance policy requires the City to maintain a 15%-25% reserve every year. The 2023 budget is made up of initiatives and projects discussed during the hearings, which include the east side Cleveland Road sidewalks project, tennis court reconstruction at Fabens Park, the Sawmill Parkway improvements, major local road resurfacing program, US 6 improvements that will be derived from the Sawmill Creek Resort TIF, and the South Main Street water line replacement project. The 2023 budget includes salary increases of 2.25% for all staff, which is in line with the collective bargaining agreements. Additional wage considerations were made for Parks and Recreation employees, a Human Resource Manager, and a General Maintenance position, which is all budgeted out of the City's General Fund. To support this budget, the City is anticipated continued growth in income tax revenue, which saw an increase of 15% in 2022, or approximately \$500,000 more than 2021's income tax revenue. The 2022 increase allowed the City to better manage those inflationary costs, such as fuel and support the hire of an additional police officer earlier on in 2022. City Council also approved a water rate increase that will take effect January 1st of 2023. That rate increase is expected to support future capital investments in water infrastructure, but as we found out this fall, it will also be needed to support water chemical increases if those increases continue.

Policy Discussions for 2023. Policy discussions include an electric rate study, the garbage service contract and permissive tax increase. The permissive tax increase was recommended by the Finance Committee for Council to consider approval in 2023. As discussed and presented during the budget meetings, future projections show the General Fund supporting personnel increases, local road resurfacing and minor capital equipment replacement throughout the next 5-10 years, but the City should be mindful of rising costs for major capital equipment purchases such as street and fire vehicles and mindful of future revenue needs in the operations of the Parks Department, the Street Department, stormwater services and fire. Future projections show these areas needing attention for additional revenue or realignment of services within the next 5 years to continue operations at a high level.

The Vice-Mayor asked if there were any questions from Council or comments from the audience. There were none.

Motion

Motion by Mr. Hagy to approve the 2023 Annual Budget as presented.

The Vice-Mayor asked if there were any questions relating to the motion. There being none, the Vice-Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

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

Vice-Mayor Claus said that he wanted to take this opportunity to also thank Mr. Swaisgood, his staff, the Finance Committee, and all department heads for this budget process. It's a very detailed process, and if you are anybody who's been involved with the Finance Committee or has been to one of those meetings,

you can understand a little more, even, what's involved and the reports are available. For the public, this is all available online and you can get into the budget books and see all of the information. If you have any questions for staff or Mr. Swaisgood, please feel free to ask.

Adjournment of Public Hearing

Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe to adjourn the Public Hearing.

The Vice-Mayor asked if there were any questions relating to the motion. There being none, the Vice-Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Dike, Grieves, Hagy (6)

NAYS: None (0)

There being more than a majority in favor of the motion, the motion passed and the Public Hearing was adjourned.

Call to Order of Regular Council Meeting

The Vice-Mayor called to order the regular meeting of Council at 6:40 pm in Council Chambers.

Roll Call

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

Motion by Mr. Artino to excuse Mayor Tapp's absence from the meeting. Vice-Mayor Claus directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Artino, Claus, Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe (6)

NAYS: None (0)

There being more than a majority in favor, the motion passed and Mayor Tapp's absence from the meeting was excused.

Staff in attendance: City Manager Matt Lasko, Law Director Todd Schrader, Service Director Stuart Hamilton, City Engineer Russ Critelli, OHM Engineer Larry Fridrich, Planning Director Erik Engle, Finance Director Cory Swaisgood, Police Chief Robert Lippert, Keith Lobsinger and Clerk of Council Terri Welkener.

Approval of Minutes

None.

Audience Comments

The Mayor directed members of the audience having comments to approach the podium, state their name and address Council, and advised that they would have 3 minutes to make their comments.

None.

Old Business**Resolution No. 103-2022 (Amended)**

Motion by Mr. Claus that the three-reading rule be suspended and Amended Resolution No. 103-2022 (AN AMENDED RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE CITY MANAGER'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSAL AND EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH MEDICAL MUTUAL FOR THE PROVISION OF 2023 MEDICAL HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE) placed on its first reading.

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

YEAS: Claus, Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino (6)

NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more in favor of the motion, the three-reading rule was waived and Amended Resolution No. 103-222 was placed on its first reading. The Law Director read Amended Resolution No. 103-2022 by its title only.

Mr. Swaisgood explained that this legislation is an amendment of the same Resolution that Council passed on November 22, 2022. As Council may recall, Medical Mutual's initial premium, which is the City's healthcare provider, resulted in a 37% increase from 2022, which would have increased the City's medical premium by over \$270,000 in 2023. The City did not have much room to negotiate due to current union contracts in place and other providers declined to quote, but the City did some plan changes that resulted in a renewal increase of only 7%, totaling \$54,000 more than 2021, rather than the initial 47%. Subsequent to that meeting on November 22nd, the HRA provide for the City advised that they will not be able to administer the plan, which was an integral part of our medical plan. This created a problem in that no other HRA administrator would administer the new plan. Through close ties with medical mutual, the City's consultant, Gallagher, was able to work with Medical Mutual to create a new plan that Medical Mutual would act as the HRA administrator for the City while still providing the City with premium savings and our employees with the same level of health care. The new plan did result in a premium increase, but did provide a more streamlined process for employees to go through the HRA process for reimbursement. This new plan before Council for consideration resulted in a 13% increase in premium, which totals \$95,000 more in 2021. The employee plan, such as the HRA and opt-out amounts, did remain the same, and there has been no change in the employee's out-of-pocket cost. The City accounts for this activity out of the Health Care Fund, and this was included in the 2023 appropriations on Council's agenda for tonight.

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

YEAS: Claus, Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino (6)

NAYS: None (0)

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Amended Ordinance No. 103-2022 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted by signed by the Vice-Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Ordinance No. 2022-60

Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe that Ordinance No. 2022-60 (AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A NEW SECTION 1126.18 (SOLAR STRUCTURES) UNDER CHAPTER 1126 (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING CODE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF HURON) be placed on its second reading.

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

YEAS: Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Dike, Grieves, Hagy (6)

NAYS: None (0)

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Ordinance No. 2022-60 was placed on its second reading. The Law Director read Ordinance No. 2022-60 by its title only.

Mr. Engle stated that as previously read, this ordinance seeks to establish regulations for solar panels, both ground-mounted and roof-mounted. In doing so, it will establish conditional use criteria for said ground mounted panels in both the residential and business districts, in which case approval will be through the planning commission on a case-by-case basis.

Mr. Artino said he didn't know if they already discussed this, but how does it impact someone that wants to put it on their roof? Mr. Engle answered that, essentially, it would be allowed in all districts.

New Business**Resolution No. 112-2022**

Motion by Mr. Dike that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution No. 112-2022 (A RESOLUTION APPROVING A SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE PROSECUTOR AGREEMENT WITH ANDREA F. ROCCO FOR THE PROVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES AS PROSECUTING ATTORNEY FOR THE CITY OF HURON THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023) be placed on its first reading.

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

YEAS: Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus (6)

NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 112-2022 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko stated that as noted in the summary, Ms. Andrea Rocco has served as the City's Prosecutor for all of 2022. Up until this point, we have been very satisfied with her performance and are recommending an amendment that would extend her contractual employment with the City through 2023. There is no adjustment to the underlying contractual salary, which is \$35,000, that will remain the same. This is truly just an amendment extending the agreement through the end of 2023.

The Vice-Mayor asked if there were any further questions on the motion. There being none, the Vice-Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on final adoption of Resolution No. 112-2022. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Resolution No. 112-2022 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 114-2022

Motion by Mr. Claus that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution No. 114-2022 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A FIRST AMENDMENT TO EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT WITH ANDREA F. ROCCO FOR THE PROVISION OF EMPLOYMENT LAW AND HUMAN RESOURCES SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF HURON FOR A PERIOD OF ONE (1) YEAR THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023) be placed on its first reading.

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

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

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 114-2022 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko stated that back in the first quarter of last, with Council's support, they made the determination to bring on an HR Administrator/Personnel Officer, that had been historically a duty handled by Mr. Swaisgood and Mrs. Welkener, which is really inappropriate for a city of our size to have those two individuals handling HR needs and employment law needs. They did enter into an agreement with Ms. Rocco at the time for \$25,000, using this year as a test year to determine what the need is for that position. They knew there was a need, but they didn't know the extent of the need. In retrospect, they think a lot of their employees found this a very valuable position, not to mention everything that the City has going on. To name a few of the items that fall under this position was everything from personnel issues, grievances, workers compensation matters, complete overhaul of our employee handbook, several salary studies that were done this year, healthcare matter, and she is the City's liaison to the bargaining units, just to name a few. What they found out is the need for the HR position is significant, and is much valued by our staff to have a dedicated individual. With that, they are proposing a continuation of Ms. Rocco's employment in this position. Although there is a pretty significant recommended increase to the contractual salary, taking a salary of \$25,000 to \$45,000, this is in line with a lot of other part-time HR positions in and around the area, and again, we think is a very valuable asset and resource for our employees and departments. With that, he is happy to answer any questions. This will be only through 2023, and they will reevaluate again at the end of 2023.

Mr. Hagy asked if the \$45,000 covers both prosecutor and HR duties or are they separate. Mr. Lasko answered that they are completely separate contracts. It would be a cumulative of \$80,000.

The Vice-Mayor asked if there were any further questions on the motion. There being none, the Vice-Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on final adoption of Resolution No. 114-2022. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Resolution No. 114-2022 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 115-2022

Motion by Mr. Artino that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution No. 115-2022 (A RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE CITY MANAGER'S EXECUTION OF A FIRST ADDENDUM TO THE JOBS AND COMMERCE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT - EXTENSION OF DATE ONLY - RELATING TO THE SAWMILL PARKWAY RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT (PID – 114640; ODOT AGREEMENT NO. 36252-A ERI SAWMILL PARKWAY)) be placed on its first reading.

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

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

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 115-2022 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Hamilton explained that in 2021, ODOT Jobs and Commerce committed \$25,000 to the Sawmill Parkway Reconstruction Project, which commitment was due to expire on December 16th. Due to the short turnaround, they executed the agreement to hold onto those funds and are now coming back to Council for forgiveness on this one. The new extension date for this is now December 29, 2023.

The Vice-Mayor asked if there were any further questions on the motion. There being none, the Vice-Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on final adoption of Resolution No. 115-2022. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Resolution No. 115-2022 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Vice-Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 116-2022

Motion by Mr. Claus that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution No. 116-2022 (A RESOLUTION THAT THE CITY OF HURON WILL PICK UP TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE STATUTORILY REQUIRED CONTRIBUTION TO THE OHIO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM AS A FRINGE BENEFIT FOR THE CITY MANAGER OF THE CITY OF HURON PURSUANT TO INTERNAL REVENUE CODE SECTION 414(h)(2)) be placed on its first reading.

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

YEAS: Claus, Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino (6)

NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 116-2022 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Swaisgood explained that Resolution No. 116-2022 essentially amends Resolution No. 2020-01, which only allowed the City to pick up 5% of the City Manager's pension contribution just for the position, which would be 50% of the employee's contributions to OPERS. City Council must approve the resolution tonight in order to comply with State laws and the recently adopted City Manager contract. OPERS requires a separate resolution from the City for the City Manager's contract allowing the City to pick up the full 10% of the City Manager's position contribution, which would be 100% of the employee's contribution. Non-compliance with these laws could result in the State issuing penalties against the City, and again, the current contract for this position requires the City to pick up the full 10%. This resolution is necessary as we begin the 2023 budget year.

The Vice-Mayor added, just to be clear, that this is not anything in addition to what Council previously voted on with Mr. Lasko's contract two meetings ago. This is just dotting the i's and crossing the t's with the State regulations. Mr. Swaisgood said that was correct.

The Vice-Mayor asked if there were any further questions on the motion. There being none, the Vice-Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on final adoption of Resolution No. 116-2022. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Claus, Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino (6)

NAYS: None (0)

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Resolution No. 116-2022 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Vice-Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 117-2022

Motion by Mr. Grieves that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution No. 117-2022 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO MAKE APPLICATION TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF WATERCRAFT, FOR A 2023 MARINE PATROL ASSISTANCE GRANT FOR THE HURON POLICE HARBOR PATROL PROGRAM IN THE CITY OF HURON; AND FURTHER

AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE GRANT AWARD IN THE AMOUNT OF THIRTY-FOUR THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED NINETY-TWO AND 66/100 DOLLARS (\$34,892.66) AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF WATERCRAFT, SHOULD THE APPLICATION BE SUCCESSFUL) be placed on its first reading.

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

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

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived and Resolution 117-2022 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Chief Lippert stated that this is their traditional application to operate their marine patrol boat in the summertime. He introduced Officer Keith Lobsinger, who has administered the grant for the last 18 or so years, and Officer Ian Foos, a fairly new hire who will be taking over the grant operations after this year. Keith is going to train him all year, and then Ian will take over and do to the application, the award, the stats and the year-end report, which Keith stresses over every year. With Council's approval, they would like to submit, with full disclosure they have already submitted the application and the State came back and said they needed a resolution (which was not always needed in prior year). Everything is now tied into this resolution, as far as the application and the acceptance.

The Vice-Mayor asked if there were any further questions on the motion. There being none, the Vice-Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on final adoption of Resolution No. 117-2022. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Resolution No. 117-2022 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Vice-Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 118-2022

Motion by Mr. Artino that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution No. 118-2022 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL AND ENTER INTO A SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH OHM ADVISORS FOR THE PROVISION OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE CITY OF HURON AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED NINETY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$90,000.00) FOR THE CONTRACT TERM JANUARY 1, 2023 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023) be placed on its first reading.

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

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

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 118-2022 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko said that before he ultimately defer to Mr. Hamilton, he wanted to acknowledge beyond the cost of the contract for next year, which he knows Mr. Hamilton will highlight, there are several differences in this proposed contract than in prior years, which they strongly believe are to the benefit of the City. With that he wanted to acknowledge Mr. Critelli and his team for understanding some of the needs and desires from the City, and their willingness to be able to agree to some of the terms that Mr. Hamilton will cover. He wanted to acknowledge and thank OHM for their participation during this contract review process. Mr. Lasko then turned things over to Mr. Hamilton.

Mr. Hamilton stated that the current contract ends on December 31st of this year. This is actually a continuation of the previous contract, with a modest increase of \$3,380 over the prior 2 years. We not only get Russ and Larry here, but they also get a full team these guys. They bring with them a wealth of information, knowledge and connections. They get us a lot of movement, especially in the grant funding, as well. They believe that this is money well spent for the City, and it works for OHM, as well. They went through the contract and worked with Russ and made a lot of changes to it. They have the contract working on behalf of the City as well as OHM. It has taken some teething room, but working with Russ and his experience in this field, he things they have themselves a good contract to work with. They are doing a 1-year contract. They will feel out how all of the changes will work this year, and then if it works, this will be contract going forward.

Vice-Mayor Claus thanked Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Critelli and Larry for all of their hard work on behalf of the City in the past and going forward.

The Vice-Mayor asked if there were any further questions on the motion. There being none, the Vice-Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on final adoption of Resolution No. 118-2022. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Resolution No. 118-2022 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Vice-Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Ordinance No. 2022-66

Motion by Mr. Dike that the three-reading rule be suspending and Ordinance No. 2022-66 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING HURON CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 161.04 (A), EXHIBIT "A" POSITION AND SALARY SCHEDULE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY) placed on its first reading.

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

YEAS: Dike, Grievess, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus (6)

NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more in favor of the motion, the three-reading rule was waived and Ordinance No. 2022-66 was placed on its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Motion by Dike to place Ordinance No. 2022-66 as an emergency measure.

The Vice-Mayor asked there were any questions on the motion, There being none, the Vice-Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Dike, Grievess, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus (6)

NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor of the motion, Ordinance No. 2022-66 was placed as an emergency measure.

Mr. Swaisgood said that he would like to address Ordinance Nos. 2022-66 and 2022-68 at this time. Both of these ordinances are part of an annual process that the City administration currently goes through with the annual budget process, which amends Codified Ordinance 161, which is the annual position salary schedules for non-charter positions and charter positions. Ordinance No. 2022-66 authorizes the annual position and salary schedule for the non-charter positions within the City. Modifications to this schedule are suggested based on wage increases, collective bargaining agreements, and changes to state and federal laws. The 2023 budget includes the updated annual salaries based on the 2.25% salary increase for all non-bargaining and bargaining employees. The modifications to ranges and full-time position and salary schedules have been adjusted to reflect the current base salaries and increases. The part-time and seasonal position salary schedule has been mostly modified from the minimum wage increases from \$9.30/hour and \$10.10/hour, and those base ranges have been adjusted. In addition, the maximum range of the part-time police officer and parks maintenance positions were also increased by \$2.00/hour a piece. This was based on discussions during the Finance Committee budget meetings. Increases in these rates does not automatically trigger increases for these part-time positions, but it does allow for any future personnel actions in 2023, if authorized by the City Manager, to give authority to increase those positions. Ordinance No. 2022-68 also amends Codified Ordinance Section 161. These are for salaries of the Law Director, Finance Director, Service, Director, Fire Chief and Police Chief positions. This ordinance is necessary to reflect the maximum base salary for the 2023 budget. There are changes to all positions except for the Law Director, to reflect the 2023 budget. The Police Chief was increased based on the current posting. The salary for the Law Director reflects the terms of the contract with SSEG. The position of Fire Chief is currently vacant, but does remain consistent, as it does in past years, with the Police Chief salary, for 2023.

The Vice-Mayor asked if there were any further questions on the motion. There being none, the Vice-Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on final adoption of Ordinance No. 2022-66. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Ordinance No. 2022-66 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Vice-Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Ordinance No. 2022-68

Motion by Mr. Dike that the three-reading rule be suspending and Ordinance No. 2022-68 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING HURON CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 161.04 (A), EXHIBIT "A" POSITION AND SALARY SCHEDULE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY) placed on its first reading.

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

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

There being five or more in favor of the motion, the three-reading rule was waived and Ordinance No. 2022-68 was placed on its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Motion by Mr. Dike to place Ordinance No. 2022-68 as an emergency measure.

The Vice-Mayor asked there were any questions on the motion, There being none, the Vice-Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being five or more votes in favor of the motion, Ordinance No. 2022-68 was placed as an emergency measure.

The Vice-Mayor asked if there were any further questions on the motion. There being none, the Vice-Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on final adoption of Ordinance No. 2022-68. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Ordinance No. 2022-68 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Vice-Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Ordinance No. 2022-67

Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be suspending and Ordinance No. 2022-67 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2021-41, ADOPTED DECEMBER 14, 2021, TO PROVIDE FOR

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE GENERAL FUND AND OTHER FUNDING SOURCES, AND CASH TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS) placed on its first reading.

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

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

There being five or more in favor of the motion, the three-reading rule was waived and Ordinance No. 2022-67 was placed on its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Swaisgood stated that Ordinance No 2022-67 is adopting the final appropriations for fiscal year 2022. The Ohio Revised Code does not allow for municipalities or any government entity in Ohio to expend more than approved through the budget in any fiscal year. Exhibit A includes all supplemental and budget transfers that are necessary to complete the 2022 budget. Any significant increases in appropriations are included on the first page of Exhibit A and summary. The total budget will be increased by \$284,000, which is mostly due to additional cash transfers that the administration was adding to this legislation for approval tonight. The total of those cash transfers is \$175,000 from the General Fund to the Capital Improvement Fund and also to the Garbage Fund. Other increases in General Fund include any increases to the income tax collection costs since income tax revenue increased by 15% this year, as did the tax collection costs. The Fire Levy Fund also experienced a 15% budget increase due to recent unanticipated vehicle maintenance and repair costs at the end of the year. All fund balances are sufficient to cover these increases in appropriations. Exhibit A also includes additional cash transfers from the General Fund as discussed during the 4th Quarter Finance Committee meeting. \$150,000 will be transferred from the Capital Improvement Fund to support future capital financing needs, such as the East Cleveland Road sidewalks and \$25,000 is also being transferred to the Garbage Fund to prevent a deficit fund balance by year-end. The current garbage contract will be addressed in early 2023 to prevent any future deficit spending out of this Garbage Fund. Also, other cash transfers to the Police Pension Fund, their year-end cash transfers from the School Resource Officer and the Marine Patrol Grant.

The Vice-Mayor asked if there were any further questions on the motion. There being none, the Vice-Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on final adoption of Ordinance No. 2022-67. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Ordinance No. 2022-67 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Vice-Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Ordinance No. 2022-69

Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be suspending and Ordinance No. 2022-69 (AN ORDINANCE MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023) placed on its first reading.

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

YEAS: Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Dike, Grieves (6)

NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more in favor of the motion, the three-reading rule was waived and Ordinance No. 2022-69 was placed on its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Swaisgood stated that the 2023 Budget was presented during a Public Hearing tonight and approved by Council before this meeting. This agenda item is lawfully adopting appropriations for the 2023 fiscal year, which are included in Exhibit A.

The Vice-Mayor asked if there were any further questions on the motion. There being none, the Vice-Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on final adoption of Ordinance No. 2022-69. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Dike, Grieves (6)

NAYS: None (0)

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Ordinance No. 2022-69 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Vice-Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

City Manager's Discussion

The City Manager spoke on several topics:

- **Condolences** – Mr. Lasko wanted to send a few condolences on behalf of the City. He wanted to send his condolences to the Mayor, Mr. Monty Tapp, and his family, on the passing of his mother last week. They know it has been a challenging fall and winter for him and his family. They are thinking of him and his family, and are sending their thoughts and families. They also want to acknowledge the unfortunate passing, as well, this weekend of Pete Daniel, a long-term Erie County Administrator. There was a great article from a lot of local public officials that really gave a great testament to his background, work ethic and passion for Erie County. Their thoughts and prayers are with his family, as well.
- **Thanks to Safety Forces** – Mr. Lasko wants to thank all of their safety forces and street crews for their efforts the last few days. He knows our safety forces assisted other communities with mutual aid calls, and our streets crews braved frigid conditions to keep our roads safe and passable, even with the constant and changing drift locations throughout the City. They received a lot of nice comments and messages from the public of gratitude. Thanks to all for their efforts the last couple of days.
- **ConAgra** – The development team presented to the Planning Commission on Wednesday, December 14th for the consideration of their conceptual site plan. There was great conversation and the developer did leave that meeting with some suggestions and modifications to that conceptual plan, and they anticipate they will attend and upcoming Planning Commission meeting

in either January or February. If approved at that time, the developers will still be required to complete a thorough design review process and final site plan approval, including landscaping and lighting, in early 2023.

- Sawmill Creek Resort – To hopefully close out Sawmill Creek Resort, he thanked Mr. Swaisgood and his team with the City finally disbursing the \$2 Million subsidy to Cedar Fair on December 20th for the subsidization of that renovation project. This was part of a \$3 Million note issuance on December 15th of this year. The \$3 Million in TIF notes will mature in September of 2023, and at that time, they will look to do a long-term bond issuance.
- Work Sessions for the Month of January – Based on feedback received from Council, as well as the Ohio Department of Transportation, they anticipate requesting a work session before the second Council meeting in January as relates to Route 6 Phase 2 recommendations. They will look at trying to finalize a conceptual plan to move forward with. They will also take a high-level view of funding sources, as well as the reasons behind the alternatives not being selected, as well as the recommendation from staff and our engineers at OHM. The second work session would entail OHM presenting a talk regarding the possibility of reinstituting or exploring a quiet zone. They hope to convene this in January of 2023, and he really wants to use this as an educational session for Council and for the public, and he knows a lot of Council members have been part of past discussions, but he thinks it is a worthwhile endeavor to update exactly what one is, what the process looks like, and what the potential costs would be to the community to look at a quiet zone.
- 2023 Street Resurfacing – OHM is currently in the design phase of this project. He is sure residents have noticed that crews have been out there over the last week or two undertaking core samples to look at any problem areas that exist below surface. They hope to have this project bid out in February of 2023.
- Recreation – The annual 2023 Huron Joint Recreation Agreement was considered by the Huron Board of Education at their regularly scheduled December 20th board meeting. With a vote of 3 to 2, the Board voted to not renew the agreement, at least not at that meeting. The Board has requested a meeting with the City to review the terms of that agreement to determine if the City will consider amendments to that agreement moving forward that would hopefully receive a more favorable vote from the Board. This meeting is not yet scheduled, and he does have a few additional comments to add that he will share at the end of his Manager's Report.
- South Main Street Water Main Replacement Project – They have OHM starting the design part of the project, and a pre-design walkthrough has been scheduled with City staff. They would hope to have that project ready to bid by March of 2023. That project includes full water main replacement on portions of South Main Street south of Valley View, portions of Huron-Avery Road from Mudbrook to the City Limits, portions of Mudbrook Road, full replacement of Forest Hills, Valley View and Hickory Drive, full replacement of Mill Street, and partial replacement of Huron Street. In addition, the City will be looking at appropriate areas to do street resurfacing as part of that project, as well.
- Personnel/Administration – On behalf of the Police Department, he wanted to mention that the Huron Police Department is in the beginning stages of fundraising efforts to reestablish the K-9 Unit. There is a fundraiser spaghetti dinner being held at Huron Eagles on January 8th from 11:00am to 2:00pm. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for children. This will cover your meal for that afternoon, and there will be raffles at the door. Anyone interested in purchasing tickets can come to the Police Department. We are very excited to be looking at reestablishing that K-9 Unit.

- Body-Worn Camera Grant Award – In the last week or so, the Governor issued the notification as relates to the award for body cameras. The City received just over \$92,000 of our approximate \$150,000 request. They are very excited to move forward with the project to the benefit of our residents and officers. He wanted to acknowledge and thank Chief Lippert and he also knows Sergeant Graham was involved in the application process. This is a little bit short of what was asked for, but the good news is that this is a 5-year program, so they are already having conversations with the Police Department and Mr. Swaisgood about how the City could cover that gap over the 5-year period. They already did a budget for the tasers, as well, as part of the 2023 budget, so although there is a shortfall, they are very grateful for the State's assistance in allowing the City to implement this program.
- Upcoming Meetings for January – HJRD on Tuesday, January 3rd at 6:30pm; Utilities Committee on Wednesday, January 4th at 5:00pm; BZA on Monday, January 9th at 6:30pm; first Council meeting of the next year on Tuesday, January 10th at 6:30pm; Planning Commission on Wednesday, January 18th at 5:00pm. We are also anticipating a Council work session on January 24th at 5:30pm, to be followed by the regular Council meeting on January 24th at 6:30pm. Also on that night, there will be a Public Hearing on the changing of the street name from West Street (aka West Drive) to Sail Away Drive at 6:30pm. Finally, there is a Safety Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 25th at 9:00am (tentative). As a reminder to the public, in observance of New Year's Eve, they will be closing the offices on Friday, December 30th at noon, and they will also be observing New Year's Day on Monday, January 2nd, and will be closed the entire day.

Mr. Lasko then asked the Vice-Mayor to address Council and the public with a few comments relating to the Rec District:

"Again, I wanted to follow up on my previous comments regarding the School District's recent vote to not approve the 2023 HJRD agreement. It was suggested at the meeting that the two sides should meet in the upcoming weeks to potentially review the terms of the agreement to see if there are any amendments that would the agreement more palatable to the School District. Of course, as always, the City will attend these meetings and be a listening partner to our School District and Board. Regardless, I do feel strongly in needing to address some of the commentary from that evening. It was suggested multiple times that the financial participation in the HJRD was a mission creep for the School District and that there are more pressing needs for how the District could spend \$49,000. I really do understand and appreciate those comments, and I note the School Board Members, Township Trustees and Council Persons have a great responsibility in deciding to spend resources on behalf students and our respective residents. I really believe resource allocation may be the greatest responsibility for elected officials. However, on behalf of the City administration, I do take issue with the portrayal of the Huron Joint Rec District and the Huron Parks and Recreation Department. At the meeting, it was suggested by one individual that they cannot fathom spending \$50,000 to just cut and mow grass. This gross mischaracterization of the HJRD and Huron Parks and Recreation Department felt offensive and demeaning, whether intended or not. I truly believe the HJRD is a model of how public entities can partner to develop, maintain and program our public spaces to the benefit of all. The Huron Parks and Recreation Department has long been held as one of the best departments locally and regionally in municipal circles. I will remind everyone, just recently, Fabens Park was honored nationally as a premier recreation and athletic facility. To strip the department down publicly to one that is predominantly, if not exclusively, one that cuts grass, diminishes this group and everything it's accomplished on behalf of stakeholders for decades. Thousands of residents, visitors and most

importantly, children, have benefited from this department's untiring and selfless effort each and every year. Whether it be through countless camps carried out, popular events, music shows, festivals organized at green spaces, beaches and athletic fields that are meticulously maintained, this department creates lifelong memories for families and children daily, and helps develop the skills of our youth. Just as the community needs a great and strong school system to attract families, which we have, we also need maintained infrastructure, responsive services and yes, robust and dynamic parks and recreational facilities. I know they are not here this evening, but Doug, Brian, Rick, Dan and Jen, and all of those past and present members of HJRD, it is true that you guys cut grass, and you do it well, but you are much more than that, and we appreciate all that you do for our residents, families, children and visitors daily."

Vice-Mayor Claus thanked Mr. Lasko and asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Artino said he would like to make some comments regarding this matter. He asked if the school uses the tennis courts – that's part of that \$49,000. They would have to pay like anyone else would if they weren't part of the HJRD – it's not just cutting grass. Mr. Lasko said that he thinks that's all negotiable. In a perfect world, they would stay away from having these conversations and there would be a common vision and belief in partnerships, whether that's for the Rec District, whether that's for the School Resource Officer, whether that's for other improvements we've made as relates to the flashing school zone beacons, etc. They would love to continue those relationships and not go down a tit-for-tat sort of calculation, but again, he thinks everything is, unfortunately, going to have to be on the table if they move forward. Mr. Artino said that he wouldn't say any more.

Mayor's Discussion

Vice-Mayor Claus said that he would try to make this brief. He wants to offer his condolences to Mayor Tapp and his family on the passing of his mother. It is very unfortunate at any time, but also having lost his father just a short few months ago, it is a very difficult time during the holidays for the Tapp family. Our prayers and thoughts are with them.

He also wants to pass on his condolences to the Lee family on the passing of Danny Lee. He has left behind his 5 children, 3 of whose mother passed away a couple of years ago. We want to make sure that their whole family is in our thoughts and prayers. Danny was a lifelong citizen of Huron, was very involved in athletics with his children and as a young man, as well, and will be missed by all.

He also wants to pass along his thank you to the Street Department, Fire Department, Police, Parks and Rec, Water Department, and all City services during this severely harsh winter for taking care of things through this last weekend. He knows it is difficult and the effort that everyone put forth. We all saw them out plowing in frigid weather, the Police Department out directing traffic in the -20 degree wind chill factor, and we definitely appreciate all of that hard work. Luckily, we didn't have a catastrophe with the Water Department with the water level going down so low that we couldn't even draw water from the lake. Fingers crossed, he thinks the water's coming back now. He wants to make sure everyone understands our appreciation for those efforts. He wants to wish the City staff, Council and the citizens on behalf of Council, the Mayor and himself, a Happy New Year.

For the Good of the Order

William Biddlecombe – My condolences to Mayor Tapp and his family, as well as the Lee family. He would like to thank this group of students here for joining us here tonight. Please come back as much as you want. I would like to continue to thank our staff for their hard work, especially those safety services and Street Department for working in blizzard conditions last week. As the liaison to the School Board, takeaways from the December meeting – the Board voted to close Shawnee, that will save them \$73,500 annually, and leaving Woodlands, McCormick and the High Schools as the 3 remaining schools for next year. Like Mr. Lasko noted, they did vote 3-2 not to approve their portion of the HJRD partnership, which was smaller this year, despite the recommendation from the Superintendent and after the Treasurer noted that we are doing very well in his commentary about their finances. It was disappointing that the agreement was seen as one-way donation or a levy for the Parks and Rec, and not viewed for the benefits that all entities have received over the 20+ years. I am rather optimistic that they would like to sit down with Council, the HJRD and Township to discuss the agreement, however, I am a little discouraged as well, because they had the same stance last year, but that did not come to fruition despite a whole year to do so. I would like to point out that the new Berlin Road park that was brought up during that meeting was funded through AARPA funds and not through the Joint Rec District, and I would like to acknowledge our Parks and Rec staff, who do so much more for the schools and the residents of Huron and the Township than just mow the City parks. The next meeting of the Scott Cemetery Board will be Monday, January 9th at 6:30pm at the Huron Township Hall, and a reminder to all citizens, the next large item garbage day is January 9th. I would like to wish all citizens and staff a Happy New Year, and home games coming up – boys' basketball on 12/30 and 1/6; girls' basketball on 1/4, 1/6 and 1/10; boys' and girls' bowling on 1/5 and 1/10. Please come out and support all of our student athletes, and Go Tigers!

Sam Artino – I would like, first of all, express my condolences to Mayor Tapp, his family, the Dan Lee family and Pete Daniels' family. I got to know Pete a little bit, and he was really a great guy and did a heck of a job for the County. I would like to express my condolences to their families. I would also like to say thank you to the young students who came out here. I told the group last week, I am glad to see you getting involved – please stay involved. Think about getting on Council, because if you don't you're stuck with a bunch of old guys. I would also like to say that he has been on this Council a long time, and I'll tell you what, our first responders and our employees, they mean a lot – they do lot. You look at this weather that we've dealt with this past weekend. I'd get anybody who wants to go out there and stand toe-to-toe with them out in that weather. The Parks and Rec guys are just as valuable as our first responders. They are out there in that weather, too. I will defend our employees, tooth and nail. Thank you and Happy New Year.

Joe Dike – I would like to also give my condolences to the Tapp, Lee and Daniels families. Sorry for your loss. Your thoughts and prayers are with us, and thank you to everyone.

Matt Grieves – First off, I just want to say thank you to Mr. Lasko for defending the HJRD and Parks and Rec with your kind works. I sit on that board, so I hear everything that they do and I will tell you, they don't just mow lawns. They do a great job there. Also, condolences to the Tapp family.

Joel Hagy – You know, I don't possess the words to adequately convey to condolences I'd like to pass on to Monty and his brother, Dave, to lose your parents so close together. All of Danny's kids to lose both

parents so close together. I am speechless – I hope that they can find some solace in the memories of their loved ones, and I wish them all the best.

Executive Session

None.

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe to adjourn the regular meeting of Council.

The Mayor asked if there were any questions 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: Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Dike, Grieves, Hagy (6)

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor of the motion, the regular Council meeting of December 27, 2022 was adjourned at 7:35pm.


Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council

Adopted: 28 FEB 2023