

**THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO**  
**Proceedings of the Huron City Council**  
**Regular Meeting Tuesday, September 27, 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, and Matt Grieves.** Members Absent: **Joe Dike and Joel Hagy.**

**Motion by Mr. Artino to excuse Mr. Hagy's and Mr. Dike's absence from the meeting.**

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

**YEAS:           Artino, Claus, Tapp, Grieves, Biddlecombe (5)**  
**NAYS:           None (0)**

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

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 and Clerk of Council Terri Welkener.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Motion by Mr. Claus that the minutes of the regular Council meetings of August 30, 2022 and September 13, 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:           Claus, Tapp, Grieves, Biddlecombe, Artino (5)**  
**NAYS:           None (0)**

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

**Presentation**

Presentation by Jennifer Buch, Director of the Huron Public Library, regarding their upcoming levy renewal, as follows:

"Mayor Tapp, Vice-Mayor Claus and City Council members, thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of the Huron Public Library. My name is Jennifer Buch and I have been a librarian in the State of Ohio for 15 years and recently became the Director of the Huron Public Library. Hopefully, you have a

library story. My library memories started as an elementary student with my school library and trips to the public library where I perused shelves of book looking for my next read. My mother and I walked to our city library on a weekly basis to pick up a bag full of books. In high school, a volunteer at my school library game me a list of books to read, which I did and found many new favorites.

What's your library story? Maybe it involves your childhood. Maybe it involves books or technology or a memorable interaction with a staff member. Maybe it involves your children or grandchildren. If you don't have a library memory, I hope that visiting Huron Public Library can be the start of your story. Huron Public Library exists to provide to the City and Erie County free and public access to the widest possible variety of information, and to encourage the existence of intellectual and cultural life within this area. With continuous sensitivity to the changing needs of the community, the Library adapts its services to meet those needs. Huron Public Library is a school district library that serves those who live in the Huron City Schools District. Our 30,000 sq. ft. building has 14 staff members who do various duties at the Library, such as work the circulation desk, choose books and other items for the collection, prepare and execute programming such as weekly story time, computer classes and speakers for adults – I could do an entire 10 minutes on all of our programs, but I won't put you through that because it's all on our website, and you all probably get the newsletter in your mailbox. The prepare items for circulation and keep the building clean, safe and maintained.

Our building expansion and renovation was completed over 15 years ago. As you can imagine, natural wear and tear has occurred, and upkeep is continuous and costly. Our book drops were recently painted, and new signs affixed. Our entryway doors were recently serviced, and we got brand new sensors installed. We have beautiful areas for patrons to sit, relax, read or work, and staff makes sure that we always have the latest titles available for patrons in books and A/V materials. As of July, we are fine-free for books, A/V materials, magazines, ukuleles and puzzles. We have computers for patrons to use, and free wi-fi throughout the buildings. Separate children and teen computers allow for adults to work in our upstairs computer lab in relative silence. Children and teens can use the computers for fact-finding, playing games, and watching videos. Adults with young children can use a computer in the children's area for their own need while watching their children play with educational toys, or use the AWE learning computers. Any patron with a CleveNet library card can use a computer, and if you don't have a card, please stop by and get one. We will have to give you one, or you can always ask for a guest pass to use a computer. We also offer hotspots, which are available for checkout for internet connectivity at home. Our hotspots are part of our Library of Things, which includes ukuleles, projectors, literacy backpacks, puzzles, community journals, preloaded tablets – all available for checkout. We are always on the hunt for new items to add to our Library of Things that would benefit our patrons. Art and games are a part of library life. Chess lessons are taught regularly at the library. Puzzles are available for patrons to work on. There are games of euchre and pinochle, and mahjong constantly happening at the library. We have an art gallery that features local artists each month. We are a place, for community members to gather and collaborate.

Partnerships with local organizations are very important to the library. The Erie County Health Department Bike Program promotes health and well-being, and we are the pickup and drop-off-location for those bikes. The Huron Historical Society resides in the library and is open every week on Wednesdays from 3-5pm. They provide historical programs for patrons, as well as historical information about the City of Huron and Erie County. The Red Cross holds a blood drive at the library on a quarterly basis. Firelands Hospital visits us once a month to check blood pressures and give out health information to our patrons. We have an active Friends of the Library group that supports the work that the library is doing through memberships, donations and Book Nook sales. And lastly, we always partner with our city schools with monthly outreaches and additional programs.

A newly restored baby grand piano was recently donated to the library by Gary and Anne Hinton in honor of Gary's mother. Our inaugural program was a Tuesday evening Let's Make Music that encouraged

children to sing and dance, creating musical memories for families. We are always on the lookout for new technology that can help our patrons, our Magna Sight Reader allows someone with diminished eyesight to magnify the computer screen. The library staff create memories for those visiting with a smiling face and a helping hand. Our friendly and knowledgeable staff is available to serve in any way that we can, and we value our volunteers, who shelve books and sort through donations for our Book Nook.

Many of you may recognize this face (referring to screen). Story Time is in many of our people's library stories. Maybe even your kids or grandkids have gone to Story Time. Miss Melissa, our early literacy expert, entertains children while educating parents on reading, writing, singing, talking and playing. Little ones love listening to songs, and we love seeing them run in, excited for Story Time. This foundation of learning is key to their future reading and learning skills. We are preparing them for Kindergarten and beyond, while creating fond memories. Playing is the language of children. Our children's area provides toys for children to use their imagination and words to create stories along with learning how to play kindly with others. We are excited to be embarking on a project to upgrade our children's area with a cohesive theme, new toys and a newly decorated Story Time room.

Moving from preschool to school aged children, programs continue to be engaging, education and most importantly, fun. Legos, Steam Team, book discussions, craft pickups, and the Summer Learning Program all create opportunities for school children to engage the library and learn along the way. (Referring to screen) These teens are preparing for Battle of the Books, which had them read eight chosen titles over the summer, all voluntarily – maybe with some parent persuasion, and compete against other Erie County libraries on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Miss Melissa, the head of our youth services, worked with the kids during many practices to ensure they were comfortable with answering questions and prepared for the competition. We didn't win, but we are so very proud of how the kids represented themselves, the library and Huron during the competition. An after-hours night of fun is being planned to thank them for their hard work. What a great library story.

We have a crowd of teens who come to the library every day after school. They are able to hang out in a safe place, chat with their friends, complete homework, use the computers and read. Programs for teens include Stitch Niche, Teen Library Council, teen tech cart, teen book boxes, and teen cooking challenges, along with volunteer opportunities at programs for younger children.

The proposed levy on the November ballot is a renewal of the levy that is expiring. Renewal means that the library will be funded at the same income level as the old levy. This means that the rate of taxation will continue the same as previous years. There is no increase. Let me repeat... there is no increase in taxes based on the new tax assessment. Currently, the Public Library Fund in Ohio supplies about 40% of the finances needed to operate the library. The other 60% comes from the levy supported by Huron. A 2021 study by Howard Pleter & Associates found that for every \$1 spent by a public library in Ohio, a total economic value of \$5 was returned to the community. Pictured here (indicating screen) is another partnership we have as a passport agency. Patrons can make an appointment and a trained staff member will ensure their paperwork is completed for their passport. We also hand out free Covid test kits, which we get from the Ohio Department of Health.

All the funds are generated for the same purpose – operating expenses. The levy funds pay for the library's collection, public programs, technology, utilities, maintenance, personnel and partnership with CleveNet, which enables access to over 12 million items from 47 libraries. So what's your library story? Do you have one? Are we a part of it? And if not, how can we be a part of it? Our friend Tally, here, has come along with her owner, Kathy, from Huron City Schools, to visit the library every week during the month of September to greet children for National Service Dog Month. Stop in and tell us your library story, or begin making your library memories. If anyone has any further questions at any time, my office door is open to visitors. Thank you very much for your time.

Mayor Tapp and Council thanked Ms. Buch.

### **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 2022-48 (second reading)**

**Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe that Ordinance 2022-48 (AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER AND/OR THE SERVICE DIRECTOR (WITH PRIOR CITY MANAGER APPROVAL) TO ENTER INTO WHOLESALE ELECTRICITY AGREEMENTS WITH AMERICAN MUNICIPAL POWER FOR THE DELIVERY OF POWER/ELECTRICITY TO HURON PUBLIC POWER CUSTOMERS) 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 the Council voted as follows:

**YEAS: Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp, Grieves (5)**

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being a majority in favor of the motion, Ordinance No. 2022-48 was placed on its second reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Hamilton explained that the nature of electric purchasing is commodity-based. It moves fast and prices go up and down fast. In the past, the City has missed out on attractive pricing for their customers, and it provides that electric pricing for its customers. This ordinance will allow the City Manager and/or the Service Director to enter directly into contracts with AMP for the purchase of power. Council will always be kept up to date on any contracts, and they will be updated on any signed contracts afterwards. Mayor Tapp asked if there were any questions for Mr. Hamilton. There were no questions.

#### **Ordinance 2022-50 (second reading)**

**Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe that Ordinance 2022-50 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF HURON CODIFIED ORDINANCES TO ADD A NEW SECTION 121.03- ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY AND POWERS TO CHAPTER 121 (COUNCIL); REPEALING AND AMENDING AND RESTATING CHAPTER 131 (CITY MANAGER) IN ITS ENTIRETY; REPEALING AND AMENDING AND RESTATING SECTION 159.05- NORMAL PURCHASE PROCEDURE AND SECTION 159.06- EMERGENCY PURCHASES OF CHAPTER 159 (DIVISION OF PURCHASING); AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY) 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 the Council voted as follows:

**YEAS: Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp, Grieves (5)**

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being a majority in favor of the motion, Ordinance No. 2022-50 was placed on its second reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Hamilton stated that this Ordinance came about when the City Manager tasked staff to look at efficiencies internally and how to deliver better customer service to our residents. They picked out things that stalled the customer experience for our residents or slowed down staff, making them less agile. These are things such as sign permits – allowing people to put signs up in the right-of-way – some of these things that may not rise to the level that needs to come to Council. They are still going by the standard operating processes, and they are still kept in line by the \$25,000 cap, and this does not reflect anything to do with real estate or anything like that. This deals only with day-to-day processes – issues that the City Manager would be able to sign on behalf of the City. If passed, this would be brought back on a yearly basis to Council so they can look at it every year and if they are still comfortable with the process and it is working well, they can re-up it or vote it down at any time.

Mr. Lasko clarified that the version before Council is the version from the last meeting, and does not show the one-year annual renewal. They will be working with Mr. Schrader in the event this comes back to Council for a third reading, to have the redlined language that shows that this will come up for an annual consideration moving forward.

Mr. Biddlecombe asked if this is something that is fairly common with other municipalities in the area. Mr. Hamilton said he wasn't sure if it was common, but definitely as you operate and where he's come from in the past, there's a lot of things that come to Council that normally wouldn't raise to that level. Things like putting signs up in the right-of-way – some of those more simplistic things would usually just be covered by staff and by the City Manager. This would allow the permitting to happen on a timely basis.

### **New Business**

#### **Resolution 79-2022**

**Motion by Mr. Tapp that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 79-2022 (A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 60-2021, ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 13, 2021, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT CONTRACT MODIFICATION NO. 1 FROM OHM ADVISORS FOR ADDITIONAL ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES RELATING TO THE SAWMILL PARKWAY RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FOUR THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED SIX AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$4,406.00)) be placed upon its first reading.**

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

**YEAS: Tapp, Grieves, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus (5)**

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 79-2022 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Hamilton stated that the original Resolution for the design on this project was \$226,550.00. As they went through the process with EDA review, they decided to change the electrical scope on the project. This is retroactively paying for design changes that have already occurred. These funds will be paid out of HPP funds because it has to do with the electrical portion of the 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 79-2022. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS: Tapp, Grievess, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus (5)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 79-2022 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

**Resolution 80-2022**

**Motion by Mr. Grievess that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 80-2022 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPROVE A GRANT/LOAN APPLICATION SUBMISSION BY THE CITY OF HURON TO THE OHIO WATER DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY ("OWDA") RELATING TO THE SOUTH MAIN STREET WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT) 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, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp (5)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 80-2022 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Gibboney explained that this legislation is to submit application (he will be working closely with Mr. Fridrich from OHM) to the Ohio Water Development Authority. As promised, they are looking at all possible methods to fund their future capital endeavors, some of which include Ohio Public Works Commission and other grants going forward. This is just one of those items. It is noncommittal; they will simply be applying for a loan and seeing what the ultimate feedback from OWDA. Overall, the project has a total estimated cost of \$3.8, although that does include some other costs, such as street resurfacing. He referenced Councilman Biddlecombe's question regarding which roads were impacted by the water main replacement. The road and rough estimates on the length being replaced are included.

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 80-2022. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS: Grievess, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp (5)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 80-2022 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

**Resolution 81-2022**

**Motion by Mr. Artino that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 81-2022 (A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE HURON PUBLIC LIBRARY'S 1.5 MILLS LEVY RENEWAL ON THE 2022 NOVEMBER BALLOT) 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, Grievess, Biddlecombe (5)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 81-2022 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko said it's probably not often that municipalities take positions on items that are being provided to the voters during the election process that aren't their own requests, but they do feel strongly that there are certain when in which a city may be asked, and possibly should, take a position, particularly things related to the school districts and certainly, the public library system. They view this as a mutually beneficial relationship. When the City is strong, the library is strong, and we certainly need a strong public library system to make this a desirable community. They wanted to ask Council, on behalf of the Huron Public Library, for a resolution of support for the upcoming levy. As we heard this evening, the reliance of 60% of their funding is through the levy process, and anything they can do, even through a resolution of support, should be provided.

Mayor Tapp agreed that the library is a great asset to our community, and it is great asset to every community. He is fully behind this.

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 81-2022. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS:           Artino, Claus, Tapp, Grieves, Biddlecombe (5)**  
**NAYS:           None (0)**

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 81-2022 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

#### **Resolution 82-2022**

**Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 82-2022 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER'S EXECUTION OF A VENDOR AGREEMENT WITH ED BURDUE & CO. LLC FOR ASBESTOS ABATEMENT, DEMOLITION AND GRADING SERVICES ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 624 BERLIN RD., HURON, OHIO IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED SIXTY-TWO THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$62,000.00)) 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, Grieves (5)**  
**NAYS:           None (0)**

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 82-2022 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Hamilton explained that an invitation to bid was issued in early August for demolition of 624 Berlin Road. The scope of the demolition includes demolition of the house, demolition, fill and grade all subterranean structures, removal and disconnection of all existing utilities, and selective demolition of the existing barn structure (they will try and save the structure itself), removal of a lot of trash and debris that was left on the site, removal of a lot of large trees that are coming to the end of their lives, and surface scraping and grading to remove a lot of debris, glass, broken metal, etc. from the scrap yard that was located there. The walk-through was well-attended, and the City received two bids. Ed Burdue was the lowest and

the best bidder. While the City will have to pay for this demolition, once the work is complete, the Erie County Land Bank will reimburse the City for the full amount.

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 82-2022. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS: Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp, Grieves (5)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 82-2022 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

#### **Resolution 83-2022**

**Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 83-2022 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH BRICKER & ECKLER, ATTORNEYS AT LAW, FOR THE PROVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES RELATED TO HURON PUBLIC POWER FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 1, 2022 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2023 AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED TWENTY-EIGHT THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$28,800.00)) 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, Grieves (5)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 83-2022 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Hamilton explained that Resolution 83-2022 is a renewal of Bricker & Eckler's contract for the year. They have kept their rates the same as last year – it was nice to see no increase. What this gives the City is 8 hours of legal advice for utilities, specifically Huron Public Power. There are a lot of nuances to navigate when running an electric utility, and these guys are experts at it. They will guide us and save him getting himself in trouble, which he is going to do. This will give them 8 hours at \$2,400 per month.

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 83-2022. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS: Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp, Grieves (5)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 83-2022 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.



**Resolution 84-2022**

**Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 84-2022 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPROVE A GRANT APPLICATION SUBMISSION BY THE CITY OF HURON TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ("ODOT") HIGHWAY SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM ("HSIP") RELATING TO THE CLEVELAND ROAD EAST SIDEWALK EXTENSION PROJECT) 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, Grieves (5)**

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 84-2022 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Hamilton stated that this Resolution requests permission to apply for the HSIP grant in an unspecified amount at this point in time. This project is in its design phase, and still has some moving parts. Once they reach a final design, they can decide for what they believe can be applied for. This program will mostly go to safety, which would include the crosswalk portions of the 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 84-2022. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS: Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp, Grieves (5)**

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 84-2022 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

**Resolution 85-2022**

**Motion by Mr. Artino that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 85-2022 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED SIXTY-FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$65,000.00) FOR ROCK SALT PURCHASED THROUGH AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN COMPASS MINERALS AMERICA, INC. AND THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ERIE COUNTY FOR THE PURPOSE OF FURNISHING BULK DEICING ROCK SALT TO THE CITY OF HURON AND VARIOUS OTHER POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS THROUGHOUT ERIE COUNTY DURING THE 2023 CALENDAR YEAR) 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, Grieves, Biddlecombe (5)**

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 85-2022 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Hamilton stated that the City benefits by entering into some of these contracts with the County to get them more purchasing power. The current contract gives them the salt at \$45/ton, and doesn't expire until December 31, 2022. What staff intends to do is to fill up to capacity during this year before the current contract expires. For the balance of next year, they will be under the contract. They will see an increase of approximately 24-25% on the cost of rock salt for 2023, which will take the cost up to \$56.15/ton.

Mr. Artino asked if they could do anything in conjunction with the County or anybody like that. Mr. Hamilton answered that this is in conjunction with the County. Mayor Tapp stated that this is quite an increase, so it is good that they are stocking up under the old contract.

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 85-2022. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS: Artino, Claus, Tapp, Grievess, Biddlecombe (5)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 85-2022 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

#### **Ordinance No. 2022-49**

**Motion by Mr. Grievess that the three-reading rule be suspended and Ordinance 2022-49 (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 TO PROVIDE FOR CASH TRANSFERS) 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: Grievess, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp (5)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was suspended and Ordinance 2022-49 placed on its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Swaisgood greeted Council and said it is a pleasure addressing them for the first time in six months. Ordinance No. 2022-49 is before Council to address three items for approval to transfer budget and move budget. The first one is in the Water Fund 604 – there was a cash transfer done earlier this year from the Water Fund to the Capital Project Fund, and this is only asking for an increase in budget to lawfully make that transfer. The second item relates to a needed transfer from the General Fund for the Personnel Officer or HR Manager's part-time salary in the amount of \$15,000 to fully budget for the annual salary in 2022. The third item is an increase in the Police Department's wages, which is for an increase in special overtime (Kalahari and events) that would ultimately be reimbursed back to the City. This is increasing that budget to lawfully pay them, which we have, but that should get us through the rest of the year.

The Mayor asked if there were any further questions or discussion on the motion. There being none, he directed the Clerk to call the roll on the final adoption of Ordinance 2022-49. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS:           Grievess, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp (5)**  
**NAYS:           None (0)**

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Ordinance 2022-49 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

**Ordinance No. 2022-51**

**Motion by Mr. Grievess that the three-reading rule be suspended and Ordinance 2022-51 (AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE FORM AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THE 2022 LOCUST RIDGE ENERGY SCHEDULE WITH AMERICAN MUNICIPAL POWER, INC. AND TAKING OF OTHER ACTIONS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY) be placed upon its first reading.**

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

**YEAS:           Claus, Tapp, Grievess, Biddlecombe, Artino (5)**  
**NAYS:           None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was suspended and Ordinance 2022-51 placed on its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

**Motion by Mr. Hagy to place Ordinance 2022-51 as an emergency measure.**

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

**YEAS:           Claus, Tapp, Grievess, Biddlecombe, Artino (5)**  
**NAYS:           None (0)**

There being five votes or more in favor, Ordinance 2022-51 was placed as an emergency measure.

Mr. Hamilton said that he loves how Council lights up when he comes to podium to speak. This ordinance allows the City to enter into an agreement with AMP. As electric prices remain volatile based on natural resources, they are tending to lean more toward renewable energies. They are more stable and predictable, and are not as susceptible to market conditions. This contract is for 7MW of wind-generated power at \$47.75 per MW. This stabilizes the market portion – the City buys a base load that they know they can cover, and everything else goes to the market. That portion is really hurting our customers right now, so what they are going to do is extend their base into that volatile portion of the portfolio so they can standardize those cost for our customers. 6MW of this purchase is to fulfill a missing 6MW for Mucci Farms. They have been missing that for a year plus, and they go to the market for that portion. We will purchase that 6MW, as well. The only downfall with wind energy is that if there is no wind, there is no energy. At some point, they won't be able to fulfill all of these power requirements for us. Therefore, they classify this power as supplemental power. It's not core for them, it's just available to help manage the costs in the market section. The total cost of this contract is \$8.784 Million over 3 years, so Council knows how much this power is going to cost over the entire contract. If the City ends up overextended (they over-purchase and don't use it all), the City can sell the power back to the market. The market indicatively is projected to not fall below \$75 until the end of next year. They would take any excess power from this contract and sell it straight back to the market at a profit (considering they purchased at \$47.75). While they

don't want to get into commodity trading, that is a fallback. For the next 3 years, the indicative price is not due to drop below \$55, so they would still be good at this rate.

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 2022-51. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS:**           **Claus, Tapp, Grieves, Biddlecombe, Artino (5)**  
**NAYS:**           **None (0)**

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Ordinance 2022-51 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:

- **Staff** – He knows Council a lot of times will thank staff at the end of the meetings, and on nights like tonight, we've covered a lot of technical topics in the work session and have had a lot of technical legislation. He is continuously impressed with the caliber of our staff and our consultants, whether that's folks that are in the room here, or not in the room. He means that not just administratively, but across the board – police, fire, AFSCME, and all of our consultants. Thank you, guys – tremendous work, and he probably doesn't say it enough.
- **Conagra** – He mentioned last meeting that they issued an RFQ for professional services for the sea wall improvements. They only received one submittal, but fortunately, that was from KS & Associates, who we feel very comfortable with as one of the foremost marine engineers in the entire Great Lakes region. We held a kickoff meeting with them on September 20<sup>th</sup> to begin reviewing scope for that work, such as geotechnical work that will be done to the actual sea wall improvements themselves. They should be getting a proposal from KS & Associates in the next 2 or 3 weeks, which they can hopefully present to Council to get that part of the process and improvement moving forward.
- **Sawmill Creek Resort** – He believes they will, hopefully, be bringing the final annexation piece of legislation to Council for consideration to officially move that property into the City. They made a connection between the Regional Income Tax Agency and Cedar Fair regarding their upcoming obligation to begin withholding at 1% income tax for their employees. They also let us know that they are currently employing 219 full-time, part-time and seasonal employees, with an average monthly payroll of \$520,000. Based on these estimated, they should start receiving about \$60,000-\$65,000 of additional revenue, which slightly more than they were anticipating, as they were projecting right around \$50,000. He believes they will start receiving those revenues in November or December of the year. They are excited on what that means for the City financially, and for their partnership with Cedar Fair.
- **US 6 Rye Beach Road/Cleveland Road Corridor** – This project was the recent recipient of a nearly \$25 Million build grant. They have been notified that ODOT District 3, after carrying out some due diligence, discovered additional right-of-way work that will need to be carried out to fully construct the intersection improvements and the pathway. Therefore, they are applying for additional (nearly \$8 Million) from ODOT's Main Office Transportation Review Advisory Council to cover those additional costs. They believe the results of that funding will be announced later on this year, and given the amount of funding that's in that project, they remain very hopeful that those funds will be received by ODOT District 3.

- Route 6 Phase 2 – They held an ODOT District 3 scope meeting yesterday to determine the traffic options for Route 6 Phase 2, and what’s allowable and what is not allowable. Based on that meeting, staff and OHM will begin finalizing visuals and renderings for the proposed improvements as part of that next phase. Prior to the ODOT public outreach process, staff and OHM will be requesting either a Council work session or, potentially, just a presentation at an upcoming Council meeting to look at those options.
- Sawmill Parkway Project – They held a bid opening yesterday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. They are very pleased that they received 5 bids, which he believes is a tremendous turnout for that project. They are currently in the process of reviewing the completeness of those bids, and hope to recommend a preferred bidder to Council at an upcoming meeting, likely in October. Without finalizing this and going on record in terms of what the final number may be, they are very pleased with what the initial results of those bids are. They are looking forward to bringing that contract to Council in the near future.
- Tennis Courts at Fabens Park – This is another capital project they have talked about in a couple City Manager Reports over the last couple of months. After additional deliberation and consideration, staff is recommending they move forward with the rehabilitation option versus complete reconstruction. Funding for the project will be a combination of the Huron Joint Recreation District, which has committed their \$95,000 capital line item to the project, they are having conversations with Huron Township, who is looking to make a final contribution, and then the recommendation would be that the City of Huron would fund the balance of that work. They strongly believe that with the combination of cost, level of extensive rehabilitation that will be undertaken, and the high level of ongoing maintenance that is undertaken by our Parks and Recreation Department, that this is the preferred option over the full reconstruction. They hope to present Council with a proposal for design services in the upcoming weeks so that they design in the fall and bid in the winter. They also have reached out to the School District, through their Superintendent, to begin conversations on what potential impacts that may have on the boys’ or girls’ tennis seasons. They will make sure they have a long runway if there is any impact on any of those seasons. They hope to meet with the Superintendent and Athletic Director over the next week or two.
- 624 Berlin Road – They are thrilled to enter into the demolition contract in the next day or so, but he wanted to close the loop on the real estate purchase. If everyone remembers, there was a 0.2-acre triangular parcel owned by Mr. Tom Billman just to the north of the other 6 acres. They closed on that property on September 19<sup>th</sup>. All of that real estate is fully under the City’s ownership. He has talked to Mr. Steinwart and Mr. Engle, and they are going to start the process for soliciting a third-party facilitator to start the master planning process for that facility, with the public and stakeholders, hopefully in the winter or very early in 2023.
- Finance Department – The August 2022 Financial Report will not be sent to Council this month due to technical issues with OpenGov. The issue should be corrected before the September 2022 Financial Report is due. To touch on a few highlights that Mr. Swaisgood wanted him to pass along to Council and the public, he said the unencumbered General Fund balance as of August 31, 2022 was \$1.9 Million, which is 38% over annual expenditures. They normally like that number to be somewhere between 20-25%, so they are very pleased with the 38% at the end of August. Year-to-date income tax collections are 19%, or \$415,000, higher than this time in 2021. That is mostly due to Ardagh’s production and construction during calendar year 2022. The City remains in a strong financial position, with very positive income tax returns. If there are any questions in the interim before the next financial report, those can certainly be directed to Mr. Swaisgood.

- Fall 2022 Newsletter – They are starting the process to finalize the Fall 2022 newsletter. Jen Kilbury in Parks and Recreation is taking the lead on that, along with several department heads. We hope to have that newsletter ready for delivery in late October or early November.
- Upcoming Meetings – The Planning Commission meeting scheduled for tomorrow, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm has been canceled; HJRD meets on Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in Council Chambers; Utilities Committee on Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm in the main conference room; BZA meeting on Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the Council Chambers; City Council regular meeting on Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the Council Chambers; City Council regular meeting on Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the Council Chambers; Records Commission meeting on Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am in the main conference room; and Planning Commission on Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm in Council Chambers.

Mr. Biddlecombe stated that he is the City's liaison to the School Board. Dr. Laffay, who is on HJRD, mentioned that there is an opening on that board, and they were wondering what the process was to fill that – who is eligible. If it's an appointed position, who does the appointing and when might that happen. Mr. Lasko asked if Mr. Steinwart wanted to weigh in on that question. Mr. Steinwart said that he doesn't think there is an exact policy, it is up to the School Board to make that appointment on their behalf. Just like the City appoints 3 members, and the Township appoints theirs, the School Board would make that appointment – he would assume the policies are the same.

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

Mayor Tapp sent his condolences to Chief Vince Donald's family, who passed away this last week. He was the Perkins Police Chief, and that was a big loss. He wanted to say that in the short time that he had connections with him, he was a great guy. He will be truly missed by safety services and the community. He wanted to extend their condolences to his family and friends.

He thanked Mrs. Smith-Buch for the library presentation. Again, he thinks it's a great asset to the City and community.

He has been keeping eyes on the fish cleaning station, and has been receiving texts and emails. He sees that it moving along and is starting to look really good. He knows there's a supply issue. Hopefully they are going to stay on schedule as well they can. He's getting fishermen calling wanting to know when that's going to be done. He will give them Mr. Steinwart's number and go from there.

As far as the presentations this evening in the work session – they talked about street paving and water rates – he wants to give staff a recommendation to move forward on both of these projects. He asked if there are any comments from Council about that. Mr. Artino said he's already commented, but he thinks we have to move forward. Mr. Lasko made a point of clarification from the work session, particularly as it relates to the water rates, Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Gibboney mentioned that the Finance Committee had made two recommendations and the Utilities Committee made two recommendations. There were the same recommendations, but they were flip-flopped in terms of priority. One had the 7-12% raises for 6 years and 5% for the last 4 years, and the second one had 5% across the board. At least from a staff perspective, they are comfortable with the lesser of the 2 options, which is the 5% across the board. Mr. Gibboney and Mr. Hamilton stated it well when they said they have a pretty aggressive capital plan that needs to be undertaken. A lot of those projects come down to the vitality of the system and water security. With that said, it is our job to go find money to subsidize these projects. The capital plan assumes that we are financing all of those projects at some type of loan that will have an interest rate at market rate – and some of those projects may come in at that – but they believe in their abilities to go find money, both from a 0% loan standpoint and from a grant standpoint. Add to that, depending on whether we are highly successful or not, they are going to re-evaluate the rates every three years. He wanted to reiterate, from a staff perspective, they are recommending if they do move forward with anything, to go with the lesser of the 2 options, 4A. Mayor

Tapp said he thinks they should go ahead and move forward with these projects and asked if there were any questions from Council. Mr. Artino said he agrees with the recommendation that the consistent 5% across the board is the right way to go. Mr. Claus said the recommendation is to proceed with the legislation for the 5% option, correct? Mr. Lasko said that is Council's prerogative, but that would be staff's recommendation, and the only other thing he forgot to mention is anything affecting rates would be subject to three readings. There will still be time for additional deliberation and consideration moving forward. They would have to bring that to Council 3 times. Mayor Tapp said this is just to get the wheels spinning.

He thanked the community for coming in and for their input as far as the street paving and water rates go. They appreciate that, they do listen, and they encourage that.

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

- **Mr. Biddlecombe** – He echoed what Mr. Artino said – he definitely wants to hear the community's opinion on everything that they are going over. It is the best way for him to make the most educated decision, because ultimately it is going to affect everybody in the City. He would also like to send his condolences to the Huddleston family. He has known them for a long time; he has been involved with the football program for a while now. He knew both of their boys when they were little. He thanked staff for their continued hard work. From the last School Board meeting, Huron City Schools is in need of substitutes, and the Board voted to raise sub pay from \$90/day to \$100/day, and that would increase to \$110/day after 5 days. If people are interested in subbing, they should apply. Congratulations to Huron student Amber Vance, who is a semi-finalist for the National Merit Scholarship Program. He would like to send a thank you to the Ardagh employees who spent several hours on National Cleanup Day picking up trash at Nickel Plate Beach. He would like to thank everyone who was involved in planning and putting on the 2022 Victory Day. It truly is one of the premier events they have at the stadium each year, and he knows that it means a lot to the special needs kids who participate, as well as their families. He would like to congratulate the boys' golf team on their 2022 SBC Bay Division Championship. Don't miss the Huron Pumpkin Festival from 11am to 5pm at the Huron Boat Basin on October 8<sup>th</sup>. Home games coming up: girls' volleyball on 9/29, 10/1, 3, 6, 8 & 11; girls' soccer on 10/6; cross country Huron Invitational on 10/8; and after a long, hard-fought 1 point Homecoming loss, the Tigers rebounded with a big road win over Willard to begin SBC Lake Football Conference play. This Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, they will travel to Oak Harbor for the final league matchup with the Rockets before they leave the SBC, and then they are back at home on October 7<sup>th</sup> again Vermilion. Both games begin at 7:00pm. Please come out and support all of our student athletes, and Go Tigers!
- **Mr. Artino** – Thanked the citizens for their participation and like he has said many times, we are only as good as our community, and input from the citizens means a lot. He would like to thank staff, the Mayor and this Council. He thinks communication has improved tremendously, and transparency, over the last few years, and a lot of that has to do with the same philosophy the staff has. They know how important that is. Not only thank you for your hard work, but thank you for your consideration to the community.
- **Mr. Claus** – As Mr. Lasko pointed out, this was a relatively technical meeting. Mr. Lasko didn't have to say much tonight – it was all Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Gibboney. He appreciates everybody's efforts and work, and there's tons of time that went into all of the research and preparation for this. He appreciates that. He gave his condolences to the Huddleston family in Huron. They lost a 25-year-old son after a brief illness a week and a half or so. He was a Huron graduate, a great kid, very involved in the community, and was just one of those people that put a smile on your face and was very helpful to his peers, other young people in the community and adults alike – my condolences to their family.

- **Mr. Grieves** – Thanked staff. He sat in on a Utilities Committee meeting, and hearing how confident Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Gibboney are and their willingness to work harder and go for grants makes us as a community very lucky to have the staff that we have. He thanked Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Gibboney and the entire staff as a whole.

**Executive Session**

None.

**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, Grieves (5)**

**NAYS:**           **None (0)**

There being more than a majority voting in favor of the motion, the Mayor declared the meeting of September 27, 2022 adjourned at 7:33pm.

  
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Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council

Adopted: 11 OCT 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.*