

THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO
Proceedings of the Huron City Council
Regular Meeting Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Call to Order

The Mayor called the regular meeting of Council to order at 6:30pm on January 25, 2022 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 regular meeting of Council. The following members of Council answered present: **William Biddlecombe, Sam Artino, Mark Claus, Monty Tapp, Joe Dike, Matt Grieves, Joel Hagy.**

Staff participating in the meeting: City Manager Matt Lasko, Law Director Todd Schrader, Planning and Zoning Manager Erik Engle, City Engineer Russ Critelli and Clerk of Council Terri Welkener.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. Artino to approve the minutes of the Council organizational meeting of December 1, 2022, as written.

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

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

There being a majority in favor, the motion was approved.

Audience Comments

The Mayor advised any audience members wishing to speak to approach the podium, state their name and address for the record, and they will have 3 minutes to address Council.

None.

Old Business

Ordinance No. 2022-5

Motion by Mr. Claus that Ordinance 2022-5 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING APPENDIX A "PERMITTED USES" TO CHAPTER 1127 "MIXED-USE DISTRICTS" OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF HURON TO ADDRESS DWELLING UNITS IN COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS, TO PERMIT TRANSIENT RENTALS, TO CONDITIONALLY PERMIT OUTDOOR DISPLAYS OR SALES, AND TO PERMIT PLACES OF WORSHIP/CHURCHES IN MIXED-USE ZONING DISTRICTS) be placed upon its second 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, Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority vote in favor, Ordinance 2022-5 was placed on its second reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Lasko said that this legislation was discussed in great detail at the last meeting. This is the second reading. These are four (4) proposed zoning change recommendations resulting from a work session the Planning Commission had in December, and a fourth one coming the Planning Department. Mr. Schrader summarized them a little bit, but to summarize them again, one recommendation would be to allow transient rental units within the granary district. As he mentioned last meeting, although it would be allowed in the zoning district, as the project moves forward, the City has the ability to restrict those uses through deed restrictions. Second, the zoning change would make any type of outdoor displays, sales, etc. as a conditional permitted use, requiring review of the Planning Commission. Thirdly, it would restrict residential uses on the ground floor of commercial buildings, although they could still be permitted on the ground floor of a residential unit. Fourthly, because it is permitted in other zoning districts, it would permit places of worship and churches. Although we don't anticipate those as part of the ultimate redevelopment plan, because they are permitted in other mixed-use zoning districts, they must be allowed in this district, as well.

Ordinance No. 2022-6 (SECOND READING)

Motion by Mr. Claus that Ordinance 2022-6 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF HURON TO REFLECT THE REZONING OF APPROXIMATELY 11.4 ACRES OF LAND OWNED BY THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO, LOCATED ON THE NORTH SIDE OF CLEVELAND ROAD, ERIE COUNTY, OHIO PERMANENT PARCEL NUMBER 42-61270.001, FROM THE CURRENT I-2 (GENERAL INDUSTRIAL) TO MU-GD (MULTI-USE GRANARY DISTRICT)) be placed upon its second 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, Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority vote in favor, Ordinance 2022-6 was placed on its second reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Lasko said this is the second reading on the rezoning of the former ConAgra parcel. This was recommended to Council by the Planning Commission in December. There was also a public hearing held in the Planning Commission in December, and then last week Council also held a public hearing. There was no opposition or comment from the public. This is just the second reading in the process of that eventual rezoning.

New Business

Ordinance No. 2022-7

Motion by Mr. Dike that the three-reading rule be suspended and Ordinance 2022-7 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1307.01 "INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE ADOPTED" OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO, TO ADOPT THE 2021 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE IN ITS ENTIRETY, 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: Dike, Grievess, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was suspended and Ordinance 2022-7 placed on its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Motion by Mr. Dike to place Ordinance 2022-7 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: Dike, Grievess, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, Ordinance 2022-7 was placed as an emergency measure.

Mr. Lasko provided some background regarding this ordinance revision. The predominant method upon which the City enforces property maintenance and code compliance throughout the City is not so much localized ordinances, but through our adoption and adherence to the International Property Maintenance Code. The latest versions that the City had previously adopted was in 2018. There is now an updated version for 2021. We are simply requesting permission to adopt the most recent version of the International Property Maintenance Code from a code compliance standpoint for our Planning and Zoning Department.

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 2022-7. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Ordinance 2022-7 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Ordinance No. 2022-8

Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be suspended and Ordinance 2022-8 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2021-41, ADOPTED DECEMBER 14, 2021, TO PROVIDE FOR SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE GENERAL FUND AND OTHER FUNDING SOURCES, AN INCREASE IN ESTIMATED RESOURCES, AND FURTHER APPROVING CASH TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY) be placed upon its first reading.

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

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

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was suspended and Ordinance 2022-8 placed on its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Motion

Motion by Mr. Hagy to place Ordinance No. 2022-8 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, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, Ordinance 2022-8 was placed as an emergency measure.

Mr. Swaisgood stated that the appropriation measure before Council includes two increases to appropriations for two funds and are specifically relates to year-end cash transfer from the General Fund to the Capital Improvement Fund that were not made by the end of the year. Due to the City's General Fund Reserve exceeding the 25% threshold according to the policy, the additional funds will be transferred out of the General Fund to the Capital Improvement Fund in the amount of \$300,000, to be used for critical road paving based on OHM's PCR map that is currently in process. That increases the Paving Program from \$200,000 to \$500,000 for 2022. That is also reflected in the appropriation measure.

The increase in estimated resources is an increase of \$300,000, which is the transfer from the General Fund to the Capital Improvement Fund. Also included in this ordinance are quarterly transfers from the General Fund and other operational funds to various funds, such as Capital Debt, Pension, IT Costs and Employee Payroll Reserves.

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 2022-8. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Ordinance 2022-8 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Ordinance No. 2022-10

Motion by Mr. Grieves that the three-reading rule be suspended and Ordinance 2022-10 (AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING FUND 420 – RYE BEACH MUNICIPAL PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT TAX INCREMENT EQUIVALENT FUND FOR THE DEPOSIT OF SERVICE PAYMENTS; 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: Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp, Dike (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was suspended and Ordinance 2022-1 placed on its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Motion by Mr. Grievess to place Ordinance 2022-10 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: Grievess, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp, Dike (7)

NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, Ordinance 2022-10 was placed as an emergency measure.

Mr. Lasko said this relates to the Rye Beach TIF that was created locally in 2012, but was never approved by the State of Ohio. In 2021, the documentation was submitted to the Ohio Department of Taxation to formally recognize the Rye Beach TIF, which basically encompasses Huron Corporate Park and Sawmill Parkway. That was approved in 2021. What we now need to do is to create an actual TIF Fund to be able to receive the future TIF proceeds and revenue streams from the projects that are part of that TIF. We are primarily talking about projects that have undergone construction and additions since 2012. There are approximately 70 parcels within the TIF boundary that could, ultimately, pay into the TIF should they undergo expansions and other types of construction projects. We will be receiving our first funds this year of approximately \$29,000. That number is fairly low because there are still a lot of projects that have abatements on them that will ultimately roll off. The \$29,000 that is in the summary does not account for any future Ardagh payments, and potential future Firelands Scientific payments, as well. That number is probably going to increase before 2029, when some of the first abatements roll off. We are excited to get this up and going, and these are funds that have to be used for public infrastructure and go to the benefit of the parcels within the TIF boundary. It is a pretty general use of the funds.

Mr. Swaisgood had nothing more to add other than this ordinance formally establishes the TIF Fund, so this will be part of the annual budgetary process where we determine the revenue, appropriations to budget for, and also any spending that comes out of that fund in excess of the \$25,000 threshold must come to Council. This will be rolled into the regular operational budget and discussed during the budgetary process.

Mr. Hagy asked what a book renewal TIF is. Mr. Lasko answered that there used to be a Lake Erie Parkway TIF, which has since expired. The Rye Beach TIF is primarily, if you can imagine, the area south of Route 2 south the Bogart Road, with the western boundary being Rye Beach Road, and eastward is roughly where the residential development starts on the north side of Bogart Road. It includes pretty significant acreage, but primarily it is going to be the two corporate parks that are the main payors into that TIF.

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 2022-10. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Grievess, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp, Dike (7)

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Ordinance 2022-10 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution 18-2022

Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution 18-2022 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO PURCHASE APPROXIMATELY 800 NEPTUNE WATER METER RADIO TRANSMITTERS FROM NEPTUNE TECHNOLOGY GROUP FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$100,000.00)) 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: Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Hagy (7)

NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 18-2022 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Gibboney provided some history regarding this legislation. Back in 2006, the City first entertained an automated meter reading system (AMR). The Company selected at that time was Datamatic, who have since gone bankrupt. Datamatic's product that was initially installed from 2006 to 2010, at which point they entered bankruptcy. Zenner acquired the rights to the frequency bands that Datamatic was using, so if they went with Zenner they were still able to use a lot of the infrastructure, the gateways, transmitters, etc. In 2010, they began to implement Zenner-based transmitters for all of the new meters or any failed Datamatic units. Zenner had a prorated warranty system on those radio transmitters, so as they age the replacement cost to the City goes up. They are currently experiencing about 600 transmitter failures each year, and they have gotten to a point where, via the prorated warranty, the cost to the replace them is almost full cost to the City. This is a point where they can pivot and look at other systems that will give us a better return on investment. Looking at other communities around us, as well as Erie County, they solicited feedback and Neptune was the overwhelming recommendation. There are several cities that are relatively close to Huron, some just 10 minutes away, that use the Neptune system, and those systems are up to 20 years old and still functioning as they should. Erie County recently went through an installed the Neptune system. If Huron uses the same system that they do, and we can also build in redundancy built in. Their gateways can support us if we have a failure in any of those gateways or transmitters, and vice versa. This legislation represents the first round of installations for the Neptune system, and represents 20% of the entire system. This will be a 5-year phase in approach, and this first round will allow them to get their feet on the ground and replace the roughly 600 existing dead units with Neptune transmitters. They will eventually be piggy-backing off of County gateways to get that information to the servers, and by year 2, they can start to establish their own gateways and portals to extract all of that information. The 5-year approach will spread out the financial impact of the project, they can also use the remaining Zenner units for a couple years, and that is a reasonable quantity that can be installed themselves without having to outsource the installation. Neptune Technology Group is a sole-source provider, which was reviewed by the Law Director to ensure that the City was handling the process correctly. They are only available through their own solicited provider, and that is Ohio- and Kentucky-wide.

Mr. Hagy said that at the last Utilities Committee meeting, they talked about potentially dual purposing the meters in the future. Mr. Gibboney explained that it is possible, but at this moment the answer is no. Neptune does not currently offer electric-based AMR systems that monitor electric meters, however, that is in their development plans for the future. There are limited companies with that capability. Mayor Tapp asked if the units being purchased would be compatible in the future, Mr. Gibboney answered yes, if Neptune was the one developing the technology, as the gateways/communication path would be the same. Mr. Gibboney said that the City currently has just under 4,000 radio transmitters, and there will be 6 gateways or central

data portals to gather that information and get it to the servers. Every meter is included, whether residential, industrial or commercial.

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 18-2022. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 18-2022 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution 19-2022

Motion by Mr. Artino that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution 19-2022 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH MARK HAYNES CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR REVETMENT SERVICES AT THE EAST END OF HURON LAKE FRONT PARK IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FORTY-NINE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$49,000.00)) 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: Artino, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 19-2022 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Steinwart explained that the shoreline at Lake Front Park adjacent to Wall Street has been compromised the last two or three years from the high water levels. Placement of armor stone is needed to protect the infrastructure and prevent further erosion. The packet includes photographs from 2013 showing what it used to look, as compared to what it currently looks like. They solicited proposals from four contractors, and received three quotes. The project involves approximately 150' of stone revetment work. All three proposals were very comparable as far as price. Haynes Construction was to another proposal with a unit price of \$70. In this type of construction the price is based on actual tonnage.

Mr. Dike asked why one proposal says 700 tons, while another says 750 tons, and the last bid has three different options. With that location receiving the direct impact from Lake Erie, what is the biggest type of stone in the three bids? Mr. Steinwart answered that the Innovative Excavating bid had some of the larger stones. They comparable ones were Haynes and Shoreline, who were using A rock. Mr. Dike said one calls it 1-2 ton armor stone, while another calls it armor stone A – are they the same thing. Mr. Steinwart he is not an expert, but the one may be the same, but Innovative may have some of the larger rocks. Part of the quote is to “restack” existing break wall that, while it is all still there, it has been displaced. We are currently gathering prices for a 3-day labor charge the restack those. That wall was put in approximately 80 years ago, and that will help keep the new revetment work in place. Asked if those are 1-2 ton stones, Mr. Steinwart answered that those are a lot larger than that, and are made of sandstone. The square block model isn't really used anymore in new construction.

Mr. Dike asked what the timeline is for the project. Mr. Steinwart said that it was important to the City to get this done before some of the spring storms pop up. We are not currently locked in by ice, and all three contractors said they would make this project a priority, but they didn't give an exact time. This 150' could be done now because we are not currently locked in. They know that the timeline is important to us this winter, and they all agreed to make it a priority. Mr. Dike said this is the first of a 3-part project, with the 2nd part being rebuilding in the blocks. Mr. Steinwart said that the 3rd part is to clean up the west side by restacking the stone in that area. Mr. Dike said it is unbelievable what can happen over 6 years' time.

Mr. Tapp said the differences between the 3 bids is pretty minimal as far as what is included, but asked if they provide protection for the City. Mr. Steinwart answered that perhaps the Legal Department could add some boilerplate language to protect the City's interests. Mr. Schrader said that he couldn't envision the City proceeding without some agreement containing provisions relating to insurance, liability, safety, etc. While the proposals are appreciated, we have done lesser projects with more protection. Inasmuch as the resolution qualifies us as entering into an agreement, he doesn't think we can go too far on this without a bona fide agreement addressing standard protections for the City. It doesn't have to be over-engineered or over-lawyered, but indemnity, insurance, damage and liability protections should be included. Mayor Tapp asked for Mr. Schrader's suggestion on how to proceed with this legislation. Mr. Schrader answered said that we have to have the agreement we are authorizing in the resolution in hand before it is formally adopted. He asked for approximately 1 week to develop that agreement, and then present it to the contractor for consideration. Mayor Tapp asked if Mr. Schrader suggested this resolution be tabled. Mr. Schrader said that we are coming back if we develop an agreement, so there is merit to tabling it for now, and then give them until the next meeting to develop an agreement.

Mr. Claus asked if there was a specification written by OHM for a specific rock size. Mr. Steinwart answered that they did meet with Mr. Critelli, but did not want to spend the money to over-engineer it, as it was only 150' from here to there. The cost to engineer it would be approximately 50% of the cost to do the project. Mr. Claus said that explains why there is some variation in what each contractor included in the proposal. Mr. Schrader said that Mr. Claus raises another issue. Because there was not a formal scope of work done, the agreement should also contain something that the contractor have evaluated the needs of the City and we are relying on them to tell us what it is going to take to correct the issue. Mr. Dike asked if the revetment near the gazebo is rip rap – would that be considered C rock? Mr. Steinwart said he would have to look at it to say for sure, but it is pretty small. Mr. Steinwart said the rip rap at ConAgra was mostly reused from existing, and then topped off. Mayor Tapp said that there are going to be 3 different size stones, and then lock them in. Mr. Claus said that he thinks A is the bigger stuff that they used in Chaska Beach.

Mr. Artino asked if we have a history with Haynes Construction. Mr. Steinwart answered that Haynes was the contractor that did the boat ramp and also something through the State on ConAgra.

Motion by Mr. Artino to table Resolution No. 19-2022.

The Mayor asked if there was any discussion on the motion. Mr. Lasko said that staff will attempt to have the agreement ready for the next Council meeting, with the caveat that the agreement must be vetted through the contractor and he can't speak for them. The Mayor asked if there was any further discussion on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being a majority vote in favor, Resolution No. 19-2022 was tabled.

Resolution 20-2022

Motion by Mr. Artino that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution 20-2022 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE ERIE COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (“ERPC MPO”) CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE AND RELIEF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT (CRRSAA) TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE (TA) PROJECT GRANT RELATING TO THE CLEVELAND ROAD EAST – SIDEWALK EXTENSION TO HURON GREEN PROJECT; AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT SAID GRANT AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE ERPC MCO UPON AWARD) be placed upon its first reading.

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

YEAS: Artino, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe (7)

NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 20-2022 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko stated that this is a follow-up to a project in the Manager’s Report over the last couple of months. We are looking at partnering with Huron Township and extending sidewalks on the east end of town (the currently end at Gateway) on the north side of Cleveland not only to the eastern terminus of the City, but also through the Township all the way to Huron Green subdivision. It is an approximately \$500,000 project, and both the City and Township are seeking grant funds to minimize any potential out-of-pocket expenses. This legislation, if passed, would allow the City to apply for up to \$93,414 through the Erie Regional Planning Commission based on a pot of money they have available for application, having a deadline of February 25th. The administration must approach Council one more time, because as part of the application process, there is a requirement for a cooperative agreement with the Township since this involves multiple jurisdictions. This cooperative agreement should be presented to Council at one of the next 2 Council meetings, and will delineate responsibilities for the project.

Mr. Hagy asked about the sidewalk skipping from the north to the south side of the road at Gateway – is this due to issues with real estate? Mr. Lasko answered that the exhibit that provided is very preliminary, and is not based on any engineering work at that point. We believe, at some point based on the number of households that we want to reach, that the sidewalk will move to the south side to get to the two subdivisions in the Township. Where that cross would happen, he was unsure. Included in the \$550,000 estimate is signalization wherever that cross will be. Mr. Hagy said that he thought that the Safety Committee may want to weigh in on where that crossing falls, because where it is on the drawing is in a 45mph zone and might not be the best place for a crossing.

Monty Tapp said he knows that the Township is also applying for grant funds. In the event they receive funds and the City does not, is there a backup plan, or vice-versa? Mr. Lasko answered that as of now, we are hoping that 2022 will be a planning and engineering year, which will cost about \$45,000. The City has already included in its budget the ability to handle that planning expense this year. There would have to be further discussions in the fall budget for 2023 if funding does not come through or is less than anticipated. We would then have to make a determination of whether we want to put that in the capital budget for 2023, or delay that to seek additional funding. Those conversations still have to be had, and there is nothing in the budget except for our 50% of the planning and engineering for 2022. Mr. Swaisgood said that this project is included in the Capital Improvement Plan that was discussed with the Finance Committee, and is considered to be unbudgeted in 2023, with the plan being that we will hopefully receive this grant money

and can start to budget in 2023. If not, it might be a discussion of delaying the project to 2024 to look for other monies.

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 20-2022. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 20-2022 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution 21-2022

Motion by Mr. Dike that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution 21-2022 (A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF STUART HAMILTON AS SERVICE DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF HURON) be placed upon its first reading.

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

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

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 21-2022 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko said that while he had promised that he wouldn't make him speak, he wanted to acknowledge Mr. Hamilton in the audience this evening. With Council approval, they went through a Service Director search in the spring of 2021. Shortly thereafter, we received the news of Mike Spafford's departure, so they pivoted quickly off the Service Director position to look at hiring a Director of Operations position, which they thought encompassed the majority of what Mr. Spafford had done on a day-to-day basis. Going through the application and interview process for the Director of Operations position, and given the quality of candidates we had, they thought that it made sense to look at exploring the merger of these two positions into a single Service Director position. They had budgeted for both positions, and it would be a pretty significant annual savings to go to a single position. We are very confident in the capabilities of Mr. Hamilton to be able to do everything that would fall under the Service Director position, which would handle information technology, handling Huron Public Power and serving as the glue and project manager and being able to work cross-departmentally with the Streets Department, Water Distribution and Filtration, and Engineering in handling our capital projects. They are very, very excited for the opportunity to be able to present Mr. Hamilton's candidacy for this position. If approved, Mr. Hamilton's start date would be March 28, 2022 to allow him to transition from his current position with the City of Sandusky.

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 21-2022. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 21-2022 was adopted. The Resolution 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:

- **Ardagh Tax Abatement** – We have fully executed the CRA documents and received them from Ardagh. We have now sent them down to the Ohio Development Services Agency, which is the final authorizing organization to formally acknowledge that abatement. We are hoping to get that approval from the State over the next couple of weeks.
- **ConAgra** – We received approximately one hour before this meeting, the investigative report into the sea wall and the existing revetment. It is a significant document to digest, so he doesn't really have anything to report at the moment. We are certainly going to go through that internally and get that information to Council as quickly as possible.
- **508 Main Street** – The City has been approached very generally by a developer with interest in developing the 508 Main Street parcel. He believes it would be primarily a residential proposal if something was to come to fruition and be offered to the City for that site. Obviously, we have several moving parts that would have to go to the Planning Commission for consideration, and we also know we are looking to do some pretty significant planning and visioning for Main Street this year. The timing is right to consider some type of project on that site as the community tries to envision what we want there.
- **Main Street Corridor Plan** - This comes out of the Vision 2020 Action Plan. We have a proposal from OHM Advisors – they have a separate team that facilitates community engagement, visioning and conceptual planning. He and Erik Engle are currently reviewing that internally, but hopes to, very shortly in 2022, be able to kick off the planning process and stakeholder engagement process for the south portion of Main Street, which is bound by a little bit south of Bogart Road to Route 6. We hope to be able to start that process in the next couple of months.
- **Fish Cleaning Station** – He mentioned in his last Manager's Report an update that we are approaching the bidding process. We are still considering the City separately bidding out and purchasing certain elements of the fish cleaning station from a timing standpoint. In further conversation with OHM's team, we have come to the decision that we believe we can bid this as all one package and still get the product built by the end of June. We are starting the bidding process January 31st, with bids due to the City by February 25th. Once those bids come in, we hope to present a contract to Council in very early March.
- **Personnel** – We did put in the approved budget to move our part-time Zoning Inspector for a full-time Zoning Inspector. That became effective on January 24, 2022, so Katie Maloney is now full-time. He advised that we have promoted Erik Engle to the position of Planning Director, which more closely fits what he does on a daily basis and his involvement as part of our management team, and we really thought a change in title was appropriate. He congratulated Erik on the change in title and responsibility.
- **Upcoming Meetings** – Planning Commission (1-25-22 at 5:00pm in Council Chambers); HJRD (2-1-22 at 6:30pm in Council Chambers); and Utilities Committee meeting (2-2-22 at 5:00pm in Council Chambers).

Mayor's Discussion

Mayor Tapp expressed his condolences to the family of Bob Boos – he was a Township Trustee for 30+ years – he passed away last week. He did a great job and he has known him since he was 6 or 7 years old. He will be truly missed.

Mayor Tapp complimented Doug Steinwart on the ice rink, it looks great.

Mayor Tapp to Erik Engle on his promotion to Planning Director. A lot of things are getting done.

Mayor Tapp said that he met with our new Prosecutor, Andrea Rocco, and she is moving along great. He thinks that staff is happy with her arrival, especially the Zoning Department and Katie Maloney.

Mayor Tapp said that people are waiting on the fish cleaning station, and lastly, he welcomed Mr. Hamilton to the City.

For the Good of the Order

- **Mr. Biddlecombe** – Thanked staff, especially Ms. Welkener, for helping him with the Scott Cemetery information. He congratulated Mr. Engle on his promotion, and welcomed Mr. Hamilton. He commended the snow removal crew over the last three rounds of storms, and everyone who was out plowing, especially on the holiday and Sunday. He works in Milan and he had to travel into Norwalk on Sunday, and it was definitely a lot cleaner in Huron than it is in Norwalk. He has heard a lot of compliments on the ice rink. He was driving by pretty late one evening and it was still getting used – people seem to be enjoying it and it is definitely a worthwhile addition. He received a phone call from an elderly constituent whose former dog walker had gone off to college. If anyone knows of anyone who is able to exercise a dog (more than just walking it), let him know and he will pass on the information. He an email from a constituent about the bump-outs along Main Street, suggesting that maybe we put some reflective tape on them due to the fact that there was almost a collision with the bump-out one evening when it was dark. He noticed on Facebook that there is a Dine with Dominoes to help support the Huron PTO tonight, so if anyone is leaving here hungry, go out and support the PTO. Upcoming HHS home games – swimming (January 26); boys basketball (January 29); girls basketball (February 5); bowling (January 27). Go Tigers!
- **Mr. Claus** – Thanked the Streets Department and Parks & Rec Department for all of the snow removal work and the work on the ice rink. Parks & Rec has a considerable amount of snow removal on their own, and most of their work is by hand. Congratulations to Mr. Engle and thank you for all of your work on Planning Commission. It has been really great to have his department accelerating things to get things cleaned up. Welcome to Mr. Hamilton.
- **Mr. Artino** – Welcomed Mr. Hamilton. He thinks he will enjoy working with the City staff and Council. He is glad to see that the Planning Department is moving in a very positive direction – congratulations to Mr. Engle. It has been a long time coming. He also extended his condolences to the Boos family.
- **Mr. Dike** – Gave his condolences to the Boos family. It was great getting to know Bob Boos as a Township Trustee. The ice rink has been fun, and he thinks the only Council member that has been on the rink is Mr. Claus. He congratulated Mr. Hamilton, Ms. Maloney and Mr. Engle.
- **Mr. Grieves** – Congratulations to Mr. Hamilton and for the promotions, as well. Thanks to Mr. Gibboney for the tour of the Water Plant – it was pretty impressive to see what goes on over there. It is an absolutely unbelievable operation in there. Hats off to them.
- **Mr. Hagy** – Expressed his condolences to the Boos family. He didn't have the pleasure of knowing Mr. Boos personally, but in reading his resume he was struck by a life well-lived and a long, distinguished career of public service. Congratulations to Mr. Erik, the promotion was well-deserved. Welcome to Mr. Hamilton.

Executive Sessions

None.

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe to adjourn the meeting.

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

YEAS: Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Hagy (7)

NAYS: None (0)

There being more than a majority voting in favor of the motion, the Mayor declared the meeting of January 25, 2022 adjourned at 7:26pm.


Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council

Adopted: 08 MAR 2022

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.