

THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO
Proceedings of the Huron City Council
Regular Meeting Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at 6:30pm

Public Hearing

Public Hearing on the Application of Steven Muniak and Kelly Everman requesting a change of street name from West Street (aka West Drive) to Sail Away Drive.

Call to Order

The Mayor called the Public Hearing 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 Public Hearing. The following members of Council answered present: **William Biddlecombe, Sam Artino, Mark Claus, Monty Tapp, Joe Dike, Matt Grieves and Joel Hagy.**

Swear in Witnesses

Law Director Todd Schrader swore in witnesses for the Public Hearing, including all members of Council, City Manager Matt Lasko, and Petitioners Steven Muniak and Kelly Everman.

Witness Testimony

Mayor Tapp called on the Petitioners to testify as to the reason for their request.

Steven Muniak, 35 West Drive, Huron, Ohio. Mr. Muniak attested that he has take the oath. Mr. Muniak testified as follows:

I was a part-time resident from 2015 to 2019. My wife has been a long-time resident here in Huron, she spent about 24 years here. A little white cottage on Sailaway, then 404, and then 3 or 4 years ago we bought 35 West. Sam married us 2 years ago on Christmas Eve. We would like to do a name change for two reasons. First, is there is delivery confusion with West Drive that's east of town, and the second is for inclusion in the neighborhood. The Sailaway Drive community is really tight – we feel like we belong there, and when you try to describe the addresses and things like that, there's sometimes a little bit of confusion. It's really as simple as that. Questions?

Mr. Hagy asked if there are any other homes or lots that aren't developed on West Drive. Mr. Muniak answered that they are the only house. Mr. Hagy said that he saw that, but it looks like there's a lot right when you make the turn off South Street to go north immediately on the east. Mr. Muniak said the southeast lot is on South Street. Mr. Hagy said the owner of that house owns that lot. Mr. Muniak answered that she does.

Mr. Schrader explained, as a point of reference, that the petitioner is asking for is textbook right out of the Ohio Revised Code. Chapter 723.04. It's not perfunctory, it is up to Council, but the requirements are: petition, a hearing that we're having tonight, and then Council determining on good cause that there is satisfactory rationale supporting the name change. What we are entertaining tonight is directly out of Chapter 723.04. He just wanted to bring that to Council's attention.

Mr. Muniak asked if he could bring one more note. He said that they have signatures from 8 of 10 of their neighbors in support of this, and that is part of the application.

Mayor Tapp thanked the applicants, and said that he would entertain a motion.

Motion

Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe to approve the Petition of Steven Muniak and Kelly Everman to change to name of West Drive (aka West Street) to Sail Away Drive.

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

NAYS: None (0)

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

Adjournment of Public Hearing

Motion by Mr. Claus adjourn the Public Hearing and move into the regular Council meeting.

The Mayor 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: 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 the Public Hearing was adjourned.

Call to Order of Regular Council Meeting

The Mayor called to order the regular meeting of Council at 6:35pm in Council Chambers.

Roll Call

The Mayor directed the clerk to call the roll for the regular meeting of Council. The following members of Council answered present: **William Biddlecombe, Sam Artino, Mark Claus, 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, Police Chief Robert Lippert, Sergeant Terry Graham, Finance Director Cory Swaisgood and Todd A. Schrader, in his capacity as Clerk of Council due to the absence of Terri Welkener.

Approval of Minutes

None

Proclamation

Mayor Tapp read a Proclamation on the retirement of Police Chief Robert Lippert. A copy of the Proclamation is attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and made a part hereof.

From the audience, Chief Lippert rose and said thanks and it is much appreciated, deeply appreciated. He can't say thank you enough.

Audience Comments

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

None.

Old Business**Resolution No. 116-2022 (Amended)**

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

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

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

Mr. Swaisgood stated that on December 27, 2022, Council passed legislation required by OPERS to align the City Manager's contract that takes effect January 1, 2023. There was a scrivener's error in the legislation that had an effective date of January 1, 2022 instead of January 1, 2023. This amendment is simply to correct that date so that we can submit to the State Pension Board.

The Mayor asked if there were any further questions on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on final adoption of Amended Resolution No. 116-2022. 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 of adoption, Amended Resolution No. 116-2022 was adopted. The Amended Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

New Business

Ordinance No. 2023-1

Motion by Mr. Claus that Ordinance No. 2023-1 (AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE NAME OF WEST STREET (AKA WEST DRIVE) TO SAIL AWAY DRIVE WITHIN THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO; AND AMENDING CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 305.01, TRAFFIC CONTROL MAP, AND CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 305.02, TRAFFIC CONTROL FILE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS ORDINANCE) be placed on its first reading.

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

NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more in favor of the motion, the three-reading rule was waived and Ordinance No. 2023-1 was placed on its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Resolution No. 3-2023

Motion by Mr. Grievess that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution No. 3-2023 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH THE ERIE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN AND THE NPDES SMALL MS4 PERMIT APPLICATION TO THE OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY IN THE AMOUNT OF FIFTEEN THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$15,800.00) FOR THE 2023 CALENDAR YEAR, WHICH AGREEMENT INCLUDES TWO OPTIONAL ONE-YEAR RENEWALS UNDER IDENTICAL TERMS FOR CALENDAR YEARS 2024 AND 2025) be placed on its first reading.

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

NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor. The motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 3-2023 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Hamilton explained that this is a continuation of an existing agreement. This is a 1-year agreement with a rolling additional two years. This would normally fall under the City Manager's authority for signature, but if we end up implementing both rolling years, it would take us up to a total of \$47,000, so we thought it prudent to bring it to Council for signature.

The Mayor asked if there were any further questions on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on final adoption of Resolution No. 3-2023. 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 of adoption, Resolution No. 3-2023 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 4-2023

Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution No. 4-2023 (A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF TERRY E. GRAHAM, JR. AS POLICE CHIEF OF THE CITY OF HURON, EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 1, 2023) be placed on its first reading.

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

There being five or more votes in favor. The motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 4-2023 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko said, he thinks it has been well documented over the last couple of months, with the announcement of Chief Lippert's retirement effective February 1st, they did begin a pretty extensive search process in late fall of 2022 that started with the establishment of an advisory search committee, which a couple of Council members have dedicated their time to along with some community members, which they are very appreciative of. That committee was charged with reviewing applications that came into the City for the police chief position, and ultimately decided to bring in several candidates for interviews based on those resumes and backgrounds. The committee chose to interview seven candidates through November and early December, and as a result of that process, 3 candidates were recommended as finalists for the position. The administration interviewed those candidates in early January through mid-January, and as a result of both feedback from the search committee and also their interviews, it is their recommendation to appoint Terry Graham as the next Police Chief, which will be effective February 1, 2023, as well. Mr. Lasko, the committee and others, have been very impressed with his credentials and commitment to this community, and he can think of no better person for that position other than Sergeant Graham. Obviously, because this is a Chartered position, Mr. Lasko would make the recommendation to Council and they will need to affirm or not affirm said appointment. He said he is happy to answer any questions, but again, he wants to thank the committee and all the applications. They had a very robust process and all the applicants they had. They had a very robust process and a lot of interest in the position, which he thinks is a testament to not only this department, but also to this community. Thank you to everyone.

Mayor Tapp added that he also wanted to thank the committee. He thinks they did a great job.

The Mayor asked if there were any further questions on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on final adoption of Resolution No. 4-2023. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

NAYS: None (0)

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Resolution No. 4-2023 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take on February 1, 2023.

Mayor Tapp invited Sergeant Graham to the podium to say a few words.

Sergeant Graham approached the podium and said: I would like to thank the Mayor, the City Manager and Council for their vote of support. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve this community in a very important capacity. I am very excited. I am honored. It is a privilege, and I am humbled to have the opportunity to serve the agency that I care so much for, the agency that I served for 3-1/2 decades and for this community that I love and I call home, as its next Chief of Police. I would like to recognize Chief Lippert and his Proclamation for his service not only for the City of Huron, but also for Erie County, and finally, I want to recognize him for being extremely accommodating in the transition process. We have been working together on a daily basis to make sure we have the smoothest transition and it has been going very well, so I appreciate this opportunity and am very excited and look forward to working with everybody.

(Applause).

Mayor Tapp offered his congratulations and said the support that is shown here to proves that we are moving in the right direction here.

Resolution No. 5-2023

Motion by Mr. Tapp that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution No. 5-2023 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS IN THE FORM OF A CONTRIBUTION TO THE HURON POLICE DEPARTMENT K-9 UNIT IN THE AMOUNT OF FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$5,000.00)) be placed on its first reading.

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

NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor. The motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 5-2023 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko stated that as has been well-documented over the last couple of weeks, the Huron Police Department has taken the initiative to attempt to reinstitute the K-9 Unit. We believe the approximate cost to just initially get up and running is approximately \$30,000. There has been an aggressive fund-raising campaign undertaken by the Police Department, and ultimately, the community, as well. Last he heard, donations and commitments are well over \$20,000 and the City would like to show its support and

appreciation for those efforts, as well, and make a \$5,000 donation, which we would memorialize through a cash transfer internally, which he believes is the next piece of legislation. Again, they want to show their appreciation for those efforts. He knows Chief Lippert and the Huron Police Department have been very aggressive in those fundraising efforts and specifically, Officer Boesch has taken a lead role, as well, through this process. He wants to recognize all the hard work, all the passion and all the initiative undertaken. They recommend that donation of \$5,000 to that fund to aid in their fundraising efforts in terms of closing the gap.

Mr. Dike said he has had a lot of people ask him about this, and have had nothing but positive comments regarding their efforts. Thank you, guys for doing all of that. He also thinks that this is a call for Council to start looking to the future as well to help offset some of the cost, whether it be \$2,500 or \$5,000, or whatever our budget can handle, but that is something we should look at in the future. This is going to be part of the community, so we should help this effort, as well.

Officer Ryan Boesch was recognized by the Mayor and said: I am, and the police department is also, humbled by, during this fundraising effort, the community response to this, right? The community response was huge. We had not only individuals who responded to our fundraising effort, but the checks almost daily are coming in, still. People are still sending in, not only from here in this community (he had a check come from Virginia yesterday), so they are blown away by businesses' support, by individuals' support (that number, as the City Manager said, is over \$22,000 as of today), so he wanted to thank you, the city administration for getting behind us, it means a lot to us. Thank you, City Council, for getting behind us, it means a lot to us. Mr. Dike, I know you probably don't want me to say this, but I know what you did all behind the scenes and all the stuff you did for us, I appreciate that. Thank you from the police department, we greatly appreciate that. Do not let my thank you be enough. We are going to take this program and we are going to show you what we can do in our community, in our community policing efforts. So let that speak for our thank you to you guys.

Mayor Tapp said that was going to influence the vote until you mentioned Mr. Dike (kidding).

The Mayor asked if there were any further questions on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on final adoption of Resolution No. 5-2023. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

NAYS: None (0)

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Resolution No. 5-2023 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Ordinance No. 2023-2

Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be suspended and Ordinance No. 2023-2 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2022-69, ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 27, 2022, TO PROVIDE FOR SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE GENERAL FUND AND OTHER FUNDING SOURCES) be placed on its first reading.

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

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Ordinance No. 2023-2 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Swaisgood explained that Ordinance No. 2023-2 is a supplement appropriation request to properly budget for the expense of the K-9 Unit for 2023. If approved, \$18,917 would be appropriated to the Police Department's use toward the K-9 Unit. Donations from the K-9 Unit will offset all expenses at this time. Additional appropriations will need to be requested at a later date as I understand, and based off the conversation tonight, with more donations available over the past few days, the total donations are over \$22,000, so there will be another appropriation measure at a later date once we hit those goals. In addition, and Exhibit A for the City's \$5,000 contribution by Council is also included in this appropriation. Lastly, he wanted to commend the work of the police department, and he thinks it's awesome.

Mr. Hagy said it looks like the \$5,000 is in the \$18,000 and then there's a separate line for the \$5,000. Mr. Swaisgood said, yes, how this works with the budget is the \$5,000 is being budgeted to be spent from the City, so it is in the \$18,917 expense from the General Fund, and then the offsetting revenue is showing that a contribution was made by the City into the K-9 revenue account, and the \$18,917 (this was as of Thursday), is the \$13,917 that we received by that day, plus the \$5,000 that the City is contributing at this point. Although it looks like there is an additional \$5,000, it really is just showing that the City is paying \$5,000 contributing to that fund, so that's why there's 2 separate lines there, if that makes sense.

The Mayor asked if there were any further questions on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on final adoption of Ordinance No. 2023-2. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Ordinance No. 2023-2 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

City Manager's Discussion

The City Manager spoke on several topics:

Buckeye Sports – They are finishing completion on their approximate \$10 Million investment. In anticipation of that completion, they have been able to open portions of the project, including indoor storage and also the storeroom. They have been celebrating their grand opening between January 20th through the 29th, so everyone is suggested to stop in and take a look at that state-of-the-art facility. He truly wants to thank them for their investment in Huron with this facility, which is their second location in the State of Ohio. Again, thank you to Buckeye Sports for that investment.

Warren Slag Properties on River Road – The City has now fully completed its due diligence, which included title examination, survey and an environmental phase I site assessment. They did not uncover any issues, and we have advised the seller that we have completed that due diligence process. If you will remember, there was a fourth parcel included in the purchase agreement, which was a .19 acre parcel that they were not able to identify at that time. They wanted to complete the survey work to identify the location of that parcel to see if it was contiguous or not. After their analysis and conversations with the County Tax Map Division, that 0.19 acre parcel was determined to be not contiguous to the three other parcels that they are proposing to purchase, so therefore, it is their recommendation to amend the purchase agreement to eliminate that 0.19 acre parcel, which sits on the west side of the tracks, not contiguous to the real estate they are looking at purchasing. They are still looking at closing this purchase in February of this year. Finally, as he updated Council, they are looking at a partnership between Erie County and Huron County to establish a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). We are two of only a handful of counties in state that do not have comprehensive economic development strategies. That is a prerequisite going forward for any community looking to secure Economic Development Administration (EDA) funding. The cost to do that plan is about \$52,000. \$26,000 of that has been contributed by the Greater Sandusky Partnership in Erie County. Erie County was looking for the other \$26,000 through a grant through EDA. We are pleased to report that they are not approved yet, but they have been recommended for final consideration through the EDA grant-making process. We hope to find out in the next couple weeks that that grant is paid for, and that we can begin with the planning process in the upcoming months.

Two Rivers Project – The City is not officially in receipt of revised plats for what would be a new PUD related to the Two Rivers Subdivision. The project will first start by moving forward with Phase I, which will be simply to build out the rest of Sheltered Brook first, and then look at a Phase 2 and a Phase 3 on the undeveloped land. We are hoping to bring that to an upcoming Planning Commission meeting in the next couple months.

Huron Public Power – As mentioned, they are starting the process to eventually add capacity and expand the footprint of Huron Public Power. Right now, Huron Public Power has two transformers at its Rye Beach Road substation to provide power to its customers. Due to increase load and to maintain redundancy for our customers to ensure reliable power, we really do need to add a third transformer. We expect that cost to be around \$3.5 Million. To start the process, on January 17th, the City issued a request for proposals from companies to purchase, deliver and ramp up a third transformer. We do not anticipate to be in possession of a third transformer until the fall of 2024. Again, the RFP would cover the purchase, the install and the ramp up of the transformer itself. Once we have a good delivery date, we will issue a second RFP to bring it online and add controls and switching equipment.

Main Street Transformation - We have a third Main Street Steering Committee meeting scheduled for the envisioning and master planning processing for tomorrow at 3:00pm at the Boat Basin. At this meeting, the OHM planners will be presenting the preferred land use recommendations for the corridor, as well as a preferred streetscape plan based on feedback received during the public process in late 2022.

Berlin Road Park – They are in the process of soliciting proposals from planning and design firms to aid in the Berlin Road Park planning process. They hope to select a firm in the next 2-3 weeks and then begin the process in late February. They envision the process engaging Council, Planning Commission, the Joint Recreation District, and every stakeholder group, as well as the inclusion of a community survey to determine the desired amenities at the property. Final deliverables from the planning firm would include

a planning document with aerial design, several renderings, cut sheets of potential amenities, and projected costs.

Finance Department – The 2021 unaudited financial statements are now complete, and filed with the State Auditor's Office. The auditors will finish their audit work over the next few weeks in hopes of having a completed audit by mid-February. Council will receive the audit report before it's released. There has been no indication of any reportable findings for 2021. The Finance Department expects to get back on schedule with the 2022 audit, which result in the audit being released in July or August.

Water Department – First, regarding the Secondary Water Intake Project, as has been documented, a need has been identified to design and construct a secondary water intake to protect the water supply to the water treatment plant. This intake would be a backup to the main intake in the event of failure, needle ice, or other obstruction that would interrupt continue water supply. Conceptually, this secondary intake would be a river intake on the Huron River where the danger of needle ice is greatly reduced due to the protected location and the moving water. This project is tentatively scheduled as a 2024 construction year project. On January 17th, the City issued an RFQ to partner with a firm to design and bid the project. This RFQ will close on February 28th. Once a partner has been selected, we will bring a contract back to Council for consideration. Regarding the West Side Water Tower, if you will remember, the City was unsuccessful in its application for \$5 Million to aid in the construction of new 2-million-gallon elevated water tower on the west, probably in the Rye Beach/Sawmill Parkway area. The State had allocated \$250 Million at the time to its Wastewater and Water Infrastructure Grant Program. We were notified last week that the State has authorized another \$250 Million, and is not accepting new applications, so only projects that submitted application in 2021 will be considered for this funding round, as well, which we view as a positive. There is no deadline or announcement date for when those grants will be awarded, but they will keep the community and Council apprised of any news they hear from the State of Ohio.

Personnel – Following on a previous email, he is both sad and happy to report that Jason Gibboney has accepted the position of Plant Manager with Avon Lake Regional Water. This truly is a once in a lifetime opportunity for Mr. Gibboney, and we are so excited for him and his family. Jason has grown the physical footprint and reputation of Huron Water to be one of the most well-respected systems in the State. He will be greatly missed. Jason's last day will be February 12th. They anticipate working on an agreement with Mr. Gibboney so that he can help them in the transition post-his departure. They have posted his position and plan to close that advertisement on February 12th.

Upcoming Meetings – Utilities Committee meeting on Wednesday, February 1st at 5:00pm in Council Chambers; Joint Recreation District meeting on Tuesday, February 7th at 6:30pm in Council Chambers; BZA meeting on Monday, February 13th at 5:30pm in Council Chamber; Finance Committee meeting on Tuesday, February 14th at 5:30pm in Council Chamber, followed by the Council meeting at 6:30pm on the same evening in Council Chambers.

Mr. Artino asked if the original debt from the substation has been paid off. Mr. Lasko said he believes that they paid off about half of that debt from the sale of the transmission assets, and still have part of it hanging out there, but asked Mr. Swaisgood to confirm that. Mr. Swaisgood said the debt outstanding was \$3.5 Million, and when they sold off a piece of the substation assets in 2021, \$2 Million of that debt was paid down. In 2021 they were able to issue 20-year bonds for \$1.5 Million, so as of today there is still approximately \$1.4 Million still left on that debt to be paid off over the next 18 years.

Mayor's Discussion

Mayor Tapp said that he would keep this short. Again, thank you Chief Lippert for your service. I am wishing you the best and I think you said last time that you weren't sure if it was green pastures or just going out to pasture. Either way, I am wishing you the very best. With that said, I would like to, again, congratulate Sergeant Graham, and I am looking forward to big things. I think that the people that showed up tonight are looking forward to the same thing. The K-9 program – thank all you guys for everything you do. I think you've seen the community step up and step in and the contributions that you guys are getting kind of speak volumes to what they think of you guys. I think it's a great program and we had it years ago, that why we had dogs, not horses. Again, I am looking for great things from you guys – I have a lot of respect for all of you guys. I would just like to say, I did stop out at Buckeye Sports – Mr. Grieves doesn't work there – but he stopped out at Buckeye Sports and saw Mr. Claus. It's the gray building, you need to stop out there. They are great people and they've got some really good stuff.

For the Good of the Order

William Biddlecombe – I, too, want to thank Mr. Gibboney. He has done a lot for this City and I am sorry to see him go. He is leaving some big shoes to fill. Thank you, Chief Lippert, and congratulations again on your retirement. Congratulations to our new Chief, Terry Graham on your promotion. I, too, visited Buckeye Sports over the weekend. They do have a great state-of-the-art facility there, and I welcome them to Huron. And one point to note as far as the schools, the Girls Soccer has a Dine to Donate coming up on March 1st at Buffalo Wild Wings from 4-8pm, so go and support that. The home games coming up, the Boys Basketball is February 3rd and 4th, Girls Basketball is January 27th and 31st, and the Bowling Team's last home game is January 26th. Come out and support all of our student athletes, and Go Tigers!

Sam Artino – Mr. Mayor, first of all, I would also like to thank Jason Gibboney. Mr. Gibboney came on board when we had a plant that was in pretty bad shape. We had an organization that needed some help. I think he turned that poor organization around. He was able to obtain a lot of grants that helped us to actually turn that plant around to be one of the best, as the City Manager talked about, plants in the area. Congratulations to Chief Lippert. I think we've done a great job with an organization that, in my opinion, has had a high standard to this community, and I think you've done a good job, a great job, leading them, and keeping that standard up. Chief Terry Graham, congratulations too, but I think I have to mention this committee. I have worked with those people and I can tell you they are a no-nonsense group of people. Politics and hometown had nothing to do with their decision. I know those folks, and I can tell you this – I was very impressed that, I think we had several applicants, like 15 or something, I heard, close to 20 applicants. And I think they narrowed it down to 7. It sounds like they were all very highly qualified. I think it's a tribute to Officer Graham and this whole department that you were selected and I know that I see nothing but good things. As I look around, I know some of the other officers out here, and I know that we have a great future with keeping up that standard with our police department. Thank you all for your service and stay safe.

Mark Claus – I would like to thank Buckeye Sports for their investment in the community and it's already been brought up today, but they've got a really nice facility over there and they still have some work to go, but it's going to be a nice addition to the community. I would like to congratulate and thank Chief Lippert again for all your service and good luck, and congratulations Terry, and we are really excited. That's all I have.

Matt Grieves – Thanks again, Chief Lippert, and congrats to Chief Graham, as well. Thanks to Jason. I don't think I've met anyone more passionate about water in my life, beside the water boy. That job is not the easiest, but he is really incredible and he will be missed.

Joe Dike – Thank you Chief Lippert. Congratulation Chief Graham. I would also like to thank Jason, and the best of luck. Congratulations to you guys and the K-9 Program.

Joel Hagy – I just wanted to – Jason's not here – but I wanted to wish him God's speed at his new job. It's tough to lose him. I told the Chief that the most important job for our leader is to train and mentor to take your job. I hope Jason did the same thing. But, good luck Jason, wherever you are.

Executive Session

Motion by Mr. Claus to enter into executive session to (1) confer with legal counsel regarding pending litigation, and (2) to consider the purchase of real property, and to invite Mr. Schrader, Mr. Ebert, Mr. Lasko, Mr. Swaisgood (via Zoom Video Conference) and Attorneys Downey and Schoolcraft (via Zoom Video Conference).

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

There being five or more votes in favor of the motion, Council moved into executive session at 7:15 pm.

Return to Regular Session

Council returned to regular session at 8:28pm.

Adjournment

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

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

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

There being a majority in favor of the motion, the regular Council meeting of January 24, 2023 was adjourned at 8:29pm.

Adopted: 14 FEB 2023


Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council