

THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO
Proceedings of the Huron City Council
Regular Meeting Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 6:30pm

Mr. Shrader explained to those in attendance and those at home, they are going to begin with the swearing in of Mr. Tapp as Councilmember and as Mayor. Mr. Tapp was unable to be here at the last meeting, so they are going to start the meeting with the Oath so that Monty take over the meeting.

Mayor's Oath of Office

Mr. Schrader asked Mr. Tapp to step down and raise his right hand. He then administered the Oaths of Office as Councilmember and Mayor to Mr. Tapp. Copies of the executed Oaths of Office are attached hereto.

(Pause for photos)

Call to Order

The Mayor called the 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 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, Finance Director Cory Swaisgood, Police Chief Terry Graham, Water Superintendent Jack Evans, Planning Director Erik Engle, OHM Engineer Larry Fridrich and Terri Welkener, Clerk of Council.

Jax Oath of Office as K-9 Officer

Mayor Tapp announced that next on the agenda is administering the Oath of Office to the newest member of the Huron Police Department, Jax.

Officer Ryan Boesch stepped forward with Jax. City Manager Matt Lasko asked Officer Boesch to raise his right hand on behalf of Jax, and administered the Oath of Office as K-9 Officer to Jax.

(Pause for photos)

Temporarily Adjourn Regular Council Meeting

Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe to suspend the regular meeting of Council to start the Public Hearing on the 2024 Municipal Budget.

Mayor Tapp 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 regular meeting of Council was temporarily adjourned.

Call to Order Public Hearing

The Mayor called the Public Hearing to order at 6:39pm.

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.**

Public Hearing

Public Hearing on the proposed 2024 Municipal Budget for the City of Huron.

Swear in Witnesses

Law Director Todd Schrader swore in witnesses for the Public Hearing, including all members of Council, the Finance Director and the City Manager.

Witness Testimony

Mayor Tapp called on the witness(es) to testify regarding the proposed 2024 Municipal Budget.

Mr. Lasko deferred his comments until after Mr. Swaisgood has spoken. Mr. Swaisgood testified as follows:

In accordance with the City Charter, the City Manager's recommended budget was submitted to Council on November 30th to be presented for approval at this public hearing tonight. If approved, I respectfully ask for Council's approval of the 2024 appropriations, which is on tonight's agenda as Ordinance 2023-49.

First off, I would like to thank the department directors, Doug Steinwert, Chief Graham, Captain Hohler, Captain Nash, and Captain Shafer, Steve Didelot, Erik Engle, Julie Ortega, Judge Steuk, and Jack Evans for their time and dedication to this process. And I do want to thank Stu Hamilton and Matt Lasko for their help in putting together the 2024 budget, especially the capital budget. I say it every year, but the amount of dedication and passion that each staff member has for the City of Huron is truly amazing and I am glad to be a part of this team. I would also like to thank the Finance Committee members (Chuck Norton, Kevin Keiffer, Lisa Hemker, Monty Tapp, Mark Claus, and Joel Hagy) for their time and very valuable input on this budget. One of the best committees I have ever been a part of.

A high-level review of the 2024 budget shows the City is committing to spending over \$46 million in 2024, with \$6.4 million coming from the City's General Fund for public safety, utilities, City services, and City operations. Approximately \$20 million of the total budget will go toward capital improvements in the City, in which we are expecting to receive over \$15 million in grants and low interest loans to fund these projects.

The 2024 budget is made up of initiatives and projects discussed during the 2024 budget hearings, including E. Cleveland Rd sidewalks, a major local road resurfacing program, Berlin Road Park improvements, the S. Main Waterline replacement project and S. Main St. streetscape engineering and construction. The 2023 budget includes salary increases of 2.50% for all staff, which is in line with the collective bargaining agreements.

To support this budget, the City is anticipating continued growth in income tax revenue, which is expected to end 2023 with a 6% increase from 2022. The 2023 increase allowed the City to better manage inflationary cost increases. I would also like to thank Huron Township's continued financial partnerships in capital projects, including the new tennis courts, and essential services, such as the Joint Recreation District and Huron Fire Department.

Policy discussions for 2024 include action on the electric rate study and review of the storm water management fee.

As discussed, and presented during the budget meetings, future projections show the General Fund supporting personnel increases, local road resurfacing, and minor capital equipment replacement, but the City cannot ignore rising costs for major capital equipment purchases, such as Street and Fire vehicles, as we saw during the budget hearings. We need to be mindful of future revenue needs in the operations of the Parks Department, Fire Department, Street Department, and Stormwater services. As presented during those budget meetings, future projections showed these areas needing attention for additional revenue or realignment of services within the next 4-5 years to continue operations at the current high level.

The 2024 budget was built with a mindset of cautious optimism, especially with the uncertainty of current economic inflationary trends. Staff has projected that we will end FY 2023 with approx. \$1.7 million in unencumbered fund balance in the general fund, a 26% reserve balance. Budgeting conservatively for the next ten years, the General Fund is expected to maintain an 18% or higher fund balance reserve, that is only maintaining current operations and capital equipment. When projected out with future planned capital improvement projects on the Master Plan, the General Fund reserve balance will be under the reserve requirement of 15% by 2029, as shown on the screen (see attachment).

In addition, revenue shortfalls in other operational funds already mentioned and rising healthcare costs require more subsidy from the General Fund in 2023 and 2024. Additional investments with General Fund reserves are increasingly becoming necessary for operational needs, which we have seen over the last couple of years, in areas that are traditionally supported by other taxes and contributions. The City's General Fund subsidized over \$225,000 of operations for the Parks and Recreation Department and for the Street Department in 2023 and this is expected to continue in 2024 and beyond at higher level. As shown in each department's budget summary in the budget book, this is not a sustainable practice. The graph on the screen as presented tonight and included in the budget hearing shows projected fund balances over ten years with major operational funds, which are the GF, fire, street, parks and stormwater funds. This shows General Fund subsidy cannot subsidize the long-term operations of the General Fund and these operational funds. The General Fund is mixed into these budget projections that you see on the screen with budget fund balances. This was presented at the last meeting to the Finance Committee during the last budget meeting of the Finance Committee.

The 2024 budget book was recommended to Council by the Finance Committee with a request to explore other revenue sources in order to fiscally manage operational needs and fund major capital projects in the City's the master plan. New revenue sources that will be considered, if passed, will be the Finance Committee's recommendation that it include new taxes and/or levies, at a minimum.

Mr. Hagy said that Mr. Swaisgood had said that in 2027 we start to dip below the mandatory 15%, but the graph on the screen looks like we dip below 0%. Mr. Swaisgood answered that in the General Fund we start to dip in 2027. This chart includes all funds that you see here. If he shows just the General Fund, you will see it starting to dip. The graph that he showed during the budget meetings was just the General Fund. Mr. Hagy asked if it is okay to make a comment. Mayor Tapp answered that he could.

Mr. Hagy said that he is a member of the Budget Committee along with two other Councilmembers. For you that are not, it's just the reality. Inflation is killing us in everything from chemicals to labor to everything else. One of the things he recommended at the end of the budget meetings was that they, as a Council, take a hard look at what levers we could pull. We have already done water. We are under a rate study for electric, but that's not going to address this problem because those are encumbered or dedicated. He is making a recommendation that Council ask Mr. Swaisgood to do some modeling for us. It seems to him that the only lever they have left is our income tax rate which is the lowest in the State of Ohio. In fact, I hear Matt use the words, "the minimum allowed by the State." It has been that way for a very long time. What he would recommend is that they ask Mr. Swaisgood to do some modeling for them. What does going from 1% to 1.1% do for us? Does it fix or at least help with this – 1.2, 1.25? He thinks Council as a body need to recognize that costs are going up and while revenue is also going up, the costs are going up faster.

Mr. Biddlecombe wanted to say that while he is not the Finance Committee, every year he has tried to attend the budget hearing because it gives him a good understanding of what goes into it. It really is a lot of work, so he really wants to commend Cory and his team, all the department heads and everyone who spent a lot of time on this. He appreciates that.

The Mayor asked if there were any questions or comments from Council. There were none.

Motion

Motion by Mr. Claus to approve the 2024 Municipal Budget for the City of Huron, as presented.

Mayor Tapp 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, Council recommended approval of the 2024 Municipal Budget.

Adjournment of Public Hearing

Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe to adjourn tonight's Public Hearing and return to tonight's 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 6:50pm in Council Chambers.

Approval of Minutes

None.

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. 2023-42 (third and final 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; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY) be placed on its third and final 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. 2023-42 was placed upon its third and final. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Motion by Mr. Hagy to place Ordinance No. 2023-42 as an emergency measure.

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 passed and Ordinance No. 2023-42 was placed as an emergency measure.

Mr. Lasko said that he would do his best filling in for Mr. Hamilton, who is on a much-deserved vacation this week. He has mentioned in the prior two readings that Huron Public Power gets a portion of its portfolio from the Erie County Landfill. The previous contract was 17 months, and is set to expire this month. They are proposing to enter into a new 5-year contract at \$65/MW, which is just \$5 more than our last contract, which is still very good pricing for where the market. This contract gives the City the ability to purchase up to 300 KWh under this agreement. This is a portion of HPP's portfolio that they like to keep local to try to cut down on transmission loss, etc. He asked if Mr. Swaisgood wanted to add anything.

Mr. Swaisgood noted that all costs associated with this contract will be passed on to the customers on their monthly electric bills. Likewise, any associated savings would also be passed on to the customers.

Mr. Artino said that he would like people to know that this is for industrial/commercial customers only.

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. 2023-42. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Ordinance No. 2023-42 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Ordinance No. 2023-45 (third and final 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 (CRIMINAL ACTIVITY AS A NUISANCE; USER CHARGE FOR EXCESSIVE CONSUMPTION OF PUBLIC SERVICES)) be placed on its third and final 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, Grievies, Hagy (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being more than a majority in favor of the motion, Ordinance No. 2023-45 was placed on its third and final reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Chief Graham said that he has nothing more to add to what has already been discussed in the first two readings. This is the third and final reading for this new ordinance for excessive consumption of public services. Again, it's to hold property owners accountable for the behavior of their occupants. Furthermore, it is to allow the people that do live around these areas... at least it gives the police an opportunity to provide them the standard of life that we all expect.

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. 2023-45. 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 adoption, Ordinance No. 2023-45 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect in 30 days.

Ordinance No. 2023-44 (third and final 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 third and final 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 a majority of votes in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2023-44 was placed upon its third and final reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Chief Graham said he had nothing further to add other than what they have talked about in the first two readings. This is the third and final reading of the assessment section needed to apply assessment for those excessive services onto the owner of record in the Auditor's office.

Mayor Tapp added that this not only includes the Police Department, but also the Fire Department, EMS and Zoning.

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. 2023-44. 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 adoption, Ordinance No. 2023-44 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect in 30 days.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion

Motion by Mr. Grieves to appoint Carolyn Mitchell to the Utilities Committee, which appointment has no expiration date.

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

There being more than a majority in favor, the motion passed and Ms. Mitchell was appointed to the Utilities Committee.

Motion

Motion by Mr. Claus to acknowledge compliance with Section 7 of Ordinance No. 2022-50, with no changes.

Mr. Lasko explained that, for the public's benefit, they amended certain portion of the Codified Ordinances in order to provide more efficient and faster service to residents, property owners, contractors, etc. for certain things in the City that don't have any monetary impact. This is for people who may want to put a sign in the median to advertise an event, or a 5K race. Historically, those had to come to Council, adding additional weeks to getting a yes or no answer to those folks. Additionally, this covers things like allowing companies to use City property for staging of construction projects, where there is no monetary or economic impact. They have tried during the last calendar year to make Council aware through Manager's Reports, at a minimum, of when they have signed these agreements. There have been some which the Administration has still taken to Council for various reasons, but they are looking to propose to continue that for an additional 12 months. If you will remember, the ordinance as passed requires Council to review this every year to see if they like what's happening, or if they want to make changes to start bringing those back to Council. They are hoping that there is support for continuation of this for another 12 months.

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, the motion passed.

Resolution No. 81-2023

Motion by Mr. Grieves that the three-reading rule be waived, and Resolution No. 81-2023 (A RESOLUTION RATIFYING SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT – WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM FY 2024-25 RELATING TO THE SOUTH MAIN STREET WATERMAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED NINETY-NINE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED THIRTY AND XX/100 DOLLARS (\$1,899,130.00); AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT SAID GRANT AWARD IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED ONE MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED NINETY-NINE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED THIRTY AND XX/100 DOLLARS (\$1,899,130.00), SHOULD THE APPLICATION BE SUCCESSFUL) 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 five votes in favor, the motion passed waiving the three-reading rule and Resolution 81-2023 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko said that he doesn't always enjoy coming to Council after the fact for ratification, but this was an application grant funds. This is a grant program the State rolled out about a year or two ago through the Ohio Department of Development. They were recently notified that they opened up another round of grant funding. This is the same grant funding that awarded the City \$5 Million for the new water tower, which still needs to be constructed. They have opened it up with no restrictions for existing applicants are awardees to reply. He credited their team internally and folks at OHM, and Larry specifically, for getting an application. The application requests just under \$1.9 Million in potential grant funds. This is a 60/40 split, meaning 60% grant funded/40% City funded. Regardless, they anticipated and programmed this project as if it would be entirely City-funded or low-interest loan funded. This would be a huge positive if they are successful. This is for the South Main Street Water Main Replacement Project and road resurfacing of the three street they previously mentioned. They have already submitted the application, so they are hoping for ratification. He asked of Mr. Fridrich had anything to add. He did not, but welcomed any questions from Council.

Mr. Claus wanted to reconfirm that this project is in the budget, either way. Mr. Lasko confirmed that the project is in the budget starting in 2024. He believes that the City is close to going out to bid. Regardless of grant funding, or not, it is in the budget. Mr. Swaisgood added that it is in the budget as getting a low interest loan through the OWDA.

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. 81-2023. 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. 81-2023 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 85-2023

Motion by Mr. Dike that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 85-2023 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A SECOND AMENDMENT TO EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT WITH ANDREA F. ROCCO FOR THE PROVISION OF EMPLOYMENT LAW AND HUMAN RESOURCES SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF HURON FOR A PERIOD OF ONE (1) YEAR THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2024) be placed on its first reading.

There being more than five votes in favor, the motion passed waiving the three-reading rule and Resolution 85-2023 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

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

There being more than a majority in favor, the motion passed and Resolution 85-2023 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko said that they are looking to do two things with this proposed amendment. The first would be to bring Ms. Rocco back to continue to provide Human Resources services to the City. She has agreed to provide those services at no additional increase to the base salary for 2024. What they did include in this amendment, because next year is the start of our negotiations with all four of our bargaining units. They have historically contracted that out, most recently they used SSEG. They are proposing to utilize Ms. Rocco for this round, specifically because they do anticipate that there is going to be a lot of conversation around healthcare, and she has been heavily involved with a lot of folks in understanding their healthcare plan, and they believe her services would be very beneficial to the City during negotiations. He wanted to acknowledge that SSEG did a wonderful job last time, and they are supportive of Ms. Rocco taking the reins for next year. There is a modification to the base salary to provide up to an additional \$20,000 at \$200/hr. to handle bargaining unit negotiations for 2024.

The Clerk pointed out an error in the title of Resolution 85-2023. It should read second amendment. She asked that Mr. Schrader re-read the title of this resolution with that correction, asking Council to disregard the first, although the substance is identical to what was discussed.

Mr. Hagy asked if this agreement is over and above the agreement in Resolution 86-2023. Mr. Lasko answered yes, that this is specific to Human Resources, employment law and bargaining unit negotiations.

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. 85-2023. 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. 85-2023 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 86-2023

Motion by Mr. Dike that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 86-2023 (A RESOLUTION APPROVING A THIRD AMENDMENT TO THE PROSECUTOR AGREEMENT WITH ANDREA F. ROCCO FOR THE PROVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES AS PROSECUTING ATTORNEY FOR THE CITY OF HURON THROUGH 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 waiving the three-reading rule. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion to waive the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 86-2023 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko said that, quite simply, they are looking to retain Ms. Rocco to continue to provide prosecutorial services on behalf of the City. There is no proposed increase for this service for 2024 compared to the 2023 contract. It will remain at \$35,000 annually.

Mr. Hagy asked about the cover sheet showing that it went from \$25,000 to \$35,000. Mr. Lasko answered that he believes when they first retained Ms. Rocco 2 years ago, the baseline was \$25,000. That was increased to \$35,000 for 2023. For this year, they are proposing to keep that at \$35,000. Mr. Hagy said that one of the main reasons Council wanted a new prosecutor was hyper-focused on code violations, things like that. Has the City seen an uptick, and does anybody have some rough numbers they can talk about? Mr. Lasko answered that they can certainly get them those rough numbers. His layman's response is that he thinks she has been hyper-aggressive and very responsive to the Planning and Zoning Department. She has also, at times, handled certain appeals on behalf of the City where someone has disliked an outcome at BZA, for example. Just speaking from what he has seen on the sidelines, he thinks, more so than anything, she has been terribly responsive to Planning and Zoning, but he defers to Mr. Engle. Mr. Engle added that Ms. Rocco has been paramount with coordinating the court process. Since the hiring of Mr. Fantozzi, it has been amazing. They are handling what needs to be handled. Ultimately, her services have not been as needed on their end just because things are getting done. They haven't yet gotten to the point where she has been involved. He said that he would pull the numbers just to see, but as far as specific court cases are concerned, it has been better than last year. Mr. Lasko gave one example, being demolition of the house on Berlin Road, which is dilapidated. Ms. Rocco was able to work with the property owner and Mr. Fantozzi to get a voluntary agreement and settlement from the owner to let the City move forward with demolition in that instance. That saves the City the considerable time of having to get search warrants executed. He thinks it is creating significant efficiencies to help these guys do their job, not necessarily always ending up in Court. He does think that sometimes statistics of court cases may not tell the full story of her benefit, but they are certainly to provide those statistics. Mr. Hagy said he thought ---that was court cases, but maybe that's not the correct litmus test.

Mr. Schrader added that, from a service standpoint, Andrea looks for reasons to achieve, not reasons not to. Once she is given an assignment, she is going to find the answer - that sense of urgency, a service-oriented response, instead of barriers to getting things done. She finds ways to overcome the obstacles, which is a welcomed addition. Mr. Artino said that he remembers in the past that it was very frustrating that they didn't have the support from our prosecutor. He knows that Mr. Engle's department was struggling, it was violation after violation. Obviously, if people know they can get away with stuff, they are going to do it, and he thinks that has changed. Mr. Engle added that, from an efficiency standpoint, she hit the ground running in establishing what their role was, as far as filing the claim with her, and it has been pretty simple for them to move those cases through the court. That has provided us with additional time to deal with other things.

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. 86-2023. 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 adoption, Resolution No. 86-2023 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 87-2023

Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 87-2023 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO AWARD THE BID AND AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF WATER TREATMENT CHEMICALS TO BONDED CHEMICALS INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FORTY THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED EIGHTY AND XX/100 DOLLARS (\$40,880.00)) 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 waiving the three-reading rule. 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 87-2023 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Evans said that this is nothing new. These next few items are our yearly chemical bids. They go out to bid every year. He will speak briefly on all of them. They had 5 companies bid 6 chemicals this year. Overall, they saw a 17% decrease in bid prices from last year. Three of their chemicals were over 30% lower, with only one chemical showing an increase, and that only went up 8%. Given what he has witnessed in recent years, it is nice to see chemical prices trending downward, as they rapidly inflated during the Covid years, and the related supply chain issues. He was pleasantly surprised with the results.

Mr. Hagy said he doesn't expect Mr. Evans to have the number off the top of this head, a 17% decrease is awesome. He is curious as to what it is over 2022, or 2021, whenever the supply chain inflation hit. This looks to me like the supply chain has straightened itself out. Mr. Evans said that he could get those numbers to him.

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. 87-2023. 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. 87-2023 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 88-2023

Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 88-2023 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO AWARD THE BID AND AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF WATER TREATMENT CHEMICALS TO JCI JONES CHEMICALS INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED THIRTY-FIVE THOUSAND XX/100 DOLLARS (\$35,000.00)) 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 waiving the three-reading rule. 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 88-2023 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Evans said that this particular chemical did decrease 35% from last year's prices, representing the largest decrease.

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. 88-2023. 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. 88-2023 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 89-2023

Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 89-2023 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO AWARD THE BID AND AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF WATER TREATMENT CHEMICALS TO UNIVAR SOLUTIONS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED THIRTEEN THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED THIRTY-NINE AND 60/100 DOLLARS (\$13,839.60)) 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 waive the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 89-2023 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Evans noted that this chemical is used for pH adjustment in the water treatment process, and did come down 34.8% from last year.

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. 89-2023. 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. 89-2023 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 90-2023

Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 90-2023 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO AWARD THE BID AND AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF WATER TREATMENT CHEMICALS TO APPLIED SPECIALTIES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED ONE HUNDRED FIFTEEN THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED TWENTY AND XX/100 DOLLARS (\$115,920.00)) 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 waiving the three-reading rule. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being more than a majority in favor, the motion waiving the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 90-2023 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Evans explained that this resolution is for the aluminum chlorohydrate (ACH), which is a coagulant they use in the treatment process. It is one of their more expensive chemicals, but they did see a 2.7% decrease in cost.

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. 90-2023. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Resolution No. 90-2023 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 91-2023

Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 91-2023 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO AWARD THE BID AND AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF WATER TREATMENT CHEMICALS TO CHEMRITE INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED THIRTY-NINE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED SIXTY AND XX/100 DOLLARS (\$39,960.00)) 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 waiving the three-reading rule. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being more than a majority in favor, the motion waiving the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 91-2023 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Evans explained that this resolution is for the purchase of sodium permanganate, which is used as an oxidizer in the treatment process. It is used first in the treatment process to oxidize organic matter in the raw lake water. They did see a significant decrease in this price, as well, as it was down 32.8% from last year.

Mayor Tapp asked if the City gets the chemicals from different suppliers, or is it all different suppliers. Mr. Evans answered that last year there were only 3 suppliers, while this year they have 5. They usually get the same bidders each year, it just depends who has the lower price.

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. 91-2023. 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. 91-2023 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 92-2023

Motion by Mr. Grieves that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 92-2023 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO MAKE APPLICATION TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF WATERCRAFT, FOR A 2024 MARINE PATROL ASSISTANCE GRANT FOR THE HURON POLICE HARBOR PATROL PROGRAM IN THE CITY OF HURON; AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE GRANT AWARD IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED THIRTY-FIVE THOUSAND AND XX/100 DOLLARS (\$35,000.00) AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF WATERCRAFT, SHOULD THE APPLICATION BE SUCCESSFUL) 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 five votes in favor, the motion waiving the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 92-2023 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Chief Graham stated that this resolution authorizes the application for our Marine Patrol Grant to the Ohi Department of Natural Resources Division of Watercraft. If awarded, it further authorizes an agreement accepting the grant award. Mr. Swaisgood can answer the split – I believe it is a 75/25 split.

Mayor Tapp asked if this has been the same for years, as far as the grant amount goes. Mr. Swaisgood said the number fluctuates; this is the lowest he could see going back. The lowered amount of \$29,000 is because Sandusky jumped back into the marine patrol pool. Chief Graham said they did not increase the pot, Sandusky just added another piece of the pie. Mr. Swaisgood said that Huron does apply for the maximum amount, which is \$35,000, every year. The City's portion would be 25% of that, which would be \$12,000. This year, they are going to spend over \$40,000 on the marine patrol service, so that additional expense comes out of the General Fund.

Mr. Hagy asked about the wording in the summary of a \$12,000 increase, but if they give us \$35,000 and we kick in \$12,000, that's \$47,000, which is right in the same spot as last. What is the \$12,000 increase? Mr. Swaisgood said that this will be a \$12,000 increase from 2023, when they received \$28,000. In the actual fund, they budgeted an additional \$12,000. In prior years, that expense was shown in the General Fund. The actual will show during monthly and quarterly reports, because that fund will take on the full expense, with the City paying into that fund. It is included in the final appropriations, and he will mention that there, too. The additional \$12,000 will come out of that fund, so it will show the true cost of the whole marine patrol. Mr. Hagy asked if that is a real increase to the City. Mr. Swaisgood said it was in 2023. There were other purchases this year, like canvas. It's not a true cost as to 2024, just an overall cost.

Mr. Artino said, with the boat ramp traffic, and we seem to be attracting more and more tournaments and those type of things here, are they seeing an increase in traffic and/or violations? Chief Graham answered, yes. There is an increase in boat traffic coming out of the boat ramp, and pleasure boaters, as well. With the influx of pontoon and jet ski rentals, which have increased this year, their violations in the swim area were extremely low (they only had 6 for the entire summer). That tells him a couple of things. It is very well marked, and very well patrolled. The violation they have the most of is, and this continues every year, is the wake violation. The wake in the river is... he is not going to say it is confusing, but it's not easy for the novice boater. They try to educate people on that, and they usually lead into a safety inspection. He is looking to increase their signage for next year in the No Wake Zone in the river, because those are about 75% of their violations.

Mayor Tapp added that with the increase of boaters and jet skis, do they see more boat patrol? Chief Graham answered that they are out there quite a bit, and will probably start having more nighttime patrols. They do those periodically. They only wrote 2 citations the past year. They are out there to educate people to make sure they have the proper equipment, just to be that reminder to cool it down a little bit. They had a very successful year, there were no tragedies this year, and they want to continue that.

Mr. Artino said that he appreciated the comment Chief Graham made about education versus tickets. He doesn't think the goal is to throw anybody in jail; they are just here to create the safest environment they can for boaters and swimmers. He appreciates that.

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. 92-2023. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Resolution No. 92-2023 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Ordinance No. 2023-46

Motion by Mr. Claus that the three-reading rule be waived and Ordinance No. 2023-46 (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 waiving the three-reading rule. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being more than five or more votes in favor, the motion waiving the three-reading rule passed and Ordinance 2023-46 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Swaisgood stated that Ordinance No. 2023-46 is adopting the final appropriations for fiscal year 2023. The revised code does not allow for expenditures to exceed appropriations for any fiscal year. Exhibit A includes all supplemental appropriations necessary to comply with State law. The exhibit includes justification for the increase in appropriations, followed by adjustments for each City fund. The total budget for 2023 will increase by \$131,369.00. This is mostly due to the cash advances discussed during the Finance Committee meeting for the members that are here. Those total \$190,000, which is for the Scholl Resource Office Fund and the Garbage Fund. Those advances will be repaid back to the General Fund once they receive payment in early 2024. Other increases in the General Fund include an increase in income tax collection costs, which is a good sign, and due to an increase in income tax revenue. There is an increase in the Police budget due to the new K-9 unit, and an increased cash transfer from the General Fund to the Marine Patrol Grant Fund, so that all expenses can be accurately reported out of that fund. One other thing to note is the Sawmill Creek TIF Fund adjustments – just because these are large number, he wants to point out these transfers Funds 421 and 422 on Exhibit A, which do net to zero. This is to accurately account for the proceeds going into each fund. When they begin receiving the TIF payments in 2024, after talking to the County Auditor's Office to get an idea of how that property tax settlement will look like, they will have to be recorded on two different funds. The majority of those TIF proceeds will go into Fund 421, which is the Section 41 piece of that TIF. He has been recording them 50/50 in both funds, so he must adjust them over into the one fund by the end of the year and into next year. That will properly account for those funds going forward. He must show budget in Fund 421, so you will see a negative \$2 Million out of Fund 422, and then a positive \$2 Million in Fund 421.

Mr. Hagy asked if Fund 422 would be retired. Mr. Swaisgood answered no, Fund 421 is the fund that is for only the Section 41 piece, which is where most of the TIF are going to come in (the resort area itself). Fund 422 covers the rest of the properties that have potential to have TIF proceeds coming to the City at some point. That will still be an active fund, but it will be dormant until something happens.

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. 2023-46. 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, Ordinance No. 2023-46 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Ordinance No. 2023-47

Motion by Mr. Dike that the three-reading rule be waived and Ordinance No. 2023-47 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING HURON CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 161.04 (A), EXHIBIT "A" POSITION AND SALARY SCHEDULE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY) 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 votes in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Ordinance No. 2023-47 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Motion by Mr. Dike to place Ordinance No. 2023-47 as an emergency measure.

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 votes in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2023-47 was placed as an emergency measure.

Mr. Swaisgood explained that this ordinance authorizes the annual position and salary schedule for staff and manager-level positions in the City. Modifications to the Position and Salary Schedule are based on wage increases and change to State and Federal law, such as the minimum wage. The 2024 budget includes updating those salaries based on a 2.5% salary increase, consistent with all non-bargaining unit employees. In addition, the maximum rates for part-time positions in the Fire Department, Parks Department and Parks Departments were increased as discussed during the Budget Meetings. You will see that those were each increased by \$2/hour up to a different maximum than they are currently. Please note that increases in rates do not automatically trigger an increase for employees. A Personnel Action Form with authorization by the City Manager is still necessary in order to any increase to take effect. Council is just authorizing approval of that range. That doesn't mean that if this ordinance passes, that that increase will happen. It still has to go through a process administratively.

He wanted to note some other modifications to this schedule. In an effort to clean up the salary ordinance, they made the following changes:

- The bargaining unit positions were taken out, since their rates are dictated by respective CBA's.
- They added and renamed positions to match the current structure in the Charter. For instance, the Personnel Office is in the Charter, and currently filled by Ms. Rocco. This position was not in the table, and it is being added along with the Prosecutor position.
- They condensed down into one major table for full-time employees, rather than two. The Court employees were all on a second table, but now they are all together in one table.
- Section D adds the authority for non-bargaining employees to receive annual wage increases awarded to all City employees, with the City Manager's approval, without needing to come back to Council every year to increase the range. Going forward, the only reason to come back to Council is if those ranges need to be significantly increased. If there is an annual increase, like what they are doing this year, there is no reason for the administration to come back to Council just to increase the rate.

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. 2023-47. 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 adoption, Ordinance No. 2023-47 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Ordinance No. 2023-48

Motion by Mr. Dike that the three-reading rule be waived and Ordinance No. 2023-48 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 161.04.1 OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY) 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 Ordinance No. 2023-48 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Motion by Mr. Dike to place Ordinance No. 2023-48 as an emergency measure.

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 passed and Ordinance No. 2023-48 was placed as an emergency measure.

Mr. Swaisgood stated that this ordinance amends Codified Ordinance Section 161.04.1 for salaries for chartered positions, which includes the Law Director, Finance Director, Services Director, Fire Chief and Police Chief positions. It is necessary to reflect the maximum base salaries for the 2024 budget. Not all positions will be at the maximum base salary amount in 2024. They were all increased to have another base for going forward. The maximum base salary respective to all positions, except for the Law Director, were increased for 2024 to reflect the wage increases in the budget. The salary for the Law Director reflects the terms of the contract with SSEG. The position of Fire Chief, which has been vacant, is on the schedule and is shown with an increase, as well, to remain consistent with the Police Chief's salary for 2024.

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. 2023-48. 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 adoption, Ordinance No. 2023-48 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Ordinance No. 2023-49

Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be waived and Ordinance No. 2023-49 (AN ORDINANCE MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING 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: 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. 2023-49 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Swaisgood explained that this is the 2024 Budget that was presented at the Public Hearing. This is lawfully appropriating the funds for 2024.

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. 2023-49. 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. 2023-49 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Ordinance No. 2023-50 (first reading)

Motion by Mr. Claus that Ordinance No. 2023-50 (AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND AMENDING AND RESTATING CHAPTER 1313 (BUILDING PLAN REVIEW) OF THE HURON CODIFIED ORDINANCES) 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 a majority in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2023-50 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Engle said that as the Planning Department is moving through fine-tuning their processes, they have noticed that the Building Code, as well as the Zoning Code, need a lot of updating. They are looking at realigning the Building Code with their processes, moving some of those processes out that are more zoning-related into the Zoning Code, as well as clarifying language, overall, for ease of use both internally and externally.

Through a recommendation of the Planning Commission, this particular ordinance separates out Planning Commission processes from Building Review processes, and renamed Chapter 1313 Building Plan Review. The purpose under Section 1313.01 was revamped to reflect such a differentiation. They plan to work more with the Building Department as far as content goes, but they haven't addressed that yet. Further, Section 1313.03 Procedure for Filing and Review, which really spoke to their processes in zoning, was simply moved from the Building Code to the Zoning Code under newly established Section 1139.01 Planning Commission Review.

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

Ordinance No. 2023-53 (first reading)

Motion by Mr. Claus that Ordinance No. 2023-53 (AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND AMENDING AND RESTATING CHAPTER 1139 (ZONING ADMINISTRATION) OF THE HURON CODIFIED ORDINANCES) 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 a majority in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2023-53 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Engle explained that this gets more into the meat of their edits to the Zoning Administration section. Basic grammatical edits were made, as well as wordsmithing and certain revisions as far as processes are concerned. The biggest change is establishing the process for conditional uses, which the City does not currently have. There currently aren't any requirements, so it made it confusing for our BZA. One major edit that was made, per the recommendation of the Planning Commission, was to remove that from the BZA and making it a Planning Commission function. This is what he is used to from a staff perspective. When you look at conditional uses, they are uses that are not necessarily prohibited, but they have certain requirements that the Planning Commission is better equipped to review in conjunction with staff. Furthermore, the Code establishing zoning certificate expirations that are aligned with building permits (1 year). They also established a 1-year expiration for area variances. Their area variances are tied specifically to plans, and if folks haven't commenced any work, those expire. They would have to come back to BZA after a year's time. They believe that is an easier solution as opposed to people who obtained BZA area variances 10 years ago coming back before them asking for that again.

Mayor Tapp said it is time to revamp these things, as Mr. Artino knows, having served on the BZA for 4 years prior to coming to Council.

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

Ordinance No. 2023-54 (first reading)

Motion by Mr. Claus that Ordinance No. 2023-54 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1126 (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF HURON, OHIO TO ESTABLISH A NEW SECTIONS 1126.19 (WIND ENERGY)) OF THE HURON CODIFIED ORDINANCES) 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 a majority in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2023-54 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Engle said that this is the simplest edit. At some point, someone tacked Wind Energy within the processes of BZA. They are moving that entire section out of there and into Special Provisions, where all of their other requirements are held for certain cases like that.

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

Ordinance No. 2023-51 (first reading)

Motion by Mr. Claus that Ordinance No. 2023-51 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 505 (ANIMALS AND FOWL) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCE OF HURON, OHIO TO ESTABLISH A NEW SECTION 505.18 (CHICKENS)) 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 a majority in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2023-51 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Engle explained that the Planning Department has received an unusually high number of calls relating to the keeping of chickens, as well as nuisance-related issues with this. They don't currently have anything on the books, although there are certain setbacks relating to the keeping of certain animals. As opposed to working through that and outlawing it, he proposed the question to the Planning Commission and they were receptive to that, resulting in the legislation before Council.

They are establishing rules and regulations for the keeping of chickens, specifically hens only, in single-family and 2-family residential zoning districts. It further establishes language for permitting processes, penalties, revocation and appeals. Performance standards include allowing by right as an accessory use in R-1 and R-1A Residential Single Family and R-2 Residential Single Family or 2-Family Districts, but only allowing up to 6 hens for personal use on the property. Coops, as they are accessory structures, shall be kept at least 5 feet from the side and rear property lines, which is in line with their normal accessory structure code. All such structures shall be located not less than 6 feet behind the rearmost wall of the principal structure on the lot and shall not be located in the front or side yards. The base area shall not exceed 80 sq. ft. and 6' in height, and shall be exempt from the lot coverage restrictions contained in the Zoning Code. The coop and outdoor enclosure must be kept clean, chickens must be kept inside the enclosures, and kept free from debris and any offensive odors, devoid of rodents and vermin, etc. They wanted to know that there will be no City-wide cap, per se, on the permits issued, but they reserve the right to establish that, if that becomes an issue.

Mr. Dike asked why these people are getting chickens. Are you saying a rooster? The remainder of Council agreed that they don't want roosters, the hens are wanted for their eggs.

Mr. Hagy asked about the people that have existing chicken coops. Is there a grandfather clause, or are they going to have to move their coop? Mr. Engle answered that there is no grandfather clause for that, so if they do come up with an instance where they are out of compliance, once this is passed, they must go through the permitting process for them to be compliant. Mr. Hagy asked if they are going to have to prove their coop... maybe we should take a hard look at that, because moving a coop wouldn't be easy and there are a lot of chicken coops over in Oklahoma. Mr. Engle agreed and said that would be captured through the permitting process. Obviously, as those pieces come up, they will vet that.

Mr. Claus asked if that is something SSEG should look at, in terms of grandfathering? Mr. Schrader said that health, safety, morals and welfare cannot be grandfathered. Mr. Hagy said that he saw it in the wind ordinance. Mr. Claus said that the City would not required to include a grandfathering clause, but they can entertain it. Mayor Tapp said the square footage... and to Mr. Hagy's point, Oklahoma is different than other houses as they have more room. Mr. Hagy said that there are setbacks from the property line and stuff like that. These coops are substantial, so he would take a hard look at that. Mr. Claus's follow-up

comment to Mr. Hagy's thought is that if anybody asked for some sort of approval for it, they would have been addressing it as an accessory structure. If they are just non-compliant to something that wasn't allowed in the City to begin with. We have to look at that. Mr. Engle added that no animals can be kept within 100' of a property line, so this eliminates all of the smaller lots. You would be looking at larger lots, farmland essentially, as the only place in the City you were allowed to have chickens. Mr. Claus answered that, technically, they weren't allowable. Mr. Hagy said that he appreciates the background. He is just saying that if someone is in violation, under this proposed legislation, they are going to hear about it and he thinks they ought to take a hard look at grandfathering. Mr. Claus said that if they did grandfather something like that, they would still certainly want to enforce any kind of nuisances, any kind of property maintenance, etc. If they are closer to the line than what the code says, they still want to be able to manage the compliance with upkeep, maintenance, etc. That would be the part he would be concerned about. That's the whole point of doing this. Maybe they can do a little more research and talk about that at the next reading. Mr. Engle said that he can draft something to include both comments. Maintain the nuisance aspect of it, but still, as far as the actual structure itself, grandfather that. Mr. Grieves asked if we know how many people have chickens in the City limits. Mr. Engle said that he received two nuisance calls (related to chickens escaping), and maybe received four calls from folks inquiring. He doesn't have a good idea on that. Mr. Artino said that he will let his condominium association know that he is not bringing any chickens in.

Mr. Biddlecombe asked what the fee would be for the permit process. Mr. Engle answered that he has updated the entire fee schedule and has included the amount for that. He believes it is \$50 for the permit fee to cover one inspection by the Zoning Inspector, Mr. Fantozzi, just to make sure everything is compliant. Mr. Hagy asked if the permitting is retroactive. Mr. Engle answered yes, everyone would have to pay for a permit and everything must be inspected. Mr. Claus said, if they are grandfathered, he still thinks they should at least still pull a permit. They just may have a potentially legal nonconforming use. If we are going to grandfather, it would be maybe the location, but not the fact that you can just continue to have chickens. If someone has 12 chickens, they can continue to have 12 – how to deal with potentially grandfathering. Mr. Hagy said that whatever they have right now, they can keep it, and it stays that way. We know they are out of compliance, but they are out of compliance with a rule that was made after they put the chickens in. Mr. Claus said okay, but wouldn't we want to have that be maintained and clean and all of that stuff, at least? That's what he is concerned about – letting them have a crappy chicken coop just because they already had one, as opposed to letting them have a nice chicken coop that is in the wrong location. They should be able to make sure it is maintained properly. Maybe consider the total number. They can't have free-range beyond what we normally require. It sounds like a little more discussion is needed, but we probably don't need to do it now. This is already a long enough meeting.

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

Ordinance No. 2023-52 (first reading)

Motion by Mr. Claus that Ordinance No. 2023-52 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1123 (ANIMALS AND FOWL) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCE OF HURON, OHIO TO ESTABLISH A NEW SECTION 505.19 (BEES)) 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 a majority in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2023-52 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Engle said that as he was working through these amendments, they know of several cases of folks keeping bees, so why not just get ahead of that? The Planning Commission has been extremely receptive to it. Essentially, they are establishing rules and regulations for the keeping of bees in all zoning districts, except for the R-3 Multi-Family Residential District. This establishes the procedure for the permitting process, penalties, revocation, appeals, etc. There is no grandfathering clause in this case, either. Some of the performance standards include one hive per 2500 sq. ft. of a tract of land, whatever that looks like. No more than 1 beehive shall be kept on that piece of land, and no less than that. The average lot size is 2500 sq. ft., generally speaking, so that is opening up the City as far that use is concerned. They are looking at no closer than 5 feet to the lot line, 10 feet to a dwelling, or placement of a dwelling on another parcel. No beehives shall be kept in the front yard or side yard. Again, they are treated as accessory structures. The front of any beehive shall face away from the property line of the residential property closest to the beehive. Regardless of tract size, so long as all lots within a radius of at least 200' from any hive measured from any point on the hive remains undeveloped, there shall be no limit to the number of colonies. This considers larger tracts of land/farmland if folks want to have more than 1 beehive. No grandfathering rights shall accrue under this section, but they can look into that. No hives are permitted on any tract where the setback requirement cannot be satisfied regardless of tract size. The beekeeper may get an exemption on the setback to adjacent lot lines by obtaining permission from all of the adjacent lot owners. That was added so that if folks really don't have an issue with it, and if there is an issue, we would allow them to take it to the BZA. Each beekeeper shall maintain his or her beekeeping equipment in good condition (going back to the nuisance).

Mr. Dike asked if Mr. Engle came up with these things. Mr. Engle answered, yes, through lots of research. Mayor Tapp asked if beekeepers have to have a license from the State. Mr. Engle said Lakewood, specifically requires that the resident receive a license at the State level. Mr. Claus added that some municipalities require that, but we did not – it's a bit of overkill. Some of the examples said you had to pass a class from the State of Ohio Extension....

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

Ordinance No. 2023-55 (first reading)

Motion by Mr. Claus that Ordinance No. 2023-55 (AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND AMENDING AND RESTATING SECTION 1123.01(c) (ACCESSORY USES) UNDER CHAPTER 1123 (RESIDENCE DISTRICTS) OF THE HURON CODIFIED ORDINANCES)) 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 a majority in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2023-55 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Engle explained that this legislation is pretty straightforward. Essentially, this amends the zoning district sections outright in order to cross-reference back to Section 505.18 to allow those uses by right for single-family and 2-family residential districts. It further establishes and clarifies that farmstands are allowed if folks want to see the products they are producing (honey or eggs). That has always been on the books, but he clarified that piece of it, as well.

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

Ordinance No. 2023-56 (first reading)

Motion by Mr. Claus that Ordinance No. 2023-56 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1125.01 (B-1 NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS DISTRICT) UNDER CHAPTER 1125 (NONRESIDENCE DISTRICTS) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCE OF HURON, OHIO TO ESTABLISH A NEW SECTION 1125.01(a)(7)) 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 a majority in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2023-56 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Engle said that this amends the B-1 District. All of the City's commercial districts and industrial districts refer back to B-1, so they only needed to change the one section to permit the beekeeping use. Chickens are prohibited in this particular zone.

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

Ordinance No. 2023-57 (first reading)

Motion by Mr. Claus that Ordinance No. 2023-57 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1123.04 (R-3 MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENCE DISTRICT) OF CHAPTER 1123 (RESIDENCE DISTRICTS) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCE OF HURON, OHIO TO ESTABLISH A NEW SECTION 1123.04(f)) 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 a majority in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2023-57 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Engle stated that this ordinance amendment prohibits the keeping of both chickens and bees as uses in the R-3 District. Staff, along with the Planning Commission, felt due to the transient nature of having tenants in an R-3, they felt that it would be better to just eliminate that, from a nuisance standpoint. Mr. Hagy asked Mr. Engle for an example of an R-3, who explained that those properties are generally apartment complexes or condominiums. You could look at it as being more than 2 units in a single structure.

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

City Manager's Discussion

The City Manager spoke on several topics:

Oster's Mobile Home Park – As we are nearing the culmination of 9-10 months of work, we are down to one occupied unit onsite, and do anticipate that last mobile home being moved in the next 5-10 days. We did start our asbestos abatement work on the multi-family house in the middle of the property. MAD Cleaning Sandusky started that work yesterday. I anticipate that they will finish up either tomorrow or Thursday. Based on the status of where we are, although we haven't set a specific closing date, the transfer of the real estate (in talking with the Sellers and Mr. Schrader) could be complete in the next 4-6 weeks, barring some other issue, hopefully right after the first of the year.

Proposed Townhouses – Regarding the proposed townhouses to be built by Mr. Ruta across from the Comfort Inn, the City in receipt of plan sets and legal descriptions. They need to work with the property owner to terminate an existing Access Agreement that the City has allowing us to utilize the site for certain events. They have been gracious enough to permit us to use the property over the years. We also know that the property owner will likely require an easement from the City for ingress/egress purposes on the southern portion of the property, essentially allowing the project to utilize the existing City-owned curb cut for exit purposes for the planned residential development.

Infrastructure and Streets – Staff has officially received a Letter of Intent from the Ohio Department of Transportation to allow a 100' limited access break on Route 6 right around Liberty Avenue. This break will allow the City to move ahead with planning and resident engagement for a potential roundabout at Route 6 and Liberty. As mentioned, this would allow us to enclose Jim Campbell at Center Street, remove the unwarranted light, and also add a multi-modal pathway on Jim Campbell. This will take Route 6 from a 2-lane road down to a single-lane road east of the walk bridge, slowing traffic coming into town. There will be a ton of resident engagement as part of the ODOT process for feedback on the conceptual design as we move into 2024.

Leaf Pickup – This is a final reminder on leaf pickup. Although we officially stopped those activities, we are proactively going around the City after December 8th. They are going to continue to monitor these leaf piles and dispatch the leaf truck, as necessary and as weather permits, over the next week or two. Residents are still encouraged to utilize Republic for yard waste pickup. If there are questions or folks need to report a pickup, please contact the Streets Department at 419-433-9504.

Parks and Recreation – We made a formal request to the Greater Sandusky Partnership for prioritization of the Huron Boat Basin rehabilitation for State Capital funding. Ultimately, GSP likes to prioritize 4 or 5 projects throughout the County, for which they will provide additional advocacy and lobbying on behalf of at the State level. Being on that short list does not stop the City from proactively doing their own application and advocacy, but again, we are able to levy the resources of GSP. We will keep Council apprised with updates as the process moves forward. We hope to see funding from the State Capital Fund, which they have never requested before.

Winterfest – A huge thank you to Doug Steinwart and his team at Parks & Recreation for organizing another hugely successful Winterfest. We know that there are a lot of other departments involved – Safety Services, Streets – and countless volunteers who helped to organize the event. The newly instituted Tree Lighting Ceremony was spectacular and very well-attended, capped off with the great fireworks show. Thank you to all involved, and particularly Mr. Steinwart and his team.

Committee Appointments – Huron Township has appointed Mr. Ed Wimmer as the elected official to be on the HJRD Board for the Township, replacing Gordy Hahn, starting in 2024.

Safety Town Houses – Staff and the Parks and Rec Department are working with the Huron Lion's Club on a partnership to replace all of the Safety Town houses and equipment. EHOVE is going to build a prototype, and I will update everyone on the progress. The hope to have all new houses and equipment in place by spring of this year. Thank you to EHOVE and the Lion's Club for those donated services.

Finance – The 4th quarter water bills will be sent out over the next week. REMINDER: The bill does not include garbage fees, except those that do have delinquent garbage payments. The City will begin receiving garbage fees through the property tax payments in 2024. I also wanted to acknowledge, for folks that missed the Finance Committee meeting before this meeting. The State Auditor's Office for the Finance Committee meeting to award the City with the State Auditor's Award for Excellence Financial Reporting. They weren't able to officially verify, but I believe we have received the award every year that Mr. Swaisgood has been overseeing our Finance Department. Mr. Swaisgood said, all except for one. What they acknowledged during the meeting is they do over 6,000 audits a year, and only 8% receive that award. Kudos to Mr. Swaisgood and his team. I also think that is a reflection of the Finance Committee and Council, as well. Great job to all involved.

Personnel – I have been mentioning the proposed communications/administrative position we were hoping to bring online in 2024. We have offered the newly-created Administrative Assistant – Communications position to Mrs. Jen Kilbury, who is currently employed with the City in the Parks and Recreation Department. We anticipate her starting in that official capacity sometime in January.

Agreements – Staff and administration has approved an agreement with AMP to purchase required power for Mucci Farms for the calendar year 2024 in the amount of \$3,590,705. This did not come to Council as it is merely a pass-through sale. Mucci has committed to purchase to all of that load, moving forward. The current agreement expires at the end of December. There is no financial impact on the City.

Project Updates – The 2023/2024 Paving Program (Old Homestead I & II and Chaska Beach) will be advertised on December 14th, and bids will be due on January 25th. We allowed for an extended time period on the bid submission with the holidays and knowing that a lot of companies are going to have staff out of the office.

Main Street Design and Engineering – We released a Request for Qualifications last week. Statements of Qualifications are due to the City on January 5th. Upon receiving those submissions, an internal team will review and negotiate a proposal for Council consideration in either January or early February.

We have a nuisance property at 531 Berlin Road, which is currently privately-owned. We are out to bid as of November 20th, and Mr. Hamilton held a pre-demolition walk-through last week. We had 10 demolition contractors attend the walk-through, and the bid opening is scheduled for tomorrow at 2:00pm.

Upcoming Meetings – The Planning Commission will meet on Wednesday, December 20th at 5:00pm in Council Chambers; Administrative Offices will be closed at noon on Friday, December 22nd, and all day on Monday, December 25th in observance of Christmas Eve and Christmas. I believe, at the moment, that we have cancelled all remaining Council meetings for the remainder of the month, barring an emergency that Mr. Swaisgood might have. As of now, there are no other Council meetings for the month of December. Offices will be closed at noon on Friday, December 29th, and all day on January 1st in observance of the New Year's Eve and New Year's Day holidays.

Reminders – The Huron Chambers of Commerce will be having a holiday party tomorrow, December 13th at Quarry Hill Winery from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. You do not need to be a member of the Chamber to attend. Anyone who wants to join that, can.

We also posted on Facebook a flyer that came to us from Great Lake Community Action Partnership. They had a home weatherization assistance program providing no-cost energy saving upgrades to properties. There are income guidelines, and those are included in the flyer, but if there are needy families needing significant upgrades to their home weatherization, there are resources available.

On behalf of the Administration, I would like to extend our condolences to the family and friends of Mr. John Jones, who passed away. Selfishly, in my 3 years here, he has been a tremendous advocate for the City's initiatives at the School Board level, and in my few years of knowing him, he has been a great friend and will be truly missed. Again, condolences to his friends and family.

Mr. Claus to clarify that the Planning Commission meeting has been moved to December 13th at 5:00pm, not the 20th. Mr. Lasko repeated that the Planning Commission meeting originally scheduled on December 20th is cancelled and will now be held on December 13th at 5:00pm. Mr. Claus added that it was advertised appropriately.

Mr. Biddlecombe said that he was happy to see that Jen has been hired for the new communications position. She is the first person that came to his mind. He has known her for many years. He started off working with her on River Fest, so she will definitely be a good fit for that position. The other thing he

wanted to mention is that as he drives through town every day, the City looks really good now, and the Streets Department (leaf truck) has done a really good job. He even saw them drive down his streets earlier this week. It is nice to see that they are still out. We have discussed over email that there has been a lot of discussion on Facebook on the cats. He has reached out to a few animal rescues, and none of them seem like they are able to help us. His question is, going forward into 2024, they have had legislation on the bees and chickens. Can we maybe look at a catch, neuter and release program – he knows that some cities have that. He thinks we might have had that a long time ago – at least one of the animal rescues recommended that we look at that, as well. Mr. Lasko said that he is certainly happy to take a look. He know there's been concern with the work being done at Oster's. He noted that there has been some commentary that they have pets that are left behind, but they don't believe that's the case whatsoever. They just know that there was a significant number of feral cats already on the property, living under mobile homes, etc. Rye Beach has historically had a bit of an issue, as well, even before this. They are happy to look into it. Obviously, there is a budgetary cost for that service that he would have to get with Mr. Swaisgood on, and certainly start to wrap our heads around the actual extend of the issue in terms of number. They are happy to look into it. Mr. Biddlecombe said that he's not really sure how significant it really is. He does know that through all of the commenting, there were comments about how there are a lot of them around by Drug Mart, as well. I am sure that it's more than just Oster's or Rye Beach, and he is sure that there are cat populations throughout the City. Is it really significant, or is it just somewhat significant?

Mr. Claus asked when the ConAgra RFQ due date is? Mr. Lasko answered that those responses are due by January 12th.

Mayor's Discussion

Mayor Tapp said: Condolences, as Mr. Lasko stated, to the family and friends of John Jones. He came to as many meetings as he could and support us, so he will be missed. I do want to, again, thank Cory and the Finance Committee, regarding the award. There was a representative from the Auditor of State that was here to present this, and again, like Mr. Lasko said, they do 6,000 audits, and Huron is in the top 8%. I think it's a pretty prominent award. To reiterate again, I believe Mr. Lasko gave a date as far as possession on Oster's. I just want to make it know that we do not own Oster's Mobile Home Park yet. We do not own it now, but will in the next 5-6 weeks. That is when we will take possession. Mr. Biddlecombe, as far as the cats... the history of that was there used to, for the City, a nuisance license and the cats were trapped. At that time, the Humane Society would not take them – they had so many. In that situation, the cats that were caught were euthanized. I'm not sure that's not what everyone wants to hear, but that's how it used to be. That's what happened. Back then, there were a lot of issued in certain areas, and it was taken care of in that way. Due to financial reasons, it was stopped. Thank you to Cory, staff, and the Finance Committee for everything you did to get the budget prepared. I appreciate the confidence, and I appreciate being Mayor for the next 2 years. I can't do anything without Council. Council has been great. We have done a lot. I appreciate all of your hard work, and we will be working on committees in the very near future. Hopefully, we get that taken care of. That is all I have.

For the Good of the Order

William Biddlecombe – Thanks staff, for all of your hard work. Congratulations on the award, Cory. I would also like to congratulate Mayor Tapp on his swearing in, as well as our new K-9 Officer, Jax. The next large item garbage day will be scheduled for January 8, 2024 since the first Monday of the month is New Year's

Day. There is still time to help Lori Yutzy by ringing the bell for the Salvation Army. I enjoyed ringing with Mr. Lasko last week, as well as the Grinch yesterday. Thanks to everyone who planned and participated in the Winterfest. While we did have rain, I did notice that it was very well-attended, including the parade. The next School Board meeting was scheduled for Monday, December 18th, but I noticed today when I was looking the sports events, that apparently it was rescheduled to yesterday. Since I wasn't aware of that, as I didn't recall seeing anything posted anywhere about that except on their website, I will make sure to watch the YouTube video, and I urge everyone else to, as well. Speaking of the School Board, there is not much more I can say about John Jones. He was a friend, definitely a great advocate for the City of Huron, and he will be missed. Home games coming up: Girls' Basketball is January 5th and Boys' Basketball is January 4th. I have been told that not all of the sports have been put on the online calendar, so I apologize to those other sports. Please come out and support our local events, programs and student athletes. Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Go Tigers!

Sam Artino – His condolences to John Jones' family and friends, also. I would like to thank the citizens of this community for your input and involvement throughout the year, especially those folks that serve on committees. As Mr. Hagy said, some of those committees take a lot of time and involvement by our citizens, and we really appreciate that. We appreciate the citizens overall. We can't do our job without input from our citizens and their involvement. I would like to thank our partners, Huron City Schools and Huron Township. They contribute quite a bit to the success of this community. I would also like to thank the City's employees. I can't say enough about the hard work and dedication our employees have to this community. As we always used to say, it helps immensely to promote and provide a great place to live, work and play. Thank you very much to all of our citizens, and Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Mark Claus – Not to be a broken record, but I think we all feel the same way and condolences to John Jones' family and friends for all the reasons everyone has already said. Also, I want to congratulate Doug Steinwart, Brian and his team, the Parks & Rec Department, and all the volunteers for a really amazing Winterfest. I hear that one of the speakers at the Tree Lighting Ceremony was pretty amazing, as well. That was a really good event. It was neat to have the new tree and going forward, that will continue to grow and be a staple there. That was pretty neat. Unfortunately, we had a little rain that day, so it put a little bit of a damper on things. I want to thank, as a potential future outgoing member of the Planning Commission and Finance Committee, to thank Cory and his team, not only for your amazing award and recognition, but also the budget process and everything that goes into your preparation with all of the departments and everybody in the budgeting process, and your team. Erik, as everybody can see, he and the Planning Commission have been very busy. We had special meetings this fall over and above what we normally have, to work through these things, and we have another half a dozen things that we are continuing to work on – cleanup, etc. I appreciate all of Erik's, Christine's and Jeff's efforts in that department. That's all I have. Merry Christmas, everyone. I hope we won't be meeting again before the Christmas holiday.

Joe Dike – I would like to give my condolences to John P. Jones and his family, as well. He was a great asset to this community. I would also like to say congratulations to the Finance Committee, and also to the rest of the staff. Thank you for all of your efforts, and Happy Holidays, everyone.

Matt Grieves – Congrats to everyone in the Finance Department and Cory, that's a pretty cool award for the City. Condolences to John Jones' family. I don't know who is going to attempt to steal kids' donuts in

the Donut Shop any more. Regarding HJRD, thanks to Gordon Hahn, who has been on that board for the last few years. He has been instrumental, and welcome Ed to HJRD.

Joel Hagy – I just want to express my condolences on the passing of John Jones. I knew John for the better part of 50 years, and most recently, when he moved back to Huron. He is just a consummate activist citizen. You name a board or charity or volunteer organization from Abbey Rose to this Council, to the School Board, AGF, the 75th Anniversary – I could go on and on. Huron really lost a great volunteer. If you knew John or worked with John, you know he was an acquired taste, and that's okay, because he got things done. I also wanted to welcome Carolyn Mitchell to the Utilities Committee. I want to take some time and say thank you to Stephanie Walls, who left the committee. Oftentimes, I think the folks that serve on our committees don't get enough recognition for the time they take. I made it a point at our last Utilities Committee meeting to point out the impact that those people on that committee, those citizens it's had, and going through a list of things that we have accomplished based on their recommendation. Thank you, Stephanie Walls. Finally, congratulations to Cory, Mr. No Mistakes. From now on, it's not Mr. October, it's Mr. No Mistakes. That's all I have.

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 December 12, 2023 was adjourned at 8:34pm.

Adopted: _____

13 FEB 2024


Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council

****OATH OF OFFICE****


"I SOLEMNLY SWEAR (OR AFFIRM) THAT I WILL SUPPORT THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE STATE OF OHIO AND WILL OBEY THE LAWS THEREOF, AND THAT I WILL, IN ALL RESPECTS, UPHOLD AND ENFORCE THE PROVISIONS OF THE CHARTER AND ORDINANCES OF THIS CITY AND WILL FAITHFULLY DISCHARGE THE DUTIES OF MAYOR FOR THE CITY OF HURON UPON WHICH I AM ABOUT TO ENTER."



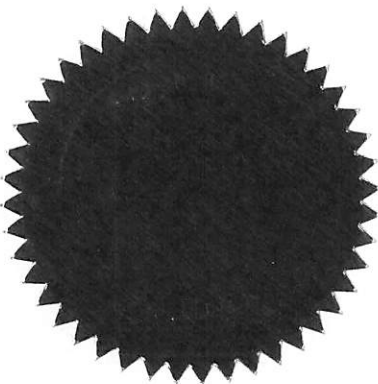
MONTY TAPP, MAYOR

BY THE AFFIXING OF MY SIGNATURE, I DO HEREBY SWEAR THAT THE COMMISSION ISSUED TO THE MAYOR IS GIVEN IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF THE CITY OF HURON AND ITS MUNICIPAL CHARTER, SECTION 12.01, AND THAT THE INDIVIDUAL HAS PERSONALLY APPEARED BEFORE ME AND AFFIXED HIS SIGNATURE TO THIS OATH IN MY PRESENCE.

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME THIS 7 DAY OF DECEMBER, 2023.



TODD A. SCHRADER
LAW DIRECTOR



****OATH OF OFFICE****

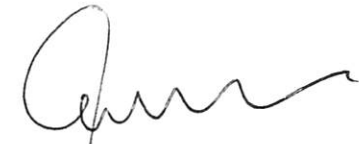
"I SOLEMNLY SWEAR (OR AFFIRM) THAT I WILL SUPPORT THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE STATE OF OHIO AND WILL OBEY THE LAWS THEREOF, AND THAT I WILL, IN ALL RESPECTS, UPHOLD AND ENFORCE THE PROVISIONS OF THE CHARTER AND ORDINANCES OF THIS CITY AND WILL FAITHFULLY DISCHARGE THE DUTIES OF COUNCILMEMBER FOR THE CITY OF HURON UPON WHICH I AM ABOUT TO ENTER."



MONTY TAPP, MAYOR

BY THE AFFIXING OF MY SIGNATURE, I DO HEREBY SWEAR THAT THE COMMISSION ISSUED TO THE MAYOR IS GIVEN IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF THE CITY OF HURON AND ITS MUNICIPAL CHARTER, SECTION 12.01, AND THAT THE INDIVIDUAL HAS PERSONALLY APPEARED BEFORE ME AND AFFIXED HIS SIGNATURE TO THIS OATH IN MY PRESENCE.

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME THIS 7 DAY OF DECEMBER, 2023.



TODD A. SCHRADER
LAW DIRECTOR

