

**THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO**  
**Proceedings of the Huron City Council**  
**Regular Meeting Tuesday, May 24, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.**

**Call to Order**

The Mayor called the regular meeting of Council to order at 6:30pm on May 24, 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, Service Director Stuart Hamilton, Law Director Todd Schrader, City Engineer Russ Critelli, Police Chief Robert Lippert, Fire Captain \_\_\_\_\_, Finance Director Jeff Hall, Water Superintendent Jason Gibboney, Streets Supervisor Steve Didelot, Parks and Recreation Operations Manager Doug Steinwart, Planning and Zoning Director Erik Engle and Clerk of Council Terri Welkener.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Motion by Mr. Dike to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of Council of May 10, 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:           Dike, Grieves, Claus, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Tapp (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.

Mayor Tapp took this time to extend his condolences to the family of George Sheard. He was a long-time Huron resident who was on the Council for 33 years, and also served as Mayor for 8 years. Mayor Tapp remembered him stopping at the fire station every week in a red truck to check on things. He is going to be greatly missed, and was 96 years old.

**Old Business**

None.

**New Business**

**Resolution 56-2022**

**Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution 56-2022 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF**

**HURON, OHIO, TO SUPPORT THE REQUEST OF HURON 5K SERIES, FOR THE PLACEMENT OF BANNERS ON THE WALK BRIDGE OF US-6 HEADING EAST AND WEST ADVERTISING THE LIBERATING HOPE 5K, RIVER FEST 5K, ABBEY ROSE TRAIL RUN 5K, ST. PETER SCHOOL SPOOKTACULAR 5K AND JUDI LIVELY MEMORIAL TURKEY DASH 5K EVENTS) 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, Hagy, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Claus (7)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 56-2022 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko explained to Council that this is the 5<sup>th</sup> year for the signage request for the 5-race 5K series. They are requesting to place signage on both the east and west sides of the walk bridge, which signs will be no larger than 3' x 8'. They will install this signage between the dates of May 25<sup>th</sup> through August 14<sup>th</sup>, and then again from September 29<sup>th</sup> through November 25<sup>th</sup>. The Police and Parks and Recreation Departments have been involved to make sure (1) that these events don't conflict with other events, and (2) to allow our safety services to be involved from an organization and safety standpoint.

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 56-2022. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 56-2022 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

**Ordinance No. 2022-30**

**Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be suspended and Ordinance 2022-30 (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 AN INCREASE IN ESTIMATED RESOURCES) be placed upon its first readings**

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, Tapp, Dike, Greives, Claus, Biddlecombe, Artino (7)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was suspended and Ordinance 2022-30 placed on its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Lasko deferred to Mr. Hall to walk Council through this ordinance.

Mr. Hall explained that the purpose of Ordinance 2022-30 is to create supplemental appropriations to facilitate the design phase of the building of the Cleveland Road East sidewalk extension, as was previously mentioned in the May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting in Resolution 20-2022, and also in Resolution 51-2022. The net increase in appropriations of \$53,300, but we also have additional resources comprised of \$25,000 from Huron Township and an additional \$120,000 from the Erie County Regional Planning Commission grant. The net impact is an increase of \$19,000.

Mr. Hagy asked if the \$145,000 has already been received, or is it only committed? Mr. Hall answered that the funds are committed – Huron Township has passed a resolution committing their \$25,000, and an award letter has been received from the Erie County Regional Planning Commission.

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 2022-30. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Ordinance 2022-30 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

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

Mr. Lasko spoke on several topics:

- Barra on the River – Mr. Lasko recognized a new business that will be opening in the community, Barra on the River. They also have locations in Sandusky and Amherst, and will be opening at the Huron Lagoons Marina. This local favorite will be holding their opening on May 27<sup>th</sup> between 11:00am and 10:00pm. He thanked them for their investment in the community and wished them great success moving forward.
- ConAgra – The City is underway with developing and drafting a purchase agreement for the eventual sale of that property. Accompanying that document will be a development agreement detailing the roles and responsibilities of each party relating to infrastructure, private development responsibilities, and a timeline for implementation and development of each phase. The City, in partnership with ODNR, must still publicly dedicate the new roadway that will lead into the ConAgra site, the Planning Commission has already approved a dedication plat in years prior, and we hope to bring this dedication to Council over the next few meetings to complete that process and get signatures from ODNR prior to recording the plat.
- Cleveland Road Sidewalk Extension Project – Based on Council action at the last meeting, they have executed the design proposal with OHM Advisors for \$53,300, with \$25,000 of that coming from our partners at Huron Township. That design process is just starting the get underway.
- Street Resurfacing – The City held a bid opening on May 19<sup>th</sup>, and received 2 bids for the 2022 Street Resurfacing Program. OHM's team is currently reviewing those bids to make sure they are complete. At first blush, they are very happy with the results of where those came in from a cost standpoint, but they want to make sure that the bids are complete. They hope to bring a contract to Council at the next meeting for street resurfacing for this year.
- Main Street Corridor Project – The first Steering Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at the Boat Basin. This will serve as the official kickoff for the plan where a project schedule will be presented, and hopefully, finalized. The committee is comprised of corridor stakeholders, property and business owners, and relevant institutional partners. Staff will be in attendance, as

well. There will also be a schedule for community outreach and events. Once those are finalized, they will make sure to widely publicize those to generate as much community input as they can.

- Transient Rentals. The City currently has 131 registered and licensed transient rentals, with the maximum permitted being 165. There is still some room there to add additional units, but he wanted to highlight State House Bill 563, and he recently shared some recent developments with Council. They also shared that information for relevant condominium and homeowners' associations throughout the City. That state law would restrict local oversight of transient rental units. This bill was passed out of the House Committee about a week or two ago, and will eventually move to the full House for consideration. The City and the Council wholeheartedly oppose this bill, and Council has passed a resolution some months ago in opposition to the proposed bill. Their partners in Sandusky, Vermilion, Shores & Islands Ohio, and the Ohio Township Association all oppose this bill, as well. They will continue to monitor its progress and will provide updates in hopes of seeing this bill defeated once it gets to the House.
- Parks and Recreation – On May 19<sup>th</sup>, the City held a kickoff meeting with the awarded contractor for the Fish Cleaning Facility. The purpose of the meeting was to talk about the logistics of construction and timing of the phases. Site work is anticipated to begin in June, with completion expected sometime in September. They look forward to commencing this project, and Mr. Lasko thanked the City's funding partners: ODNR and Shores & Islands Ohio.
- Lake Front Park – Mark Haynes Construction has completed the first phase of the revetment activities at Lake Front Park. He encouraged everyone to go down there – they did a great job over the last couple of weeks. He thanked them for their quick work on the project, and high level of precautions employed to avoid any disturbances to the park and beach.
- Boat Basin Roof – He believes that Horvath Roofing has completed the new roof installation at the Boat Basin building. They commenced work last week, and it looks wonderful. He appreciates their efforts and the leadership of Mr. Steinwart to get that project completed.
- Finance Committee Meeting – There was a Finance Committee meeting held on May 9<sup>th</sup>. The quarterly financial report was sent out via email by Mr. Hall to Finance Committee members and Council members. They had some great discussion at that Finance Committee meeting. If there are any questions, he asked individuals to please reach out to Mr. Hall. The City, from an income tax standpoint, is in great shape as to General Fund balance. Their income tax receipts through the first quarter were about \$100,000 higher than this time last year. The unencumbered General Fund balance was just over \$1.5 Million, which is 30% of expenditures. They are in really good shape to start the year.
- Huron Joint Recreation District – On May 17<sup>th</sup>, the Huron School Board voted to approve the Huron Joint Recreation District agreement for fiscal year 2022. The City is very appreciative of their continued support and participation in the Joint Recreation District, as this entity provides tremendous benefits and recreational opportunities to our families' children and students.
- Upcoming Meetings – Planning Commission on May 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm in Council Chambers (this meeting has been cancelled); Utilities Committee on June 1<sup>st</sup> at 4:00pm in the main conference room; Building and Zoning Appeals on June 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in Council Chambers; City Council on June 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in Council Chambers; Planning Commission on June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:00pm in Council Chambers; and a second Council meeting on June 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in Council Chambers.
- Vacation – Mr. Lasko will be on vacation from June 12<sup>th</sup> through June 18<sup>th</sup>. During that time, Mr. Hamilton will be serving as Acting City Manager.

Mr. Dike said that he received several questions relating to solar panels. He wants to make sure that we look into that and have some types of methods in place moving forward to clearly define those. From what he understands, there is nothing concrete in our zoning ordinances. Mr. Lasko answered that he is correct – per our current code, solar panels have been treated as an accessor structure (not unlike a shed). In this particular instance, the panels met all setback, height and lot coverage requirements. They have already

started discussion with Mr. Schrader and his team regarding this matter, as they do not know what the future holds – Mr. Lasko is sure that we are going to see things in the future that we have never contemplated. What they are looking at, legally, is does the City have the ability to have some type of trigger or capability when we see something new – to maybe hit the pause button – not to say not or to say that it is not ultimately going to be permitted, but to just be able to wrap our heads around either through the BZA or Planning Commission, or some combination of those entities, to figure out and treat new things as the City is approached. They are going to see what capabilities they City has in the future as to those unknown items come before them.

Mr. Hagy asked if the Main Street Steering Committee already established, or will that happen at the meeting. Mr. Lasko said that he believes membership is fairly well set, and invitations have been sent out to the group. There was a longer list that was narrowed down based on people's availability or unwillingness to participate, etc. There will be lots of opportunities to touch and inform the public of the outcomes of the plan. Mr. Hagy asked if there is some sort of mechanism to invite our State Representatives to attend a meeting and talk to Council about House Bill 563. He has invited them several times, with no reply, and he thinks we deserve to know his reason for believing that the State Legislature is better at deciding what's good for our town than we are. Mr. Lasko answered that the Clerk would be able to provide some type of formal invitation from the City requesting attendance at a meeting.

Mr. Artino asked if there is any timeline on when we will see the utilities going in and other work starting at the Con Agra site. Mr. Lasko was reluctant to specify an exact date because there is a site plan review process, Army Corps of Engineers permitting processes, and issues with the external environment from supply chain issues, etc., but in a perfect world he hopes that something will happen this year. Realistically, it is more likely to be the first quarter of 2023.

Mr. Claus said that he was disappointed that completion of the Fish Cleaning Facility has been pushed back to September, although it was scheduled to be completed in August. He knows there are a lot of factors involved, but he asked if there is anything the City can do to push the timeline. Mr. Lasko answered that it has become an issue of delivery dates for some of the prefabricated items, specifically, the shelter structure itself. We can certainly push them, but it was that particular item that is causing the timing problem.

Mayor Tapp asked what time the Main Street Steering Committee will be meeting on May 31<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Lasko confirmed that the start time of that meeting is 3:00pm.

#### **Mayor's Discussion**

Mayor Tapp thanked staff for all of their hard work – Parks, the legal team. There is a lot going on; he noticed that Buckeye Sports is moving a lot of dirt. People are excited about what's going on. He thanked Council for everything they are doing.

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

- **Mr. Claus** – Nothing.
- **Mr. Artino** – Nothing.
- **Mr. Biddlecombe** – He would also like to thank staff, as well as the School Board for their commitment to the Huron Joint Recreation District and the good that comes from that. Huron River Fest is looking for sponsorships and volunteers for their upcoming festivals. Any individuals or businesses interested can contact him through [www.huronriverfest.com](http://www.huronriverfest.com). He was disappointed to hearing about the passing of George Sheard – he lived across the street from him for 11 years and he was a very well-liked guy. That is why he was on Council as long as he was. He will definitely be missed by the community. Congratulations to the Boys Track Team. They were 2022 Northwest Ontario District Runners-Up, and

the Girls Track Team were the 2022 District Champions. There are some Boat Basin events coming up – on June 4<sup>th</sup>, Master TC and the Visitor, and on June 11<sup>th</sup> is Elation. Both of those shows begin at 7:30pm. Go Tigers!

- **Mr. Dike** – Condolences for the Sheard family – he was sorry to hear that. He would also say, “best of luck” to not only Barra, but also to all of the other businesses getting ready to ramp up for the summer.
- **Mr. Grieves** – Nothing.
- **Mr. Hagy** – Nothing.

#### **Executive Session**

Mayor Tapp stated that there will be an executive session.

**Motion by Mr. Claus to move into executive session to confer with legal counsel regarding pending litigation, and to invite Mr. Schrader, Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Lasko and Mr. Hall.**

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

There being more than five (5) votes in favor, Council moved into executive session at 6:54pm.

#### **Return to Regular Session**

Council returned to regular session at 7:04pm.

#### **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, Hagy, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Claus (7)  
**NAYS:** None (0)

There being more than a majority voting in favor of the motion, the Mayor declared the meeting of May 24, 2022 adjourned at 7:04pm.

  
Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council

Adopted: 14 JUN 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.*