

**THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO**  
**Proceedings of the Huron City Council**  
**Regular Meeting Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at 6:30pm**

**Public Hearing**

Public Hearing on the Application of David Richard Brod, et al to place real property (Erie County, Ohio PPN's 42-01878.000 and 42-00517.000) in an Agricultural District.

**Call to Order**

The Mayor called the Public Hearing to order at 6:30pm. The Mayor called for a moment of silence. After the moment of silence, the Mayor led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Roll Call**

The Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll for the Public Hearing. The following members of Council answered present: **William Biddlecombe, Sam Artino, Mark Claus, Monty Tapp, Joe Dike and Joel Hagy.** Member absent: **Matt Grieves.**

**Motion by Mr. Artino to excuse Mr. Grieves' absence from the public hearing.**

Mayor Tapp directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS:           Artino, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Hagy, Biddlecombe (6)**  
**NAYS:           None (0)**

With more than a majority in favor, the motion passed and Mr. Grieves' absence was excused.

**Swear in Witnesses**

Assistant Law Director Gary Ebert swore in witnesses for the Public Hearing, including all members of Council Clerk of Council, Terri Welkener.

**Witness Testimony**

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

Ms. Welkener testified that she received Mr. Brod's application via mail according to statute – he had already sent a copy to the Auditor. She said that she believed this was for a tax incentive. Mr. Brod corrected Ms. Welkener by saying this is for liability protection purposes. Ms. Welkener advised Council that she properly placed notice of the public hearing in the newspaper more than 7 days prior to the date of the hearing, as well as serving Mr. Brod with notice of the hearing via certified mail. If Council is in support of the application, there is legislation later in the agenda of the regular meeting to approve the application. There is no financial impact relating to this application. The City has approved many of these applications in the past, although it has been several years since they have done so. Mr. Brod has already qualified his property as CAUV, but is now asking that his property be placed in an agricultural zone. The City of Huron does not have an agricultural zone, so this would result in his property being placed in an agricultural zone for the purposes of the Auditor only, so that he can avail himself of the liability protections afforded to property in an agricultural zone. This will not create an agricultural zone in the City, it is strictly for the Auditor's use. Even if Council did not pass legislation following the public hearing, the application would still be approved unless denied at this year. Passing the legislation will just make things a little quicker for Mr. Brod.

**Motion**

**Motion by Mr. Claus to approve the Application of David Richard Bod, et al to place farmland identified as Erie County, Ohio PPN's 42-01878.000 and 42-00517.000 in an Agricultural District.**

Mayor Tapp directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS: Claus, Tapp, Dike, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino (6)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being more than a majority in favor of the motion, the Application was approved.

**Adjournment of Public Hearing**

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

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

**YEAS: Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Hagy (6)**  
**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 6:36pm in Council Chambers.

**Roll Call**

The Mayor directed the clerk to call the roll for the regular meeting of Council. The following members of Council answered present: **William Biddlecombe, Sam Artino, Mark Claus, Monty Tapp, Joe Dike and Joel Hagy**. Member absent: **Matt Grieves**.

**Motion by Mr. Artino to excuse Mr. Grieves' absence from tonight's meeting.**

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

**YEAS: Artino, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Hagy, Biddlecombe (6)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being more than a majority in favor of the motion, Mr. Grieves' absence was excused.

Staff in attendance: City Manager Matt Lasko, Assistant Law Director Gary Ebert, Service Director Stuart Hamilton, Police Chief Terry Graham, Finance Director Cory Swaisgood and Terri Welkener, Clerk of Council.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Motion by Mr. Dike to approve the minutes of the regular Council meetings of December 13, 2022, January 10, 2023 and January 24, 2023, as written.**

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

**YEAS: Dike, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp (6)**

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being more than a majority in favor of the motion, the minutes of the regular Council meetings of December 13, 2022, January 10, 2023 and January 24, 2023 were adopted.

**Audience Comments**

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

**Jason Gibboney, 920 Bogart Road, Huron, OH**

I am not addressing so much as a citizen, as I am a past employee. I wanted to start by thanking the Council, both past and present, for their support and faith in the Water Department, and me as an individual. For the past 19 years, since 2004, I have served in every position in the plant, gradually obtaining the necessary licensure to step into the lead role as the Water Superintendent. For over a decade, I have had that honor to lead the Water Department. I can say with an honest heart that I am leaving in much better condition that it was received. You have a dedicated staff of amazing individuals at the plant and distribution. They are on shift 24/7/365 ensuring that the water we enjoy continues to run uninterrupted day after day. Also, I want to thank administrators, both past and present, for having faith in me, challenging me, and providing guidance along the way. I will tell this Council, though, what you have here, in this current administration with Mr. Lasko, Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Swaisgood, is something special. You have to try your best as a Council to keep this team in place. I have no doubt you will succeed under their continued leadership and wisdom. I will end where I began, with a simple thank you. Thank you, Council, administrators and staff. 19 years went by much quicker than I would care to admit, but I am proud to say it was with Huron. Thank you.

(Applause).

Mayor Tapp said the he is sure that they will have some things to say at the end of the meeting. Thank you for everything. The comments about Mr. Lasko, Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Swaisgood – you’ve got to keep those down a little bit. He wished Mr. Gibboney the very best.

**Old Business**

**Ordinance No. 2023-1 (second reading)**

**Motion by Mr. Claus that Ordinance No. 2023-1 (AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE NAME OF WEST STREET (AKA WEST DRIVE) TO SAIL AWAY DRIVE WITHIN THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO; AND AMENDING CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 305.01, TRAFFIC CONTROL MAP, AND CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION**

**305.02, TRAFFIC CONTROL FILE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS ORDINANCE) be placed on its second reading.**

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

**YEAS: Claus, Tapp, Dike, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino (6)**

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being more than a majority in favor of the motion, Ordinance No. 2023-1 was placed on its second reading. The Assistant Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Hamilton stated that on November 27, 2022 a Street Modification Petition form was submitted to the Clerk of Council. Council held a public hearing on the matter on January 24, 2023. This is the second reading of this petition to rename West Drive (or West Street) to Sail Away Drive.

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

#### **New Business**

##### **Ordinance No. 2023-3**

**Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be suspended and Ordinance No. 2023-3 (AN ORDINANCE TO ALLOW THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO OR AUTHORIZED ENTITIES TO ALLOW DEMAND RESPONSE OF RETAIL CUSTOMERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH FERC ORDER 719 AND TAKING OTHER ACTIONS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH) 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 (6)**

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Ordinance No. 2023-3 was placed upon its first reading. The Assistant Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Hamilton explained that this is a procedural matter. PGM, who does the transmission for HPP, requires all utilities who want to offer demand response programs to register with them, and to do so, they need this legislation. What we are providing is an option for our customers to sign up for demand response provider. The basic terms are that they sign up and they contract, and it would just be their load during times of power emergencies, and they get paid for doing that service. Those agreements would be outside of HPP – this just allows them to reach out to demand response providers. There is no cost to the City on this.

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. 2023-3. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS: Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp, Dike (6)**

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Ordinance No. 2023-3 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect in accordance with Section 3.06 of the Charter of the City of Huron.

**Resolution No. 6-2023**

**Motion by Mr. Dike that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution No. 6-2023 (A RESOLUTION RATIFYING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF HURON AND THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE, OHIO LABOR COUNCIL, INC. REPRESENTING SERGEANTS) 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, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp (6)**

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 6-2023 was placed upon its first reading. The Assistant Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko said that he would be addressing Resolution Nos. 6-2023 and 7-2023 together. Resolution No. 6-2023 is related to an MOU with the Sergeants' bargaining unit, and Resolution No. 7-2023 is a nearly identical MOU, with the exception of it being with the Patrol Officers' bargaining unit. With the promotion of Sergeant to Chief, they have immediately lost and have a vacancy in a Sergeant position, which they will fill over the upcoming months. However, per the bargaining unit contracts, there are minimum manning requirements per shift. Per those contracts, the Chief is not permitted to be part of those minimum manning requirements. To not put any of the shifts in a pinch, our discussions resulted in the idea of having Chief Graham be allowed to be counted against those minimum manning requirements. The way the MOU's are written, this is not in perpetuity, but will expire at the earlier of May 1, 2023 or at such time the Sergeant's position is filled. These MOU's have been unanimously approved by both bargaining units, and they view this as a great resource to not put strain on our Patrol Officers and Sergeants. He also appreciates Chief Graham's willingness to go toward those minimum manning requirements and, in essence, be a "working Chief" for the upcoming months.

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. 6-2023. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS: Dike, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp (6)**

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Resolution No. 6-2023 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

**Resolution No. 7-2023**

**Motion by Mr. Dike that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution No. 7-2023 (A RESOLUTION RATIFYING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF HURON AND THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE, OHIO LABOR COUNCIL, INC. REPRESENTING PATROL OFFICERS 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, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp (6)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 7-2023 was placed upon its first reading. The Assistant Law Director read the Resolution by its title 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 Resolution No. 7-2023. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS: Dike, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp (6)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Resolution No. 7-2023 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

**Resolution No. 8-2023**

**Motion by Mr. Tapp that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution No. 8-2023 (A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE GRANT FUNDS FROM THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES 2023 OHIO BODY-WORN CAMERA GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF BODY-WORN CAMERAS AND EVIDENCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR THE HURON POLICE DEPARTMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF NINETY-TWO THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED TWO AND 02/100 DOLLARS (\$92,602.02)) be placed on its first reading.**

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

**YEAS: Tapp, Dike, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus (6)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 8-2023 was placed upon its first reading. The Assistant Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Chief Graham stated that this is a governmental formality that they must have in order to accept this grant award from the Ohio Department of Public Safety for \$92,602.02. This is a little bit short of the \$154,000, but he worked with Mr. Lasko and their budget, and they were able to make this happen. He spoke with

Axon today, and they can have the body-cams here in 4-6 weeks. They are giving the City 3 of them as loaners now, free of charge, so they have them to rotate between the shifts. Once they get all of the body-cams, every officer their own assigned body-cam, and they will also be ordering the new tasers at the same time, because they get a bundled package pricing on the two.

Mayor Tapp asked if Perkins, Sandusky and the Ohio State Patrol will have the same body-cams. Chief Graham confirmed that they will, but the Sheriff's Department will not.

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. 8-2023. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS: Tapp, Dike, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus (6)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Resolution No. 8-2023 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

#### **Resolution No. 9-2023**

**Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution No. 9-2023 (A RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE CITY MANAGER'S APPLICATION TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAM FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR ROADWAY DEPARTURE SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS RELATING TO THE CLEVELAND ROAD EAST SIDEWALK EXTENSION PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF SIX HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$650,000.00); AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE GRANT AWARD IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED SIX HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$650,000.00) AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, 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. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS: Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Hagy (6)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 9-2023 was placed upon its first reading. The Assistant Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Hamilton said that in September of 2022, they had authorization from Council to apply for an HSIP grant. During that application process, they guided them toward this new grant, and they had the City put in a pre-application form in the amount of \$650,000 toward the Cleveland Road East Sidewalk Extension Project. Along the way, the pre-application became an application, and as they have now been informed about that, they are now coming back to Council for ratification at this point to be allowed to apply for said grant.

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. 9-2023. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS: Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Hagy (6)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Resolution No. 9-2023 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

#### **Resolution No. 10-2023**

**Motion by Mr. Artino that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution No. 10-2023 (A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPLICATION OF DAVID RICHARD BROD, ET AL. FOR PLACEMENT OF FARMLAND IN AN AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT (O.R.C. Section 929.02), MORE FULLY DESCRIBED AS ERIE COUNTY, OHIO PERMANENT PARCEL NOS. 42-01878.000 (CONTAINING 14.440 ACRES) AND 42-00517.000 (CONTAINING 5.9431 ACRES)) 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: Artino, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Hagy, Biddlecombe (6)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 10-2023 was placed upon its first reading. The Assistant Law Director read the Resolution by its title 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 Resolution No. 10-2023. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS: Artino, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Hagy, Biddlecombe (6)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Resolution No. 10-2023 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

#### **Committee Appointment**

**Motion by Mr. Claus to appoint Tom Solberg, Jr. to the Huron Joint Recreation District for a term of 2 years expiring in December 2024.**

Mayor Tapp 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, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino (6)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being more than a majority in favor, the motion passed and Mr. Solberg was appointed to the Huron Joint Recreation District for a term of 2 years ending December 2024.

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

The City Manager spoke on several topics:

- **Warren Slag** – All of the City's due diligence has been completed, both with the survey work and the environmental. They will be delivering the new legal descriptions and survey work to Hartung Title tomorrow, and anticipates that they will be closing on that property in the next 2-3 weeks, give or take a day or 2.
- **EDA Award** – He received a letter from the Economic Development Administration, who they applied to in partnership with Erie County and the Greater Sandusky Partnership, for \$26,000 to help pay ½ of the cost for the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), for which they will be partnering with Huron County. This plan is absolutely required moving forward for any entity, county or city to apply for future EDA funding. They were awarded the grant for Sawmill Parkway during the Coronavirus pandemic when the rules were lax, but any entity will not need a fully implemented CEDS plan. They anticipate the cost for the plan to be \$52,000, with the EDA paying for ½ and Erie County and the Greater Sandusky Partnership funding the balance. They are very appreciative to get this award and the planning process started, and finish in the next couple of months.
- **Two Rivers Subdivision Residential Development** – They are in receipt of revised plats for the new PUD related to the subdivision. The project is moving forward with the first phase being the buildout of the remaining lots on Sheltered Brook. This first phase PUD is slated for the Planning Commission meeting tomorrow, February 15<sup>th</sup>. He will have more details on the exact time and date later on in his report.
- **Sawmill Parkway Reconstruction** – The city staff, OHM and Smith Paving held a project update meeting the week of February 6<sup>th</sup>. Work is expected to start picking up in the next few weeks, weather allowing. It will probably be in late February or early March. They will start off with some type of comprehensive stakeholder meeting, the date of which he doesn't believe has been set yet, to share how traffic will be controlled, particularly as they are working on the most western part of Sawmill Parkway. They do not want to back up traffic on Rye Beach Road. They anticipate that they will likely partner with a neighboring property to install a temporary access road so that they are not backing up traffic. They want to make sure every stakeholder is aware of what that temporary transportation plan is. Mr. Hamilton and OHM are working on coordinating that stakeholder meeting, hopefully in the next couple of weeks.
- **Cleveland Road East Sidewalk Extension** – One of the pieces they added is making the connection between Anchorage and Gateway within the City limits on the north side of the road. There is not enough public right-of-way for the City to just unilaterally install that portion of sidewalk, so they will need to secure access easements from 4 properties. They have had preliminary discussions with all 4 property owners, who have been very supportive – they want to see final first. As of last week, easement documents were sent to those 4 property owners for their review and hopeful sign-off, which is a necessary step for us to be able to install that portion of sidewalk.
- **Main Street Revisioning and Reconstruction** – They held a third steering committee on February 7<sup>th</sup>. At that meeting, OHM planners presented the preferred land use recommendations for the corridor, as well as preferred streetscape plans based on the nearly 899 folks that provided feedback to us, and also Council and the Planning Commission in the fall of 2022. They anticipate holding one more

steering committee meeting prior to what will be a joint Planning Commission/Council Meeting very similar to what they did in the fall. That is set to take place on April 19, 2023. At that meeting, they will look at final land use recommendations, streetscape recommendations, renderings, etc., hopefully, prior to considering the final plan adoption in May or June of this year.

- Parks and Recreation – The fish cleaning tables and grinders are set to be installed in early March. Testing will likely take place in April, as soon as the water is turned on. ODNR and State officials do want to hold a formal ribbon-cutting in late May, but they do anticipate opening up the station prior to that formal ribbon cutting based on weather and after testing is complete. They will make everyone aware of when that date is slated with State official at the Governor's office and ODNR.
- Tennis Courts – In conversations with OHM and how the design is finishing, they anticipate bidding that project in March for a mid-summer early-fall construction and construction completion.
- Berlin Road Park Planning – After soliciting multiple proposals, the City has decided to select City Architecture out of Cleveland to lead those planning efforts. They have signed an agreement with City Architecture for roughly \$8,000. They will help guide the community and stakeholder groups in reimagining that space. Deliverables per that proposal will include multiple stakeholder meetings, community survey, structural analysis of the barn, aerial renderings, multiple site renderings, and cost estimates. They hope to start kicking off that process in the next couple of weeks.
- HJRD – As mentioned during the Finance Committee meeting, the School District plans to take up the matter at their February 21<sup>st</sup> meeting to talk through potential options in which the School District will remain financially involved in the Rec District. He does not anticipate a vote at that meeting, but possibly at the March meeting. He will report to Council the results of the conversation at the February 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.
- Monthly Financial Report – The financial report for January 2023 is complete and has been sent to the Finance Committee and Council. At the end of January, the City's income tax collection is 18% higher than at this time last year. The General Fund balance is at a healthy 28% of annual expenditures. There is a link both in the mail that Mr. Swaisgood sent out, and also in the Manager's Report, for Council to be able to review the entire report.
- Personnel Updates – We have, although he's not replaceable, located someone to become the City's next Water Superintendent. We have reached agreement with a Mr. Jack Evans to become the next Water Superintendent. He is current a Senior Operator at Avon Lake – they take one of ours, we're going to take one of theirs – so we thought it was only fitting. Mr. Evans is currently a Class III, and is on track to become a Class IV, hopefully by the end of the year, but certainly no later than March of 2024. He will begin with the City on March 1<sup>st</sup>, which is a Wednesday, and they are retaining Mr. Gibboney as an independent contractor on an hourly basis in the event they need his assistance – certainly helping with the transition with EPA reporting will be helpful. His continued involvement and assistance are appreciated during the transition process. Also, congratulations are in order for Water Plan Operator Alex Hoyt, who passed his Class I Water Supply examination on February 8, 2023. He already has the required years of experience for a Class I, and as such, his license will take effect immediately after review by the Ohio EPA.
- Upcoming Meetings – Safety Committee on Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm in the main conference room; Planning Commission on Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm in Council Chambers; Records Commission Meeting on Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00am in the main conference room; and Council meeting on Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in Council Chambers.
- President's Day – Reminder to the public that the administrative offices will be closed on Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup> in observance of President's Day.

- Dine to Donate – There will be a Dine to Donate event held at Pizza House on Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup> from 4:00pm to 9:00pm in which 20% of all sales for that day will go to help support the K-9 Program. He knows the Police Department is going to be very involved – cleaning dishes, cleaning tables – that night, as well, so we are really appreciative of the effort.

Mr. Dike asked if they would be some kind of conceptual drawings for ConAgra before March as stated in the Manager's report. Mr. Lasko answered that they did receive conceptual designs in December, which went to the Planning Commission. There was some pretty significant feedback from the Planning Commission, which he thinks was helpful. Today, staff received an updated site plan based on that Planning Commission feedback. He anticipates they will be on the March 15<sup>th</sup> Planning Commission agenda for their review. He welcomes Council members to come to that meeting, and he is happy to circulate it among Council members, as well. That will be the next time that there's consideration.

Mr. Dike asked how long a PUD has until it runs out? Mr. Lasko answered that he may have to get back to him specifically on that question. He note that the initially, Two Rivers was a little unique and that there was a court case and litigation surrounding that property, and a time limit was put on that specific project to break ground and finish, which they did not do. That is why there is a requirement for there to be a new PUD – because the PUD expired. He will get the answer, but he is pretty sure that, generally, PUD's remain intact so long as the project is viable without a deadline. Really, PUD's are meant for really long-term, phased projects. Again, Two Rivers did have a time limit on it, but he doesn't think there generally are time limits. He will clarify that with Mr. Engle. As currently proposed in Phase 1, they are proposing approximately 60 single-family units, very similar to what is on Sheltered Brook currently. They do not know what Phase 2 or 3 look like at the moment, but those would be subject to additional phases of the PUD.

Mr. Dike said it would be really cool if they do have a ribbon cutting for the fish cleaning station with ODNR participating, if Mayor Tapp can do a fish cleaning demonstration against the Governor, or something.

Mayor Tapp asked that with the Sergeant's test coming up, they are still going to be down one officer, right? Mr. Lasko answered, yes, obviously, with the Sergeant promotion that is going to come from within, we will then be down a patrol officer's officer. They are going to try to do these as simultaneously as possible. He anticipates a posting for sergeant shortly, but they want to make sure they are filling in that patrol officer position pretty quickly after the sergeant position is filled.

### **Mayor's Discussion**

Mayor Tapp said, Jason, I want to thank you for all of your hard work. I know what the water plant used to look like – it was actually scary. You going to be very hard to replace; Mr. Evans is going to fill some big shoes. I wish you the very best in your future endeavors at Avon. I'm not sure how this switch thing worked out, I thought it was something you should know about, but anyway... Thank you for all your hard work. Thank you for seeing this project through, and you're not leaving town, so let's see you around and I'm sure if we've got questions we're going to call. Thank you for everything.

I want to know how the last 2 weeks have been going for Chief Graham. Chief Graham answered that it's been great. The Mayor continued, I want to thank the Finance Committee and Mr. Swaisgood for keeping us updated on everything, it was a lot of numbers, but he thinks the City's doing great and going in the

right direction. Again, thank you to the staff for everything – Stu, Mr. Lasko, Mr. Ebert. And that is all I have.

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

**William Biddlecombe** – I would like to thank all the staff for their hard work and just kind of echo everyone else – thank you, Mr. Gibboney. You have done so much for the City. I really appreciate that. The tour that I had when I was getting on Council was probably one of the highlights, so far, during the time I've been here, so I really appreciate it. And congratulations to Mr. Hoyt on passing his exam. Like Mr. Lasko alluded to, the next meeting of the School Board is February 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00pm at the Board office. After that, their meetings are going to go to Mondays. Home games coming up – there isn't any scheduled currently, but the girls' basketball tournament begins at Buckeye Central High School on Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm, and the boys' basketball tournament play begins at Orville High School on Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00pm. Please come out and support our student athletes, and Go Tigers!

**Sam Artino** – I would like to also congratulate Mr. Alex Hoyt and I would like to, once again, thank Jason for his years of service to the City, to our community. I had a chance to see the water plant 2 years ago, and it did come a long way. I will also say that that's a really great crew that's there, and I think they will miss your leadership, but I'm sure they'll be able to get by because they are a good bunch of people. Thank you.

**Mark Claus** – Also, Jason, congratulations and good luck. Your passion for the department and the plant and the facilities was evident. I took a tour right after getting on Council, and that was very interesting and we learned a lot and that passion came through the whole time I've been on. You've spent a lot of time in here, in Chambers, this year with all of the projects going on, and the rate increase project, so we really appreciate that and Avon Lakes' gain is our loss. Good luck.

**Joe Dike** – Congratulations (to Mr. Gibboney), I wish you nothing but the best. And thank you, everyone, for everything. That's all I have.

**Joel Hagy** – Jason, congratulations and best of luck. I don't know what the confusion, it's just the standard post-season trade, right? Also, congratulations to Mr. Hoyt on passing his exam. Like I said a couple weeks ago, I told the Chief, the most important job as a leader is to train the folks that are coming up behind you, so congratulations to you on that, as well. That's it.

### **Executive Session**

Mayor Artino said at this time they are going to move into executive session.

**Motion by Mr. Claus to go into executive session to confer with legal counsel regarding pending litigation, and to invite Mr. Lasko and Mr. Ebert.**

Mayor Tapp directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS:** Claus, Tapp, Dike, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino (6)  
**NAYS:** None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor of the motion, Council moved into executive session at 7:11pm.

**Return to Regular Session**

Council returned to regular session at 7:26pm.

**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, Hagy (6)**

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being a majority in favor of the motion, the regular Council meeting of February 14, 2023 was adjourned at 7:26pm.

Adopted: 114 MAR 2023

  
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Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council