

THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO
Proceedings of the Huron City Council
Regular Meeting Tuesday, November 8, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

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

Staff in attendance: City Manager Matt Lasko, Law Director Todd Schrader, Service Director Stuart Hamilton, City Engineer Russ Critelli, OHM Engineer Larry Fridrich, Parks and Recreation Operations Manager Doug Steinwart, Planning and Zoning Manager Erik Engle, Water Superintendent Jason Gibboney, Finance Director Cory Swaisgood (via Microsoft Teams) and Clerk of Council Terri Welkener.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. Dike that the minutes of the regular Council meeting of October 11, 2022 be approved as written.

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

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

Audience Comments

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

None.

Old Business

Ordinance No. 2022-55

Motion by Mr. Grieves that Ordinance 2022-55 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND REPEALING CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 915.19 RELATING TO WATER RATES; REPEALING CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 915.20 RELATING TO WATER FOR SPRINKLER SYSTEMS; AMENDING AND REPEALING CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 915.21 RELATING TO MULTIPLE USERS OF METERS; AND REPEALING CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 915.22 RELATING TO TANK WATER SALES) be placed upon its third and final 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 more than a majority in favor, Ordinance 2022-55 placed on its third and final reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Gibboney stated that this is the third and final reading for this legislation. He gave a summary and overview of the entire details of the changes. This has passed through the Utilities Committee, the Finance Committee and various Council work sessions, as well as to this third reading. This reflects the 10-year 5% annual increase to internal water rates. The key to that is the 3-year review process; depending on what grants are obtained or zeroed through low interest financing on various jobs, they may be able to alter that as they go forward in 3-year increments. This legislation also better defines or establishes definition of non-resident water rates. That would be parcels that are outside the City, but are served directly by our system. As mentioned by Mr. Schrader, this also includes some language repealing the sprinkler section, as that is an annual fee that was very limited and nature and consumed more time with the tracking and managing of that fee than what they actually receipted. They are better defining multi-users in Section 915.21. They have added language to easily track and categorize duplexes, triplexes, etc. served by a single water service line. Section 915.22 relates to an obsolete option (tank water sales) formerly available at the Water Plant, but that has not been active for some time. This legislation also establishes two new small sections – Section 915.19(c) to add a door tag fee to recover their costs and labor, and Section 915.19(d) to add a fee for non-sufficient funds for any funds that are rejected or kicked back from the banks. Mr. Gibboney asked if anyone had any questions.

Mr. Dike asked why it has taken this long to look into raising the rates, since it was last looked at in 2007 – he is just curious. Mr. Gibboney answered that it has been since 2007, but the discussion has come up multiple times over various years, but never had the momentum to get to this level. They never did complete a comprehensive study to the degree they did for this particular legislation. Mr. Dike asked for clarification of what a non-resident is – is that someone that does not live here year-round, or is that somebody that is outside of the City limits? Mr. Gibboney answered that a good example of a non-resident would be Thunderbird Hills Golf Course. There is no water system outside of the City at that particular extremity, so they provide water to them. However, their parcel(s) is not within the City, so they are a non-resident user and have a slightly higher rate as they are not a taxpayer. It is similar further down on Bogart Road.

Mr. Dike said he appreciates everybody's efforts in this, but he does plan to vote "No" just because he doesn't want to see any increases. It's nothing again all of the hard work that you guys put through, it's just his personal opinion, just so you guys are aware of it. Thank you for your efforts, though.

Mr. Artino asked if Mr. Gibboney has an estimate on what this increase would cost the average user. Mr. Gibboney said in the various tables they do, and asked if he is talking a year-to-year increase or quarterly. Mr. Artino said, whatever. Mr. Claus asked what the dollar cost is quarterly, he knows they talked about that in.... Mr. Gibboney answered that what they can look at is... Mr. Hagy said he thought it was \$2.50/quarter. Looking at the chart, Mr. Gibboney said the availability charge from January 1, 2023 through January 1, 2025 – that 1-year lookout has the quarterly availability charge going from \$52.11/quarter to \$54.72/quarter – two dollars and change. Mr. Artino said that's an average per quarter for the average resident. Mr. Gibboney said yes, that is the average service size. Mr. Artino said he wanted that to be read into the record.

Mr. Biddlecombe said he appreciates that the City hasn't has a rise in rates since 2007. Obviously, that shows that there was a lot of good budgeting done, with grants along the way, that has helped it to last this

long. While he doesn't... he buys water just like everyone else... he doesn't want his rates to go up, but he understands why, so he appreciates of the work that went into this.

Mr. Artino said one other thing needs to be mentioned. He knows they talked about this – the City used to assess homeowners for new repairs or for new main lines. Mr. Gibboney answered that that is certainly worth mentioning. Prior to the Oklahoma neighborhood waterline replacement, which was 4-5 years ago off the top of his head, they used to assess watermain projects. That was a means of somewhat deferring water rate increases, yet still generating revenue off of the individual property owners. Since the City has gone away from that to funding those watermain replacements itself, that cost is a burden that they didn't previously have. Mr. Artino added that that can be an enormous cost. Mr. Gibboney said it is very expensive. Those are some of their largest capital projects. The big one coming up soon is the S. Main Street watermain replacement.

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 2022-55. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

NAYS: Dike (1)

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Ordinance 2022-55 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect on January 1, 2023.

New Business

Resolution 97-2022

Motion by Mr. Dike that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 97-2022 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE GRANT AWARD AND ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY FOR AN H2OHIO LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY AND MAPPING GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF FIFTY THOUSAND AND XX/100 DOLLARS (\$50,000.00)) 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: 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 97-2022 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Gibboney said this would be a much easier topic to discuss. As mentioned, they will aggressively go after any grant opportunities that do come around. As part of Governor DeWine's initiative through H2Ohio to improve water and wastewater infrastructure, they released a grant opportunity. They are required by 2024 to identify the material of all service lines in the City on the private and public sides of the meter pit. As such, they have made these funds available for any equipment, programming – anything you can procure that aids in that effort to identify those lines. Their application was successful, and this grant will provide, free of charge, the equipment to establish a GIS system, with geodes, programming, line locators and tablets to record that data and see that data out in the field, as well. This comprises everything they need to establish a system that is modern to today's standards in all of their vehicles and be able to track all of their assets.

Mr. Biddlecombe said on page 39, when it lists all of the cities that are getting the grants, it lists Huron's county as Huron instead of Erie – is that going to be an issue. Mr. Gibboney answered that it won't – that is a fairly common error and he runs into that quite often.

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 97-2022. 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, Resolution 97-2022 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution 98-2022

Motion by Mr. Artino that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 98-2022 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH OHM ADVISORS FOR ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION SERVICES RELATED TO THE SAWMILL PARKWAY RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED THREE HUNDRED TWO THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$302,400.00)) 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, Grievess, 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 98-2022 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Hamilton explained that this is the final piece of the puzzle for the Sawmill Parkway Reconstruction Project. This contract is for construction inspection services in the amount of \$302,400 – that is a not to exceed number. There is \$12,500 of pre-and post-construction services in this proposal, and \$289,900 will be billed as used. That \$302,400 will be the maximum budget for this, but they should hopefully come in underneath it.

Mayor Tapp said they got all of his comments at the legislative review meeting. Mr. Hamilton said that he said he would pass them along. Mayor Tapp asked if there were any questions for Mr. Hamilton.

Mr. Artino asked if they talked about the length of this project – how long will it take? Mr. Hamilton answered that the latest discussion they had with Smith Paving had them out of there by no later than September of next year. Mr. Artino asked when they are going to start. Mr. Hamilton said they won't start the concrete until the spring of next year, but what they are trying to do is hold together the cul-de-sac at the end to get Ardagh and some of the other trucks a turning circle at the end of the Parkway. They will also do bits and pieces of the utility work over the winter, but the majority of the work will be from spring through to early fall. Mayor Tapp asked if he meant the spring of 2023. Mr. Hamilton answered that he did.

Mr. Hagy said he just had a comment. He has been talking to a few business owners in the Parkway. While they are very happy that the road is being redone, they are concerned about traffic flow during the

construction – just a comment, they wanted him to pass that one. Mr. Hamilton answered that they have all of the contact information and have started talking to the business owners. As they work through the pour plan for that concrete, they will always maintain at least 1 lane all the way through. Anytime they are going to start closing off a property, they will find them another egress/ingress, so no one will be shut down at any time.

Mr. Dike said, “This is concrete, right?” Mr. Hamilton answered that it is.

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 98-2022. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 98-2022 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution 99-2022

Motion by Mr. Grievess that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 99-2022 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH OHM ADVISORS FOR ENGINEERING SURVEY, DESIGN AND BIDDING SERVICES RELATED TO THE FABENS PARK TENNIS COURT RENOVATION PROJECT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED THIRTY-FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$35,000.00)) 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: Grievess, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp, Dike (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 99-2022 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Steinwart explained that this legislation is for the design portion of the Fabens Park renovation of the 5-court system, which will consist of resurfacing, perimeter fencing, new net systems and posts, and a drainage system, which they are now lacking and which probably caused a lot of the deterioration. A whole new drainage system will be installed to protect the courts for the duration. He would also like to point out the contributions from the Huron Joint Recreation District and Huron Township to this project at Fabens Park. This is their last item to complete from the 2010 Master Plan. They are excited to finally bring that Master Plan to its conclusion. He recognized Mr. Lasko’s and Mr. Hamilton’s work in getting this project to the end point.

Mr. Artino said a gentleman called him about having some input to striping the pickleball courts. Have you talked to him? Mr. Steinwart said he hasn’t, but it is the plan to add striping for pickleball, but if he has some specific ones... Mr. Artino said that he would provide him with his name.

Mr. Biddlecombe said he wanted to show his appreciation to the Huron Joint Recreation District and the Township for providing money toward this project.

The Mayor asked if there were any further questions or discussion on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the final adoption of Resolution 99-2022. 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, Resolution 99-2022 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution 100-2022

Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 100-2022 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE BID AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH DIMECH SERVICES INC. FOR SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED RELATING TO THE HURON WATER FILTRATION PLANT BOILER REPLACEMENT PROJECT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED SEVENTY-FOUR THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$74,500.00)) be placed upon its first reading.

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

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

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 100-2022 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Gibboney explained that overall, the Water Treatment Plant heats about 90% of the building using boiler heat. There are currently 3 boilers that have been failing for several years. They have had annualized and repairs that have just been compounding year to year. Late last year, two of the three boilers completely dropped. When they started up this season, they had the third unit also drop off. They were able to scavenge some parts from the others to get one operable unit, but as such, they have identified the need to transition to a new heating system for a majority of the plant. They received initial quoted that came in above the threshold for bidding, so they then turned around and went out to bid, and received a couple bids, with Dimech being the lowest and best bid. This would be for 2 units replacing the current 3; however, the 2 will exceed the current BTU output of all 3 of the existing units, so they are larger units overall.

Mr. Grievess asked how long these units usually last. Mr. Gibboney said it is hard to give a good lifespan based on the method of heating of the old cast iron boilers – you could get 30 years out of those elephants. They were gigantic and weren't very efficient. The fire tube boilers are high efficiency and have a lifespan closer to 20 years. They will have more efficiency on the gas consumption, overall.

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 100-2022. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 100-2022 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution 101-2022

Motion by Mr. Claus that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 101-2022 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH OHM ADVISORS FOR ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION DESIGN AND BIDDING SERVICES RELATED TO THE 2023 PAVING PROGRAM IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED THIRTY-THREE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$33,500.00)) be placed upon its first reading.

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

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

NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 101-2022 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Hamilton explained that his proposal is for the design and bidding services for the 2023 Resurfacing Program. This will include Chaska Beach, Old Homestead 1 and Old Homestead 2. This will be the City's biggest single-year investment in local roads. They are excited to move ahead and tackle such a big project. This proposal is in the amount of \$33,500, which will bring back design and bidding services and full construction estimates. Mayor Tapp asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Dike asked what type of timeline will this take and how long will all of this take. Mr. Hamilton said they would like to get it out to bid over the winter and then once they get the bids in, they can look at the schedules. By bidding out over the wintertime, they will have more flexibility as to the timeline for next year. They would, obviously, like to avoid the July 4th holiday with it being so busy down there. They should be able to work around a lot of the busier days. Mr. Dike said he hopes that is the initiative, because he will probably be shot if you ruin their fun. He does plan on voting "No" for this because he personally lives in that neighborhood, and he has also gone through the Old Homestead 1 and 2. He has been there since 2015, and there has been zero maintenance. There have been low points, there have been cracks, and you see different lines... he thinks one of the things that's the most important when it comes to roads and longevity is maintenance. He knows it's before your time, but he thinks that's something that they need to look for down the road, is maintaining these roads and making sure. He knows there has been a lot of individuals giving strong opinions either one way or another, but for him personally, he is going to vote "No". As far as Chaska, specifically, there are few areas where they can fix and they can crack seal. He knows right now on his street, on Kiwanis, it is fine. That entrance, yeah, it gets beat up – I mean there's a lot of traffic going over that. You go down some of these other streets – he thinks they're fine, so he is going to be voting "No" for them.

Mayor Tapp asked if there were any other comments or questions. Mr. Biddlecombe asked how many properties are actually in Chaska. Mr. Hagy answered that there are 114. Mr. Biddlecombe said they got he counted up 11 unique emails and then they had 2 citizens come in out of 114. There are roughly 6,900 residents in town who ultimately have to pay for this. Given the best information that they got from staff, the proposal is the blacktop. Now, obviously, Chaska is a historic neighborhood that has always had the concrete, so to do the right thing for all of the residents he would have to vote "Yes," but his question is, "Do they have grants for residential neighborhood streets kind of like what they have for Sawmill Parkway, and the other part of the question would be, do they have the option of leaving it off this time around and doing Old Homestead and letting Chaska residents see how that comes out, and then look at Chaska next year." Mr. Hamilton answered that there is no funding for residential streets – no are no funding sources for residential streets. Any funding they get is usually for industrial or for main thoroughfares.

Unfortunately, there really isn't any money out there for residential. As far as doing Old Homestead and leaving Chaska, when they get their design and when they go out to bid, they will be brought back to Council in three separate areas – it will be Old Homestead 1, Old Homestead 2 and Chaska Beach. At that point, they will be able to see each one individually and you can choose then. Mr. Biddlecombe said that they are just voting now to, essentially, do the design, and if Chaska residents still want to oppose, they have the opportunity then going forward to give Council their best complaint and they can ultimately at a later date choose the neighborhoods that they do.

Mr. Claus, added, as Mr. Biddlecombe said, they have had a lot of input from citizens. He got involved in a lot of discussion, so he prepared a statement – he thought maybe there would be more people here, but wanted to read it into the record. Copy of statement attached hereto as Exhibit “A”.

Mr. Hagy said there has been a lot of discussion and a lot of emails, with a little social media sprinkled in. More importantly, there have been a lot of individual discussions with people face to face. He agrees with Joe Dike that he thinks the streets are fine as far as he's concerned. But it's not about him and about the street right in front of his house. There have been at last two people that he's aware of (probably more) who have tripped and seriously hurt themselves because of the condition of the streets. The streets need attention. In his discussions with people, and emails they received and the smattering of social media posts, in his opinion they have three groups about 1/3 each. One-third is vociferously against this – they do not want asphalt streets, and he completely understands that. The second group doesn't want asphalt street, but the streets are in terrible condition and they understand the budget issues and costs – fine with them. The third group is actually looking forward to asphalt streets. He is sure that he will get a lot of push-back for that comment, but if you speak to people face to face, you can have an intelligent conversation, which is what he would absolutely prefer, and he always invites people to do that. He will be voting “Yes” on this, even though he is fine with the streets the way they are, because it is Council's responsibility (1) to be fiscally responsible, as Mr. Claus said, but (2) to also look out for the safety of our folks that walk those streets, and a lot of people walk the streets of Chaska Beach (not just Chaska residents – a lot of non-residents walk though streets) – so he will be voting “Yes”.

Mr. Biddlecombe added that since they are only voting on going out and doing the design, he would like Chaska resident to please come to the meeting once they have the design, view the design, and at that point speak your piece. The more people Council hears from in person, the better decisions they can make when they are dealing with policies like this.

Mr. Artino said that he wanted to talk to transparency and the involvement of our citizens. He thinks everybody that knows him has said that we can't be a good Council without input from the citizens. He has said that for the 17 years he has been here, and he thinks the last few years with this Council and the previous Council, that they have done all they could to be as transparent as possible. He agrees with Hagy that getting out there and talking to people and getting their input, whether they agree with them or not, they need to hear from them. He thinks this proves that this administration and this City staff are doing all they can to try to be transparent and he appreciates the citizens' input, no matter what it is. They will make a decision that is determined by how it impacts the entire City. They can't make decisions based on one area or one street. They have to take a look at the impact it has both short-term and long-term. He thanked the citizens again, and said that their input is what makes them a good Council.

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 101-2022. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Claus, Tapp, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino (7)
NAYS: Dike (1)

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 101-2022 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Motion

Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe to set a public hearing on 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 for 6:30pm on December 13, 2022.

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 in favor of the motion, the motion passed and a Public Hearing was set for December 13, 2022 at 6:30pm.

Ordinance No. 2022-59

Motion by Mr. Claus that Ordinance 2022-59 (AN ORDINANCE REPEALING TITLE 11 (URBAN RENEWAL) WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES 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 Council voted as follows:

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

There being more than a majority in favor, Ordinance No. 2022-59 was placed on its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Engle said, love it or hate it, Urban Renewal is still on our books, even though it is completely obsolete. They haven't had any federal funding for it since the 1970's. As staff are moving through their audit of the ordinances as a whole, they are looking at ways to trim the dead wood out. He is recommending repealing this section, as it is completely obsolete.

Mr. Biddlecombe said on page 72, the paragraph where it says, WHEREAS, it lists Ordinance No. 1996-27 adopted on May 9, 1966. Should that be 1966-27? The Clerk said that is most likely a typo, and would be corrected prior to the second reading. Mr. Claus amended the motion to correct the reference to 1996 to 1966. Mr. Schrader said when they have the second reading, the modified version as made by Mr. Claus will be reflected. Mr. Biddlecombe said he understands this was very contentious back in the 1960's, and he was happy to see it go.

City Manager's Discussion

Mr. Lasko spoke on the following topics:

- Warren Slag Property – These properties, located on River Road, were brought to Council a couple of meetings to go relating to its acquisition. The City received final comments back on Friday from the Seller, and he and Mr. Schrader sat down today and sent back their final comments. He believes

they should have a fully executed purchase agreement within the next few days, if not by the end of this week. They are securing proposals for their due diligence activities, which they will commence once the purchase agreement is signed. They have a proposal from OHM Advisors to handle the surveying work, and with Mannik & Smith Group, who will be handling the Phase I Environmental Site Assessment. They will execute those proposals as soon as the purchase agreement is signed. While they are still in the infancy stages of what the entirety of the acreage can be for the City, they do know that they want to move the service complex out to that location. Whatever they do put at that site, they know that there are going to be infrastructure costs – roadways, underground utilities, etc. They have already begun the process of seeking funding to be able offset any local cost for that infrastructure work. They met with officials today related to what's called the Rural Industrial Revolving Loan, which actually is 50% forgivable at the completion of the project, in essence grant funding. They also met with the Economic Development Administration, who was their funder on the Sawmill Parkway Project. Now that we are past the Covid era, where there were a lot of stimulus funds, to receive EDA funding moving forward, counties are required to have in place what is called a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. Erie County is one of about 3 counties in the entire state that does not have one. At the moment, they are ineligible to receive EDA funding. They have already commenced the process with Erie County, in partnership with Huron County, to get what's called a CEDS in place. It will probably be a 6 to 9-month process. Once it is in place, it will open up EDA funding for both counties moving forward in multiple jurisdictions. They will keep Council apprised as that moves forward.

- US-6 Corridor Project – Some Council members were copied on an email from the Ohio Department of Transportation as it relates to the US-6 Project. They are looking to commence their engineering and surveying work as early as January of 2023. He reminded Council and the public that the City committed \$1 Million to that project, which will ultimately be funded by the Sawmill Creek TIF. They will be talking to ODOT later this week or early next week as to when the City's funds will be contributed to that project, but that likely will be in 2023, which they have budgeted and planned for.
- Cleveland Road East Sidewalk Project – This sidewalk project will connect to Huron Green in Township. They are putting the finishing touches on the design. There was a request to look at a small sidewalk connection between Gateway and Anchorage on the north side of the road. He thanked Councilman Claus for contact information for the three property owners who they need to work with to make that connection. Mr. Hamilton and staff from OHM have met with those three property owners, who are open to the idea. Because of that, they are now starting the process of drafting right-of-way acquisition documents so that they can make that final connection for those residents. They are looking forward to adding that project.
- Main Street Survey – Through the end of the week, the City will have its Main Street Survey open to the residents. They had a touch-base call yesterday, and at that time they were up to 563 respondents, which is a really phenomenal number. That does not include the feedback they received from the Steering Committee or feedback received from the Pumpkin Festival. They believe that they will be closing that out by the end of the week in anticipation of the Joint Council and Planning Commission work session. He appreciates the work of everyone getting that out and publicized. That's really a tremendous turnout for that survey.
- Parks and Recreation – They are happy to see that the shade structure has been delivered and almost installed at the fish cleaning station. Based on that schedule, they are still anticipating final work to be completed the second or third week of November. He is glad to see that finally onsite, and thinks will get wrapped up shortly.
- Huron Joint Recreation District – He and Mr. Steinwart met with Huron Township and the Huron School District relating to contributions for 2023. They are happy to report that both contributions have decreased ever so slightly for both of their partners. The Township has reviewed the proposed

budget very favorably, and will likely be acting in the HJRD agreement in an upcoming meeting in 2022. The School District Administration was also pleased with the proposed budget. They have asked them to finalize the HJRD agreement, and it will probably go to their Board in December of January for consideration.

- Upgrades to Fabens Park – They are in the process of securing proposals from qualified firms to undertake crack sealing, sealcoating and striping of the entire Fabens Park parking lots and entry drives. He assumes that work is going to begin in 2023. They are excited for that upgrade, as well.
- Potential Field House – He wanted to touch on a project that has been on the City's capital improvement plan for a decade plus at this point, and that's related to the potential construction of a multi-purpose field house. They are in the process of organizing a kickoff brainstorming session regarding the potential development of a fieldhouse. These conversations are meant to be very exploratory to determine the appetite for such a facility amongst many stakeholder groups, and being a conversation about potential locations, amenities in the facility, a fundraising plan and how operations would be handled and funded. They are hoping to have a kickoff meeting this month that is going to include representatives from the City, HJRD, Huron Township, Huron Schools and the Boosters. They will keep Council apprised of these discussions as they progress.
- Finance – The 2023 Budgetary Meetings have commenced as of October 24th. So far, they have heard presentations from Utilities, Streets, Planning and Zoning, Parks and Recreation and, most recently, Public Safety. Their next meeting will be related to capital and City debt, which will happen on November 14th. All of these meetings are at 4:00pm in the Council Chambers.
- 2021 Finance Audit – The 2021 financial audit was kicked off this week. Auditors of the State will be conducting the audit, which is expected to be completed by the end of 2022. They are expected to be back on schedule with the annual audit process starting in 2023, which is usually completed by July of the following year.
- Fire Department – He wanted to acknowledge some good work of the Fire Department. Firelands Health recently congratulated the Fire Department and several other local fire departments who received the American Heart Association Mission Lifeline Gold Plus Award. This program is designed to showcase pre-hospital agencies nationwide for excellence in heart attack and stroke care. EMS personnel are the first care providers to patients suffering from acute emergencies. EMS' role in the care system for these patients is crucial and often sets the course for the patients' outcome. Great work by our Fire Department.
- Fall Newsletter – The fall/winter edition has finalized. A bid thank you to all of the Departments and Department Heads for their efforts through publication, and a special thank you to Jen Kilbury for managing the effort. They sent the newsletter off to Loris Printing for publication, and he anticipates those will be mailboxes in the next week or so.
- Partnership with School District – As they look to grow their partnership with the School District, they have approached them about a partnership moving forward in which the School District would be able to have space and features in the City's newsletter both in the Spring and the Fall. They are looking forward to again being able to deepen the partnership with the School District.
- Upcoming Meetings – BZA on Monday, November 14th in the Council Chambers; Planning Commission on Wednesday, November 16th at 4:00pm in the Council Chambers, which will be followed by a Joint Work Session of City Council and the Planning Commission at 5:00pm in the Council Chambers related to the Main Street Project; City Council on Tuesday, November 22nd at 6:30pm in Council Chambers.
- Huron Winter Fest – Huron Winter Fest will be held on Saturday, December 3rd from 12:00pm to 6:00pm. Fireworks will be held at 6:00pm. There will be more to come and lots of press around that, but he wanted to start plugging that event early.

Mr. Hagy asked about the design and engineering starting on Route 6 Phase 2 – they still need a final design, right? Mr. Lasko answered that there is a slight difference. What he mentioned in the Manager's Report is

related to the US 6 Corridor, which will be from Rye Beach Road west, not Route 6 Phase 2, which is still going to have to go through a design process. Mr. Lasko said he should have been clearer.

Regarding the fieldhouse, Mr. Hagy said there has been work on this in the past – there have been committees that have looked into this. He wanted to make sure staff is aware of that in case there is some information that would be beneficial.

On the subject of Winter Fest, Mr. Biddlecombe said he had a resident comment on the Facebook post that he shared, that Winter Fest would be a good event to DORA in town. Is there any talk about bringing that discussion up again? Mr. Lasko answered that he knows that the DORA exploration is something they want to consider as part of the Main Street process. In addition to getting public feedback on amenities they want to see and land uses they want to see, they are looking at changes to the zoning code, which could include the institution of a DORA. If there was a DORA, where would it be? He agreed that this is a family event that showcases the potential of such a zoning change, but that will be included as part of the Main Street process and considerations. Maybe next year.

Mayor's Discussion

Mayor Tapp said that he had a couple of things. He wanted to thank the staff for their hard work. There are a lot of things going on in town. As Mr. Artino pointed out, working with the community is what Council has to do, but they also have to be responsible for the community as a whole – everybody. They put a lot of faith in the staff, engineers and all of the departments. They work really hard. He thanked Mr. Gibboney and Mr. Steinwart. He knows that he has given Mr. Steinwart a lot of grief on the fish cleaning station, but he also catches a lot of grief – but they did hear Mr. Lasko give them a date, so they are off and running.

The other comment he had is the Main Street Committee – he wanted to thank them, and like Mr. Lasko said, 500+ replies with suggestions and what they want to say is great.

Lastly, he wanted to thank the staff and the community. He had a rough time a couple of weeks ago, and he got a lot of support. He wanted to thank everyone.

For the Good of the Order

- **Mr. Biddlecombe** – He thanked staff for their continued hard work. Congratulations to the Fire Department on receiving the Lifeline Gold Plus Award from Firelands Health. I would like to congratulate the girls' volleyball team on an excellent season. Congratulations to the girls' cross-country team, who finished 11th in the State Meet, as well as Kennedy Schlessman, who finished 15th, and Jaden Towns, who finished 22nd. They both earned First Team Ohio Awards. He would like to thank all of our veterans for their service, and he wishes them all a Happy Veteran's Day on Friday, November 11th. After a bid win over Edison in Round 1 of the Division V Region 18 Football Playoffs, the Tigers, unfortunately, ended their season 9-3 with a hard-fought loss to Coldwater in the Regional Quarterfinal. Other home games coming up include: Boys' Basketball on November 19th and 21st. Please come out and support all of our student athletes, and Go Tigers!
- **Mr. Artino** – He wanted to say that every decision that is made by this Council is usually – not usually, but always – backed up by a lot of hard work by our staff and employees of this City that implement those decisions. He also acknowledged other support stuff, be it OHM Engineering or our committees, boards and volunteers. There is a lot of work that goes on behind those decisions, and he hopes that everybody gets a chance to explore some of that and just see how much work is really done. This Council doesn't take any decision lightly, and neither do our staff and employees.
- **Mr. Claus** – Nothing.

- **Mr. Grievies** – Nothing at this time.
- **Mr. Dike** – Thank you everyone for everything. Have a great week.
- **Mr. Hagy** – He asked everyone to get out and vote. He doesn't know if there's still enough time left, but if there is, get out and vote. He wants to add something to what Sam said earlier about the feedback, because he felt that he underplayed it when he spoke. He really appreciates all of the feedback they got regarding the streets. Whether he agrees with that feedback or not, it was probably the most interaction they have had since the famous bike lane. They need that kind of input, whether they agree with it or they don't agree with it. He really appreciates it, and please keep it coming. He gave a quick congratulations to Fire and EMS on the recognition from Firelands.

Executive Session

Mayor Tapp stated that Council would be going into executive session.

Motion by Mr. Claus to move into executive session to consider the compensation of a public employee, and to invite Mr. Schrader, Cory Swaisgood (by phone, if needed) and Andrea Rocco (by phone, if needed).

Mayor Tapp asked if there were any questions relating to 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, Grievies, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor of the motion, Council moved into executive session at 7:27pm.

Return to Regular Session

Council returned to regular session at 7:59pm.


Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe to adjourn the meeting.

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

YEAS: Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grievies, Hagy (5)
NAYS: None (0)

There being more than a majority voting in favor of the motion, the Mayor declared the meeting of November 8, 2022 adjourned at 8:00pm.


 Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council

Adopted: 13 DEC 2022