

**THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO**  
**Proceedings of the Huron City Council**  
**Regular Meeting Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 5:00pm**

**Call to Order**

The Law Director called the Huron City Council meeting 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 meeting. 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, Finance Director Cory Swaisgood via Microsoft Teams, Police Chief Terry Graham, Planning Director Erik Engle, Parks and Recreation Operations Manager Doug Steinwart, City Engineers Russ Critelli and Terri Welkener, Clerk of Council.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Motion by Mr. Dike to approve the minutes of the regular Council meeting of October 10, 2023, as written.**

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

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

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being more than a majority in favor of the motion, the minutes of the regular Council meeting of October 10, 2023 were adopted.

**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**

**Ordinance No. 2023-40 (second reading)**

**Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe that Ordinance No. 2023-40 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF HURON TO REFLECT THE REZONING OF APPROXIMATELY 0.5597 +/- ACRES OF LAND OWNED BY JAN WESKE BUCHOLZ LOCATED ON THE NORTH SIDE OF CLEVELAND ROAD, ERIE COUNTY, OHIO PERMANENT PARCEL NUMBERS 43-00306.000, 43-00305.000 & 43-00307.000 FROM THE CURRENT R-1A (ONE-FAMILY RESIDENCE DISTRICT) TO B-3 (GENERAL BUSINESS)) be placed on its second 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:** Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Hagy (7)  
**NAYS:** None (0)

There being more than a majority in favor of the motion, Ordinance No. 2023-40 was placed on its second reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Engle explained that the three parcels in question are known as Lemmy's Restaurant. The three parcels are just over 0.5 acre, and this legislation is to clean up the City's zoning map. Lemmy's wants to proceed with expansion of the restaurant, and right now, that use is non-conforming based on R1-A zoning. This legislation will amend the zoning map to change the zoning for these three parcels to B-3, to allow for any future expansion.

The Mayor asked if there were any further questions. There were none.

**Ordinance No. 2023-39 (second reading)**

**Motion by Mr. Dike that Ordinance No. 2023-39 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND RESTATING PARAGRAPH (b) UNDER SECTION 163.04 (PAID HOLIDAYS) OF CHAPTER 163 (EMPLOYMENT PROVISIONS)) be placed on its second 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 more than a majority in favor of the motion, Ordinance No. 2023-39 was placed on its second reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Lasko stated that this will be a second reading. This is related to when the City will observe certain paid holidays coming up, specifically this year, which happens once every 7 years. If Council will remember, this is to address the issues that happen when Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve fall on Sundays, and Christmas and New Year's Eve fall on Mondays. In those instances, they would normally do a half-day on Monday and a full day off on Tuesday, which also impacts Council. What they are proposing to do with this amendment is to observe Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve on Friday, and observe Christmas Day and New Year's Day on Monday.

He mentioned that there is a proposed amendment to the amendment, which was based on research that SSEG did when review the amendments. They also found out that there are issues that aren't codified when those same Eve's, Christmas Day and New Year's Day fall on Friday/Saturday. It is not codified when the City observes those days, either. From a matter of practice, they have done a ½ day on Thursday and a full day on Friday, however, those aren't codified, so they wanted to make that small clean-up via an amendment when that happens in the future. They are trying to clean things up and get them so that future staffs, administrations, etc. have clarity on when they will observe those holidays.

Mayor Tapp asked if there were any questions. There were none.

**Resolution No. 71-2023 (second reading)**

**Motion by Mr. Artino that Resolution No. 71-2023 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AUTOMATIC ONE-YEAR REWEAL OF AN AGREEMENT WITH THE ERIE COUNTY SHERIFF FOR THE PROVISION OF EMERGENCY DISPATCH SERVICES TO THE CITY OF HURON FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED ONE HUNDRED TWO THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED THIRTY AND 82/100 DOLLARS (\$102,130.82) FOR THE AGREEMENT RENEWAL TERM OF JANUARY 1, 2024 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2024) be placed on its second 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: Artino, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe (7)**

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being more than a majority in favor, the motion passed and Resolution 71-2023 was placed upon its second reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Chief Graham explained that this is a resolution authorizing the automatic one-year extension of the Dispatch Agreement. Police, Fire and after-hours Streets and Water utilize these dispatch services. There is no price increase from 2023 to 2024.

Mr. Dike asked what year the City started using regional dispatch services. Chief Graham answered, 2012. Mr. Dike asked with the magical number is for one year that would make sense for Huron to go back to in-house dispatch. What was the City's cost back in 2012? Mr. Lasko answered that, without knowing the exact number, he can tell him that it is significantly higher than what the City is paying under the current partnership. Without questions, the City is getting (from an economic standpoint) a good deal. He does know the exact size of the staff, but to cover a 24-hour shift with multiple dispatchers would be a significant number. Chief Graham says he was present when the City had full dispatch services (5 full-time dispatchers). He would conservatively estimate that the City is currently paying approximately 25% of what it would cost, as it would probably be in the \$300,000 to \$400,000 range with salaries, fringe benefits and healthcare.

Mr. Tapp said he liked it when the City had its own dispatch. Chief Graham said he would not tell Council that it wasn't a premium service, it absolutely was. People in a community do like to walk in and talk to a face. They want to talk to someone; they don't want to pick up the phone. They have lost that personal touch they had with dispatch services, but the economics made the regional dispatch hard to beat. Mr. Lasko and Chief Graham have had conversations about what that number might be to have in-house dispatch. Costs are definitely going to go up with dispatch services.

Mr. Hagy asked, from a dispatching standpoint (taking away having people there to greet people), has there been a degradation in service, is it about the same, or is it better? Chief Graham answered that service is not at the level of service they had from the full-time people. Mayor Tapp added that he has seen both sides of it, and while he gets that it is an economic thing, he really appreciated what they had before, as far as the community working together.

Mr. Artino asked if there is any thought to having somebody there, maybe during business hours or on a temporary basis to make our police department more accessible? Chief Graham answered that he would love that. They handle a lot of administrative duties. He needs to supply police officers on the street, too, and he has to prioritize. If money wasn't an issue, he would want his own dispatchers. He would love to have someone there during business hours, but that comes at a cost. Mr. Artino said that they might want to take a look at it. Mr. Claus added that what Mr. Artino was asking, if there was just someone who is there in an office that people could come in and talk to, like an administrative person, not necessarily being dispatch. Chief Graham said if they are talking about someone during business hours, M-F, then yes, that is what he is referring to. That would be wonderful; obviously, a full complement of 24-hour service would be a premium, but he agrees. Mr. Artino said that he is just one councilman, but he wouldn't mind if they took a deeper look at that. Mr. Lasko said that they are nearing the end of 2024's budgetary process, but if it's something that Council wants to explore and put a number to, certainly as early as calendar year 2025, they can certainly explore the economics of it and the benefits to our community.

The Mayor asked if there were any further questions on the motion. There were none.

**Resolution No. 72-2023 (second reading)**

**Motion by Mr. Artino that Resolution No. 72-2023 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO MAKE AN ANNUAL PREMIUM PAYMENT TO THE BUREAU OF WORKERS COMPENSATION FOR THE POLICY PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2024 THROUGH JANUARY 1, 2025 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FIFTY-ONE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-TWO AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$51,152.00)) be placed on its second 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: Artino, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe (7)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being more than a majority in favor, the motion passed and Resolution 72-2023 was placed upon its second reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Swaisgood stated that Resolution 72-2023 is on the second of three readings for the annual BWC Workers Compensation premium the City is required to pay every year. The annual premium for 2024 will be \$51,152, which is approximately \$2,000 less than 2023's premium. They will be respectfully requesting approval on the third reading. The premium is due by December 21<sup>st</sup> to receive the 2% rebate that the City has been receiving the last few years.

The Mayor asked if there were any further questions on the motion. There were none.

**Resolution No. 73-2023 (second reading)**

**Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be waived, and Resolution No. 73-2023 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER'S EXECUTION OF THE PROPOSAL AND PAYMENT OF THE ANNUAL PREMIUM TO THE PUBLIC ENTITIES POOL OF OHIO ("PEP") FOR THE POLICY PERIOD DECEMBER 1, 2023 THROUGH NOVEMBER 30, 2024 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED ONE HUNDRED FIVE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED FORTY-SIX AND 53/100 DOLLARS (\$105,646.53)) be placed on its second 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 waive the three-reading rule passed, and Resolution 73-2023 was placed upon its second reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Swaisgood explained that this is the annual payment of the premium for property and casualty insurance to the Public Entities Pool of Ohio (PEP), which has been the City's insurance provider for a while. The increase for 2024 is 7.34%, approximately \$7,000 more than we paid in 2023. This is a much better increase from the prior year, which was \$15,000. The increase from PEP in annual premium is much lower than other competitors would be able to offer the City. They feel that this is the best insurance for the City going forward, and are respectfully asking for final approval tonight, as the current coverage expires on November 30<sup>th</sup>.

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. 73-2023. 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, Resolution No. 73-2023 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

### **New Business**

#### **Motion**

**Motion by Mr. Claus to approve the Main Street Corridor Plan, as presented by OHM during the Work Session preceding this meeting.**

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 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 adoption, the motion passed and the Main Street Corridor Plan was approved.

**Ordinance No. 2023-42 (first reading)**

**Motion by Mr. Hagy that Ordinance No. 2023-42 (AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE THE FORM AND AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION OF THE 2024-2028 LANDFILL ENERGY SCHEDULE WITH AMERICAN MUNICIPAL POWER, INC. AND TAKING OF OTHER ACTIONS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH REGARDING LANDFILL GENERATED ENERGY PURCHASES) 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 more than a majority in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2023-42 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Hamilton stated that this is the first reading on a new 60-month contract through AMP through the County Landfill. The existing contract is expiring at the end of the year, which was a 17-month contract. This is part of HPP's electric portfolio. We sign up for renewable contracts because they are a more non-volatile electric supply. Because this one is very local, there are no transmission costs, and the money is staying local in Erie County. This is just the first reading. This will go through three readings.

Mr. Hagy stated that 5 years is a long time. With this type of renewable of landfill, do their prices vary drastically, or do they stay the same because they are not buying coal, oil or natural gas to burn? Mr. Hamilton answered that the renewables tend to be pretty stable. Their investment is what it is, and the price usually tends to come down as our capital assets depreciate. This contract went up \$5, but that's just for their general equipment purchases. What HPP gets with the renewables is something called REX, which are carbon credits. We can then sell them outside the State. For each MWh, they will get \$16 back, which actually takes the price down into the \$40's, which is a good price for right now.

Mr. Claus asked if this contract is specifically for power from the Erie County Landfill, or is this a conglomerate of multiple landfill resources? Mr. Hamilton answered that this one comes from the Erie County Landfill. What they always try to do is contract with as local as possible. The farther you travel, the more you lose, and results in higher transmission costs.

Mr. Artino asked where the generation plant is located. Mr. Hamilton said that he does not know (he has never googled it). Mayor Tapp said that he thinks there is a building across the street. The reason he said this is that they fire department had a call out there. There is some kind of building on Hoover. Mr. Hamilton added that what they do is cover over the waste, and as it decomposes, they capture the methane, which then powers a generator.

The Mayor asked if there were any further questions on the motion. There were none.

**Ordinance No. 2023-45 (first reading)**

**Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe that Ordinance No. 2023-45 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 501 (GENERAL PROVISIONS AND PENALTY) OF THE HURON CODIFIED ORDINANCES TO ADD A NEW SECTION**

**501.13 (CRIMINALACTIVITY AS A NUISANCE; USER CHARGE FOR EXCESSIVE CONSUMPTION OF PUBLIC SERVICES)) 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: Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Hagy (7)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being more than a majority in favor, the motion passed, and Ordinance No. 2023-45 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Chief Graham stated that Ordinance 2023-45 establishes an ordinance to provide our law enforcement officers to hold property owners accountable for the behavior of their tenants when it becomes a strain on our safety services. This ordinance would allow assessment of fines to the property owner, which goes in concert with the next ordinance on the agenda, Ordinance 2023-44, which is the assessment section. He explained that he would be talking about both ordinances at the same time. Council has been provided with the draft ordinance. Important sections of the ordinance include:

- It defines what is “excessive police services” when they get called numerous times. As an example, as Councilman Hagy pointed out, he has been around a while. There is a handful of residents throughout his career that have been a tremendous strain and pressure on safety services, both Police, Fire and Zoning. There is one residence in town they have been at this year over 50 times. This isn’t something that is going to be used on a weekly basis. This is a rare situation, but there are times when certain residences cause extreme on our services, resulting in them not being able to provide services to other people. This holds the property owners accountable for their tenants’ behavior. This is a civil action where the assessments come. There are 17 sections of law that they can reference as to what is excessive. It’s not like after 3 visits to your house for a found wallet. That is not what this is for.
- There is also a due process section in this ordinance. The time that they use is 30 days to determine what is excessive. How many calls in that 30 days? If after 30 days they feel that this applies, the Chief of Police would issue to the property owner a warning letter that not only documents all of the violations that are happening, but also stating that if the property owner doesn’t get their place under control, there could be some civil actions/assessments that are levied against them. If it continues after 30 days, then the Chief of Police would certify a letter to the property owner authorizing the proposed costs and they would have 14 days to appeal to the City Manager. That appeal could be they have been aggrieved, they didn’t know, etc. They could state their case to the City Manager. If the City Manager agrees, he could reduce or altogether eliminate the assessment. This is something that he got from the City of Sandusky. He did not create this – this is what they use over there. They adopted the language and customized it to our City, and it is another tool that they can provide a solution for our residents that live around these homes and are tremendously frustrated over the lack of law-abiding people living next door.
- Ordinance 2023-44 adds a new section in Chapter 909, which is the assessment section of the Codified Ordinances that allows the City to issue an assessment on the property owner.

Mr. Schrader added that Chief Graham provided an excellent description. He would only add that they slightly expanded the ordinance language to include not just the police, but also health and safety-related services. Arguably, there are going to be times when medical is called out, or an ambulance, and wanted to be sure to capture those costs, as well.

Mr. Hagy asked how this works now. Chief Graham answered that they just keep going and going. Mr. Hagy asked if they currently have no recourse – there is not they can do? Chief Graham answered, no; they just keep handling the situations individually – sometimes people are arrested, sometimes they do some conflict resolution, and sometimes they just solve the problem with the entire spectrum of their toolbox. At some point, they have to get the property owner to say, this is what's going on at your house/business, and you are disrupting our City and putting a strain on services. Mr. Hagy's asked why someone who is in violation would go to the City Manager, and not through the Courts if they are in violation of a City ordinance? Mr. Schrader answered that the way this is written is that the City Manager plays a role in amelioration if somebody wants to challenge the assessment. They still have other due process available to them. They can file an action in court to challenge the enforcement of this ordinance, but the City Manager is referenced as part of the due process section that the Chief was discussing. Any aggrieved may appeal such intended certification to the City Manager, who may affirm, reverse or modify the proposed certification. All appeals to the City Manager must be filed within 14 days of the mailing of the notice of intent to certify. Mayor Tapp said that he believes that the City Manager is agreeing to the assessment. Mr. Schrader added that this adds another layer for the process that if for some reason they feel that the Chief and staff are picking on them, Matt can review the file himself. This does not ameliorate someone's due process rights. Traffic violations are a criminal matter, while this is a civil matter. Mr. Lasko added from his past experience, what someone is appealing is not so much a law, but their fine or assessment. A good example from his past experience in Sandusky, is that if the City had to go out and cut your grass, they would send you a bill, and ultimately assess the property if it isn't paid. There was an appeals process in that instance to the City Manager, where they would look at the evidence from the property owner to determine if it is proper. The distinction is breaking the law versus appealing a bill. All that they are appealing is the bill, they don't necessarily break a law, per se. Mr. Schrader said there is an administration appeal mechanism available to them. If they don't agree with the Chief, they can go to the City Manager. If they don't agree with the City Manager, then they can go to the Court.

Mayor Tapp wanted to add that Chief Graham brought this to the Safety Committee, and he is glad he did. This is, as far as he is concerned, long overdue. They have dealt with this for years, and some of the calls these guys have are to the same place over and over again. It is long overdue, and the Safety Committee is fully behind this.

Mr. Biddlecombe said that he is on the Safety Committee, as well, and he is all for this because when he heard about how many time they go to certain places, it is definitely excessive in many cases. On Mr. Hagy's point, the way it is worded, it makes it sound like, at least in his opinion, that it assumes that the offender committing the crime is not the owner of the property. The appeal process would be for the owner of the property. If it's a rental property, the tenants are causing the issues. There would be some cases where it's an owner-occupied issue, as well, so maybe we need to look at that work. The way he reads it, the person who is getting the police called on them for disturbing the peace, or whatever, isn't the one who is ultimately going to be paying this fine, if there's an assessment. Mr. Hagy said, if he is renting a somebody running a meth lab, they are going to take the house, even though he wasn't running the meth lab. He is just wondering about the adjudication of it. Are there any other ordinances we have



out there where they don't go to the court and come to the City Manager? Mr. Schrader answered that nowhere in this ordinance does it say that they are taking away anybody's due process rights to go to a court of law. It's another layer of administrative appeal, much like they have the Building & Zoning, where they go to a quasi-judicial body, the BZA. Matt is not necessarily quasi-judicial, but he's another layer of possible relief, to say, "Chief, we got this wrong." Notices may not have been given, or he doesn't think the violation meets a reasonable threshold. It puts Matt in a position of having to evaluate the file. It's another layer of administrative relief that could be available to an aggrieved owner or citizen. This is not a replacement for Court action, under any circumstances. It is an internal mechanism to try to resolve the problem before it gets that far, if there is any resolution.

Mr. Lasko said, in response to Mr. Hagy's question of if there another ordinance on the books, whether it's a tree assessment or grass-cutting assessment or the demolition process, etc. Mr. Schrader said that he has been Law Director for several years now, and in response to Mr. Hagy's question, he is not familiar with another provision of our ordinances that he has seen that has a similar mechanism.

Mr. Grieves asked if there is a math equation that triggers when go to this ordinance. Chief Graham answered that on page 2, it gives a definition of what "excessive services" are. It means those City services provided at a specific location or a specific property address where a commercial building or structure is maintained for business activities that involve human occupation, after 4 or more calls for service for separate nuisance events, that occur in a prior 30-day time period, and a specific property address where a building or structure is maintained for human shelter, after 2 or more calls for service for separate nuisance events that occurred in a prior 30-day period. The owner is notified, in writing, that subsequent high levels of police and health and safety-related nuisance calls for service would result in a fee being charged for excessive consumption of such services, and where the owner has been provided with 30 days following the nuisance to abate the nuisance generating the high levels of calls for service. There is a time period, there is a number of calls – is this a business or is it a residential location. You have to provide the owner with a 30-day warning level, and if they don't comply, Chief Graham will give a recommendation of what those costs would be, which is, for example, they were there for 1 hour, there were 4 offices, this is their hourly rate with fringe benefits. He would obtain legal opinion on that before he sends it to the property owner, and then the property owner would have 14 days to see the City Manager if they don't think this is right, and this is why.

Mr. Claus said he may have misinterpreted something. They keep talking about property owners and renters, and I think William may have touched on this a little bit. If it's your personal property, you can get the same assessment or violation. If he owns the property and has excessive nuisance call, it can also happen to him. It's not only for owners of rentals. Mr. Biddlecombe confirmed that it is for any property, so if you are creating a problem at your house, you could have an assessment added to your tax duplicate. Chief Graham indicated that there is a definition of "Owner" in the ordinances that reads, "Owner means the person or persons whose name or names appear as recorded with the Erie County Auditor for taxation purposes." That's the person that they would hold responsible. Mr. Claus said this assessment would be tagged on the tax roll as lien, if it doesn't get paid, etc.

Mr. Artino, to give an example, said the renter could be charged criminally, but it doesn't mean that person is going to go away for a while. That person could go back and do the same thing a couple days later. This gives the owner of the property incentive to do their thing to help alleviate the problem. It's not the criminal part, it more the civil. Chief Graham said, a lot of time, they deal with the criminal part,

when that person(s) or some of their friends come back in, and they are dealing with a different crowd at the same place. At some point, someone's got to be responsible for the people they are letting use, rent or lease your stuff. Mr. Artino agreed with the Mayor that this is long overdue.

The Mayor asked if there were any further questions on the motion. There were none.

**Ordinance No. 2023-44 (first reading)**

**Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe that Ordinance No. 2023-44 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 909 (ASSESSMENTS) OF THE HURON CODIFIED ORDINANCES TO ADD A NEW SECTION 909.04 (CRIMINAL ACTIVITY AS A NUISANCE; EXCESS CONSUMPTION OF PUBLIC RESOURCES)) 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: Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Hagy (7)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being more than a majority in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2023-44 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

The Mayor asked if there were any further questions on the motion. There were none.

**Resolution No. 78-2023**

**Motion by Mr. Claus that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 78-2023 (A RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE CITY MANAGER'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSAL AND ENTERING INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH TRUASSURE INSURANCE COMPANY FOR THE PROVISION OF 2024 DENTAL INSURANCE COVERAGE) 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 waive the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 78-2023 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Swaisgood stated that Resolution 78-2023 is the City's annual dental insurance program for 2024. The dental premium for 2024 received from TruAssure reflected no increase in premium for 2024. He did note that the last 2 years, there was no increase, as well. This will go along with the City's health insurance. The City has, over the last few years, spent approximately \$40,000 to \$41,000/year for dental coverage.

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. 78-2023. 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, Resolution No. 78-2023 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

**Resolution No. 79-2023**

**Motion by Mr. Claus that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 79-2023 (A RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE CITY MANAGER'S (OR HIS AUTHORIZED CITY DESIGNEE'S) ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSAL AND EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH MEDICAL MUTUAL FOR THE PROVISION OF 2024 MEDICAL HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE) be placed on its second 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 three-reading rule was waived and Resolution 79-2023 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Swaisgood explained that Resolution 79-2023 is an agreement to authorize the City to enter into a contract with Medical Mutual of Ohio for medical health insurance coverage for 2024. Last year, the 2023 insurance initially received a renewal of 37% increase. After discussion with Medical Mutual and changing the structure of the program, they were able to negotiate a reduction to a 13% increase in premium.

For 2024, however, the City received another significant increase, with only two options due to the current bargaining agreements in place. They have one more year left on all of those bargaining unit agreements. The increase for 2024 will be a 36% increase, which totals approximately \$275,000 in additional premium the City will need to pay. The City's portion of that increase would be \$261,000, with the employees paying the remaining 5% of the total premium for 2024, which is party of the bargaining unit agreement terms.

For 2025, the City has created an Advisory Committee with bargaining units and an administrative employee. The goal there is to score options throughout 2024 to find ways to decrease the annual premiums, as they have seen some significant increases. Historically, the City's increases have been around 5%. With the market we are in today, these increases are not sustainable for the City. 2024 will include a long review, analysis and discussion of what's the best healthcare program for the entire City going forward.

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. 79-2023. 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, Resolution No. 79-2023 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

**Resolution No. 80-2023**

**Motion by Mr. Tapp that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 80-2023 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE/OHIO LABOR COUNCIL INC. REPRESENTING PATROL OFFICERS AND SERGEANTS AND THE CITY OF HURON RELATING TO MODIFICATIONS TO THE CURRENT PATROL OFFICERS COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT ("CBA") EXPIRING ON DECEMBER 31, 2024) 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, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus (7)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion to waive the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 80-2023 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Chief Graham explained that this resolution authorizes an MOU with the collective bargaining units with the FOP, officers and sergeants to provide compensation for their K-9 officer to house and maintain the dog at their personal residence outside of the officer's regular scheduled shift. This MOU will provide an additional ½ Hour of regular pay, per day (7 hours of pay per 2-week pay period) to compensation the K-9 Officer for his obligations in caring for the dog, including feeding, grooming, veterinary appointments, etc. In addition, the MOU addresses the K-9 Officer's right to purchase the dog after its service life at a price of \$1. Should the K-9 Officer leave employment with the City of Huron prior to 5 years from the working dog being in that position, the price required to purchase the dog will be adjusted, prorated. The MOU further sets forth obligations for the K-9 Officer, as well as the City, which is responsible for all expenses related to the care of the dog. They currently have no language in the CBA's, and this MOU will in place only until the end of 2024, at which time this will be put into next agreement during negotiations.

Mr. Artino asked what the anticipated service life of a K-9. Chief Graham answered that it is between 5-7 years. Right now, the dog is in week 3 of its training (about halfway through). The K-9's name is Jax, and the dog will be making a guest appearance at the Police booth for Winterfest, and the dog will be sworn in at the December 12<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

Mr. Hagy asked if the City has ever had a service dog before. Chief Graham answered that they have, a long time ago.

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. 80-2023. 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. 80-2023 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

**Resolution No. 82-2023**

**Motion by Mr. Grieves that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 82-2023 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH HUFFMAN EQUIPMENT RENTAL, INC. FOR DREDGING SERVICES RELATED TO THE HURON BOAT BASIN MAINTENANCE DREDGING PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY-ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY AND XX/100 (\$281,980.00) ON THE PRIMARY BID, AND EIGHTY-FOUR THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY-SEVEN AND 50/100 DOLLARS (\$84,467.50) ON THE FIRST ALTERNATE BID, FOR AN AGGREGATE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED THREE HUNDRED SIXTY-SIX THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED SEVENTY-SEVEN AND 50/100 DOLLARS (\$366,477.50)) 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 waiving the three-reading rule. 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, the motion waiving the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 82-2023 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Steinwart said that Resolution 82-2023 relates to maintenance dredging of the Huron Boat Basin with Huffman Equipment. They received 2 bids for this project, and Huffman was the lowest and best. To break it down, the base bid is for removal of 100,000 cubic yards of material, and they also had Alternate 1, for 5,650 cubic yards of materials. They added an allowance for dock repairs owned by the City of Huron in the amount of \$50,000. The docks are 34 years old, so when they come in and dredge, they have to pull all of the pilings on the pier, lay them down, move the docks to one side and move them back and reset them. The thought process there is, with the condition and age of the docks, moving them around could result in damage. The aggregate amount is \$366,477.50, but hopefully, the City won't have to spend the \$50,000 for dock repairs.

The last time they dredged the Boat Basin was in 2008/2009, and then prior to that it was 1999/2000 and 1988/1989. Historically, they have been at about a 10-year average to do dredging. They started this process for this dredge cycle in 2018. They started applying for their permits and took soil samples and sent them away to the EPA. At that time, they got caught up with Senate Bill 1, which was the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers settling on open-lake dumping, and coming up with the rules for that. It literally sat for a couple of years, then they got into the unprecedented high water, and then last year, they finally dusted off that file and reapplied, took 6 more samples, and then send it back. Their Letter of Permission (LOP) was received from the OEPA in July, and they obtained their ODNR Federal Consistency Certification in August, along with their 401 Letter of Permission from the Army Corps of Engineers, and they immediately did soundings in October to determine the level of 15,650 cubic yards. They then went out to bid, and that is where they are today. \$150,000 for the project is from the Boat Basin carryover, and he

thanks Mr. Swaisgood for starting to put funds away 6 or 7 years ago. He would like to thank the Service Director for having another set of eyes on capital projects. It's a big deal for department heads like him to have another set of eyes and getting it to the end zone.

Mayor Tapp asked when the work would start. Mr. Steinwart answered that once they have their pre-construction meeting, weather is going to play into that, he should have a good answer for that. Mayor Tapp asked if it would be before the next boating season. Mr. Steinwart answered that that is it the goal – before April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Grieves asked what the lifespan is on the docks. Mr. Steinwart answered 25-30 years. They are at 34 years right now. They have been doing a pretty good job on keeping them maintained. They did have KS Associates, who has been going through the process with them, do an assessment on the marina. They did assessments in 2018 and 2022, and they went over everything – dock systems, the sea walls, the electric, water, fire suppression, etc. They are at that point now that they need to get that project on everyone's mind.

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. 82-2023. 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. 82-2023 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

**Ordinance No. 2023-43**

**Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be suspended and Ordinance No. 2023-43 (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 AND TO PROVIDE FOR CASH TRANSFERS) 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. 2023-43 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Swaisgood stated that the ordinance before Council is for supplemental appropriations, and additional cash transfers. As they get toward the end of the year, going through the budget process, with their General Fund reserve policy being between 15%-25% of expenditures, they are anticipated to have an excess and have plans on how they are going to utilize those funds.

With capital projects coming up, specifically, the Boat Basin dredging, with additional funds needed, he is requesting to transfer an additional \$300,000 from the General Fund to the Capital Improvement fund, not only for that project, but other planned projects now and for next year. In addition to that, an extra \$40,000 is requested to be transferred from the General Fund to the Employee Benefit Fund, which is our payroll stabilization fund. That is planning for retirements and leave payouts in the future, as that fund is not yet sufficiently funded. They are getting close – in the next year or so, they will get to that point.

In addition to those budget and cash transfer requests, the remainder of the items on Exhibit A are more of a clean-up as they come into December and try to get to a point where they can clean up the budget. Council will see some additions and subtractions to the budget in the Exhibit.

The final budget increase is in the Capital Improvement Fund (on the start of p. 2 of Exhibit A) in the amount of \$67,000. As Mr. Steinwart said, \$150,000 of the Boat Basin dredging will be paid through the Boat Basin Fund, with the additional amount to be paid through the Capital Improvement Fund. They already have budgeted the Capital Improvement Fund, so this is requesting another \$67,000 to be transferred to be able to pay for that project.

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. 2023-43. 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. 2023-43 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:

**Oster's Mobile Home Park** – This update is in addition to the more exhaustive update provided to Council via email yesterday. We continue to work our non-profit partners with relocation efforts. As of this evening 25 out of the 27 have been moved off-site, which includes 6 trailer moves, leaving us with 2 remaining occupied households onsite that they are still working towards resolution with. We continue our demolition activity at the site, although it has dwindled significantly, as a lot of work has already been done. To date, there have been 20 mobile homes that have been demolished. We are starting to set our sights on demolition of residential structure in the middle of the parcels. We do need to abate about 600 linear feet of window glazing onsite. We have contracted with Mad Cleaning LLC out of Sandusky, which will handle the abatement for a little less than \$5,000, which costs are going to be reimbursed by the Erie County Land Reutilization Corporation, also known as the Erie County Land Bank. That work is expected to be started on December 11<sup>th</sup>. I also anticipate at our organizational meeting on Friday, that we will bring a demolition contract, as the costs of the demolition activity will exceed my authority for \$25,000, so we will also need councilmatic consideration of that demolition contract at Friday's meeting. I do want to make a small point. It has been suggested to me recently by a few folks outside of this room that the City sort of painted a rosy picture of everything happening in the Park. I certainly don't think that's been

the case in this room. I know that this Council and this Administration have, without question, acknowledged the difficulty and the angst that these residents are going through and have been going through. I think one of the things we are trying to get across, though, as it has been stressful, without question, for the residents, is that what we are finding out time and time again when the dust settles, is that they were ultimately finding better resolution from someplace that may be more affordable, cleaner, safer, more responsible property management or security, from a leasing standpoint, more affordable utilities, etc. Again, I don't want us trying to highlight positives to dwarf the fact that we understand the seriousness of what our decisions have been, and the stresses we have put on these people. Again, there is not one day that goes by that I regret the decision through recommendation to Council, and I know, time and time again, that we did the right thing and are doing the right thing. Again, I don't want there to be a mischaracterization of our activities. We care about these people, we have gotten to understand these people and learn about their families and learn about their conditions. Again, we know what they are going through, but again, we are seeing positive results, time and time again.

Fall Leaf Pickup Program - I will make my last, hopefully, update on the Fall Leaf Pickup Program. As we continue through the beginning of December, we did begin leaf pickup on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Again, this will be done east to west, with at least 2 trips throughout the City. We have consistently made significantly more than 2 trips, but we do plan on continuing this through, minimally, Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, weather contingent. Reminder – there are two methods of pickup: **Method 1** is bagged curbside pickup. All City residents that receive services from Republic have access to unlimited weekly yard waste collection through the fall leaf season. Residents can continue to bag leaves and place them at the curb weekly for pickup. The leaves will need to be in cans marked, "Yard Waste" or wastepaper bags. Cans and bags can contain any acceptable yard waste materials. **Method 2** permits residents to place leaf piles at the curb to be picked up by the City's Streets Department. Reminder, when utilizing Method 2, please adhere to the following guidelines. Leaf piles must be placed within 6 feet of the curb. Pickup is for leaves only, no sticks or other yard waste materials are permitted. Do not place leaves in the street or behind parked vehicles – they will not be picked up. Piles of these leaves that fail to meet these guidelines will be painted with an "X" and will not be collected. If there are any questions about the process, please contact the Streets Department at (419) 433-9504. I do also want to thank Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Didelot and the Streets Department. I don't know if anyone saw, but they were able to get out before the weather really turned and do a first crack sealing on Cleveland Road for the phase of that construction. With such a massive investment by the City and by ODOT, it is critical that we maintain that large infrastructure investment. I appreciate crews getting on that so that we can extend the longevity of that large investment.

Parks Recreation – I know we talked a lot about the Boat Basin during the dredging discussion. I mentioned last meeting that there was initial guidance released regarding the 2024/2025 State Capital Budget process. In conversations with Council and staff, we are, without question, wanting to prioritize the Boat Basin as a project. The State Capital Budget is a viable funding source, albeit this is highly competitive. I did mention last meeting that, for the past 2 years, the Greater Sandusky Partnership has sort of taken a lead role in advocacy and lobbying at the State level. We have received a request from Greater Sandusky Partnership late last for us to pitch and prioritize local projects. This went out to all jurisdictions in Erie



County. We have had some good initial conversations with the leadership at GSP to prioritize the Boat Basin improvements through our legislators, and ultimately, seek funding through the State's Capital Bill.

Finance – The October financial report, a link to which is included in the City Manager's Report and did go out via email to the Finance Committee and Council, indicates that income tax revenue is up 9%, or \$268,000 from October 2023. The unencumbered General Fund balance at the end of June was \$2.5 Million, or 38% of annual expenditures. I do want to mention, however, that although we are experiencing better than anticipated revenue growth, we continue to see growing inflation and various costs, such as streets maintenance, sewer maintenance, public safety equipment, and certainly, healthcare costs. Although we are in a positive financial position compared to last year, that is being offset, in part, by some of those inflationary costs, and certainly the healthcare items that we discussed this evening. The meetings have concluded on the 2024 Budget as of November 20<sup>th</sup>. The Finance Committee did recommend the 2024 to Council for approval. At the end of those 5 budget meetings, they also had a condition of that recommendation, which was to explore, in general, additional revenue sources, as some funds continue to face, and will face, unsustainable long-term budget shortfalls. We talked a lot about these in our budget meetings, more specifically, fire, streets and parks and recreation over the next 3-5 years. We will have a public hearing on the 2024 Budget at our December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, before the regularly scheduled Council meeting. Thank you to Mr. Swaisgood, his team, the Finance Committee and Council for that process.

Personnel and Administration – We did have an opening in the Water Plant, and did extend an offer that was accepted by Shari Kreutzfeld for the open Maintenance III Operator. She comes to us via the City of Sandusky, and her start date is December 4<sup>th</sup> of this year. We are very excited to have Shari joining our team.

Projects out for Bid – I did mention that we are going to create a "Projects Out For Bid" section in the Manager's Report. We did drop in a handful of projects or RFQ's that are out there. I will skip the dredging one as we discussed that this evening. We did do an RFQ, first and foremost, for the Huron Waterfront Parks Plan. That RFQ was due yesterday. We received 6 responses, which is tremendous, from interested firms. The team will internally, over the next couple of weeks, will review those and their qualifications, and attempt to negotiate a design contract for recommendation to Council.

We are also soliciting conceptual proposals for a developer for the ConAgra property, which we restarted a couple of weeks ago. Those are due to the City no later than January 12<sup>th</sup> of 2024.

We are out to bid on the demolition of the structure at 531 Berlin Rd. This is a private residence that the City and our Building Official have inspected, condemned and ordered demolished. Those went out to bid on November 20<sup>th</sup>, and those are due to the City on December 13, 2023. Any costs associated with that demolition will be billed to the property owner, and if not paid, assessed to the tax duplicate.

Upcoming Meetings – We have a City Council Organizational/Regular meeting this Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:00pm in the Council Chambers; the Huron Joint Recreation District will meet on Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the Council Chambers; the Utilities Committee meeting will be Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>

at 5:00pm in the main conference room; the Board of Zoning Appeals will meet Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers; the Finance Committee Quarterly Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers, which precedes the regular City Council meeting on the same day, at 6:30pm in the Council Chambers; there will be a Planning Commission meeting on Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm in the Council Chambers.

We will observe the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day holidays by closing at noon on Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, and will be closed all day on Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>. As of now, we have not scheduled, but will if needed, a third Council meeting in December, which would be Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the Council Chamber, but as of now, we have cancelled that meeting unless we absolutely need it.

For the New Year's Eve and New Year's holiday, we will be closed at noon on Friday, December 29<sup>th</sup>, and all day on Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Winterfest 2023 – Winterfest 2023 is scheduled for this Saturday. Events start at 12:30pm with a winter holiday parade and will culminate with the holiday tree lighting ceremony at 6:15pm in the Boat Basin parking lot, followed by fireworks at 6:30pm.

Mr. Biddlecombe said that he knows the deadline for the Fall Leaf Pickup is December 8<sup>th</sup>, but he also knows that the leaves waited to come down, and just driving through town, he still sees a lot of piles. Does the City foresee that being extended at all or is December 8<sup>th</sup> a pretty hard deadline. Mr. Lasko answered that that they will typically extend that to get all of the leaves up, if they can – it is weather contingent. If that is, unfortunately, followed by a large snowfall that complicates things, but they will typically stay out there, weather contingent, until everything is picked up.

Mr. Hagy wanted to add a little bit to the comment made by Mr. Lasko regarding the gravity with which this Council has taken the Oster's purchase, and quite frankly, the amount of personal amount of time that Councilmembers (not including himself) have taken to help out with that exercise, on top of the very gracious amount of time that was given for relocation. His question is, on top of all of that, the City has expended some money, as well in order to help these folks find new homes, right? He is talking about the City of Huron and its residents. He knows that the City had great partnerships with the different organizations, but we, as a City has contributed to that as well. Is that correct, and in what amount? Mr. Lasko said that as of today, his budget projections have the City right around \$115,000. Council has provided authorization up to \$125,000, but he anticipates they will end up right around \$115,000 - \$120,000 when it's all said and done. Mr. Hagy wants to re-emphasize that anyone who is under the impression that Council took this action without consideration of the gravity of it, and then put the money toward it, is ill-informed at best.

Mr. Artino said that he would like to piggy-back on Mr. Hagy's comments. He has been a while and has had to make some controversial decisions, some decisions he didn't like, but he made them. Maybe I would have changed my mind and done something different, but this was not taken lightly. This has been a discussion on previous Councils for a long time. He would vote to do this again a million times. The way this was handled, he would fight that tooth and nail – he has never seen an organization like our City and

Council... our Councilmembers put time in, and the community and organizations came together like they have for this project. He will challenge anybody to dispute that with him. This has not been easy for any member of this Council or the City's staff. He only hopes that, someday, people that are questioning it can maybe understand, but if they can't, too bad.

### **Mayor's Discussion**

Mayor Tapp said:

I will start off by saying thank you to OHM for the presentation earlier tonight. It was a great presentation – they gave us a lot of information. We did get a lot of input from the community, which I think is also great, and I look forward to seeing that moving forward. As far as Oster's goes, I guess it's time for his 2 cents. I appreciate Mr. Hagy's comments. Again, I don't want to beat a dead horse again, but the decisions that were made, especially at Oster's, was not taken lightly by anybody on Council. I will back them up on that. We had discussions, and this is a decision that we made. Again, I would make the same decision. I have seen some of the work Mr. Lasko has done and the time and effort that he has put in, and I will tell you that I have seen responses from people that live there who are praising Mr. Lasko because of their better living conditions. I have had discussions with Chief Graham and the Fire Department. When I was on duty, I was out there and I have seen the living and safety conditions, and I believe Chief Graham will back me up on that, and I believe the Fire Department will also. Again, none of these decisions were taken lightly by the Council – nobody up here – and to think that somebody that the caring is not there, that is totally untrue. I appreciate every entity and individual that has helped these people. I am glad to see these people have better places, better living conditions, and are healthier and safer. I stand by my decision, much like Mr. Artino, and I would make the same decision again. If there's a question on how much the City has done, I would ask them to talk to our legal counsel, Mr. Schrader, because I know we have had these discussions. He has explained to me that he has never in his career seen a City above and beyond in a situation like this, compared to the rest of the areas in the state who do the same thing every day. That's all I will say about that. I do want to thank the Finance Committee. Mr. Swaisgood, that is quite an ordeal to go through that, along with everyone that's on there, putting in the time and effort. It is a lot. There's a lot of moving parts within the City structure, and there are a lot of dollars that get moved around and asked for, and each department is looking for something. There is a lot of effort put into that. Again, thank you to OHM and the Steering Committee for the Main Street project. Other than that, like I say every meeting, I thank the staff for their hard work, the safety services and every department. Again, I want to thank the Council for doing everything they do, taking everything serious, and making the tough decision that they have to.

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

**William Biddlecombe** – I would like to thank staff for all of their hard work and welcome Shari Lynn Kreutzfeld to the Water Department. Takeaways from the last School Board Meeting – they voted to hire Mr. Mike Limbrios as the District's next Treasurer and CFO. Mr. Limbrios will start on January 15<sup>th</sup>. They didn't have him at the meeting, so I didn't get to meet him, and they didn't go over his qualifications or even where he's from or anything like that, so there's still more to come on that. The Huron Salvation Army is looking for bell ringers for this holiday season. I understand that our Mayor will be joining in with that, and the City Manager. I also believe the River Fest Court will be participating, as well. If you or your organization would be interested, you can contact Lori Yutzy at 614-975-3998, and if anyone else would like to team up with me, let me know. I have signed up for a couple of dates already myself. I was going

to plug the Winterfest, but Mr. Lasko did that fairly well. I will be there on Saturday, so I hope that everyone will, as well, but I would like to thank in advance the Huron Parks & Recreation Department, as well as the Chamber. I know they have done a lot of work in preparation for all of that. If any residents are interested in what's going to be going on, you can go to the Parks & Rec or the Chamber's websites or Facebook pages. They've got all kinds of stuff on their right now with regard to the Winterfest. Some home games coming up:

Girls' Basketball – December 2 and 5;

Boys' Basketball – Home opener is December 1.

Please come out and support our local events and programs and student athletes, and Go Tigers!

**Sam Artino** – I would like to express my condolences to the McCarthy family. That's it, thank you.

**Mark Claus** – I won't add to an already long meeting. I just would say that I, to not rehash the Oster's anymore, fully agree with and support Mr. Hagy, Mr. Artino and Mr. Tapp's comments, as well as comments and descriptions of the status of people and residents that was given to us by Mr. Lasko. I am in full support of that. I agree 100% that I would make this decision again, and didn't take this decision lightly, etc. I am on the Planning Commission and Finance Committee, which are two very active commissions and groups, and spend a lot of time... I want to thank Cory and his team, and the whole committee for all the time they put in during the budget process. It's a very exhaustive and detailed process, and all of the department heads that worked with Cory getting all of their budgets together – we occasionally kind of beat these guys up in the meetings – some of the department heads, and really try to make sure that they consider certain pieces of equipment that they need or don't need, and make sure that we are being fiscally responsible. Erik and his team for the Planning Commission – we have been spending a lot of time going through ordinances, working on revisions, things that are out-of-date. He has been spending a lot of time on that as we have had some special meetings with our Committee. I just want to thank that Committee and Erik and his team, as well.

**Joe Dike** – I would like to give my deepest condolences to the family of Pam McCarthy, a Huron resident that we lost on Sunday after a battle with cancer. I just want to give my condolences. Thank you, that's all.

**Matt Grieves** – I have nothing for the good of the order.

**Joel Hagy** - I have nothing for the good of the order.

#### **Executive Session**

None.

#### **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 November 28, 2023 was adjourned at 7:57pm.

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

13 FEB 2024

  
Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council