

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

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

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

Motion by Mr. Claus to excuse Mr. Grieves' absence from the meeting. The Mayor asked if there were any questions on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

NAYS: None (0)

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

Staff in attendance: City Manager Matt Lasko, Law Director Todd Schrader, Assistant Law Director Gary Ebert, Service Director Stuart Hamilton, Parks and Recreation Operations Manager Doug Steinwart, Water Superintendent Jack Evans, Planning Director Erik Engle, 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 February 14, 2023 and February 28, 2023.

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 February 14, 2023 and February 28, 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.

Charlie Ross – 505 Greenfield. I wanted to really quickly talk about rail derailments – that's the hot topic right now. My real concern is our proximity to Lake Erie, is that I think it would be prudent that we show that we're proactive, that if there was a situation that we're prepared or if we have to rely on someone else we don't have in-house services to handle something like that. But our proximity to Lake Erie is really

concerning that it would be really simple to have something catastrophic happen. That's all, I just think it would be important. I saw the other day Willard even had something in the paper, but we're right here, so I think it's important.

Mayor Tapp said that was a very good point and thanked Mr. Ross and indicated that Captain Nash is also in attendance from the Fire Department, so they can process and go from there.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Resolution No. 18-2023

Motion by Mr. Tapp that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution No. 18-2023 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER, ON BEHALF OF THE HURON POLICE DEPARTMENT, TO ENTER INTO A THREE (3)-YEAR AGREEMENT WITH STATEWIDE EMERGENCY PRODUCTS, LLC DBA STATEWIDE MUNICIPAL LEASING FOR THE LEASE-PURCHASE OF TWO (2) POLICE CRUISERS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEEN THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED EIGHTY-TWO AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$118,682.00) be placed on its first reading.

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

YEAS: Tapp, Dike, 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 18-2023 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Chief Graham stated that this resolution is for the purchase of two new cruisers, which would be Ford Explorer SUV cruisers, and will replace high mileage and high maintenance Dodge Chargers. This is a lease-purchase, and it keeps in line with their program to try to get two new cruisers each year. We have 14 in the fleet, so every 7 years a vehicle will be replaced (as a guideline, depending on mileage and maintenance, and of course, any possible damage).

Mr. Tapp asked if the purchase of two cruisers is budgeted for this year. Mr. Lasko answered that, as the Chief mentioned, they always budget for two cruisers so that every seven years the fleet is turned over. One of the things discussed, though, is there may be a year where mileage is low and the vehicles are running well, so they may only purchase one vehicle or purchase zero, but one of things they want to be sure to do is always budget for two as a worst-case scenario. They will be very cognizant of that moving forward of whether they actually decide to make the purchase annually. These are 3-year leases to purchase for right around \$40,000 per 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. 18-2023. 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. 18-2023 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 19-2023

Motion by Mr. Dike that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution No. 19-2023 (AN ANNUAL RESOLUTION EXPRESSING COUNCIL'S INTENT TO SELL PERSONAL PROPERTY DEEMED TO BE NO LONGER NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE OR FOUND OBSOLETE OR UNFIT FOR THE USE FOR WHICH IT WAS ACQUIRED BY INTERNET AUCTION UTILIZING GOVDEALS, INC.) 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 19-2023 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko explained that this resolution does not relate to the sale of piece of property; this is just seeking authorization for our annual renewal with GovDeals so that we can use that auction provider for anything the City may wish to sell through internet auction. There is no direct cost to renew this agreement, and any fees associated with the sale of property is deducted from the proceeds of the sale. This is just a renewal and is not authorizing the sale of any specific piece of property.

The Mayor asked if this is for all departments. Mr. Lasko answered that was correct, and added that for what it's worth, this does not exclusively restrict the City to use this provider, it just allows the City to use this provider if and when they want to do so.

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. 19-2023. 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. 19-2023 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 20-2023

Motion by Mr. Artino that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution No. 20-2023 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH BREATHING AIR SYSTEMS FOR THE PURCHASE OF A BAUER OPEN VERTICAL COMPRESSOR/PURIFIER AND CASCADE

SYSTEM FOR THE HURON FIRE DEPARTMENT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FIFTY-SEVEN THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED FORTY AND 00/100 (\$57,940.00) be placed on its first reading.

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

YEAS: 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 20-2023 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Captain Nash stated that this is an air compressor that for many years they tried to get an Assistance to Firefighters Grant for. Unfortunately, they fell short on that several years in a row, although they were awarded their SCBA grant. They thought they would get the compressor, but since they have been having so much trouble trying to get this, they put it in the budget and accounted for it. The existing compressor is 30 years old that is well past its prime. They have switched on it and have done a lot of maintenance on it to try to upgrade as much as possible, but it's just not getting them where they need to be any more.

Mr. Lasko added that he would like to correct the record. At the last meeting when they applied for the grant funding for the bunker gear, he mentioned that the compressor wasn't included in that grant request because it was grant-funded. He wanted to make it clear that they didn't apply for grant funding because they were unsuccessful so many years, and they decided to just put it in the budget, so he wanted to correct that for the record.

Mr. Nash said they flopped and went with the personal protective gear for the grant this year, instead of the air compressor.

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. 20-2023. 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. 20-2023 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Motion

Motion by Mr. Hagy to allow the City Manager and/or the Service Director to negotiate and enter into an electric aggregation agreement at a rate not to exceed \$0.07 per KWH.

Mr. Hamilton explained that, as Council know, they used to aggregate electric for the residents. That expired in October of last year. At that time, prices for electric were so high that they didn't want to enter into a long-term agreement. FirstEnergy just bought their power for 2023 through 2024 at auction, and they bought at \$0.10/kWh, which is extremely high. That is forcing us to go back into the aggregation

program. They think they can get the price down below \$0.07/kWh, which will be a savings for our residents, so if they can negotiate below that, they would like to be able to grab it and sign. It would be for a 1-year deal and then we will see where the prices are after that.

Mr. Artino asked if the residents will be notified and will have to reapply. Mr. Hamilton answered that they don't have to reapply – they will be notified, but the program is "opt-out." Any time you do an aggregation, it is always an opt-out. They actually have to do something to not be in the program. Mr. Claus they will automatically be in the program. Mr. Schrader added that during legislative review they discussed that this gives staff the ability to be nimble, but once they do lock something in, they will be back to ratify an agreement.

The Mayor asked if there were any additional 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 more than a majority in favor, the motion passed.

Resolution No. 21-2023

Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution No. 21-2023 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A FY24 MARCY KAPTUR – ENERGY & WATER COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST IN THE AMOUNT OF TWO MILLION AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$2,000,000.00) RELATING TO THE HURON RIVER ALTERNATE RAW WATER INTAKE & SLUDGE LAGOON SEWER PROJECT; AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE FUNDING AWARD IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED TWO MILLION AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$2,000,000.00) AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE MARCY KAPTUR – ENERGY & WATER COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING PROGRAM, 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: 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 Resolution 21-2023 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Hamilton explained that Congresswoman Kaptur opened up a grant application process yesterday which will actually close on Friday of this week; it is a very short window. There is a maximum grant application amount of \$2 Million, and they would like to submit their secondary intake project with Mr. Evans to try to fund a part of that project. Mr. Hagy said the legislation also mentions the sludge lagoon, which is over by the water plant – is this two separate projects that we are trying to get covered. Mr. Hamilton said that is correct. They were two separate projects to start off with, and the past to the secondary intake will take them through the sludge lagoon, so they combined both projects so they could

achieve the cost savings of not digging twice. Mr. Hagy said he just wanted to make sure they weren't putting the sludge lagoon over by the boat basin. (laughter)

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. 21-2023. 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, Resolution No. 21-2023 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 22-2023

Motion by Mr. Tapp that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution No. 22-2023 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH AXON ENTERPRISE, INC. FOR THE PURCHASE OF BODY WORN CAMERAS, EVIDENCE.COM SOFTWARE, AND RELATED EQUIPMENT FOR THE HURON POLICE DEPARTMENT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED ONE HUNDRED SEVEN THOUSAND FIVE AND 30/100 DOLLARS (\$107,005.30)) 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 22-2023 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Chief Graham explained that his resolution relates to the body-work camera program, which initially involved a cost of \$154,000. Through some negotiation, he was able to reduce that amount to \$107,000. The award amount was \$92,000. Initially, there was a \$60,000 gap that they were going to have to be fulfilled over 5 years, and that gap is now \$15,000 over 5 years.

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. 22-2023. 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. 22-2023 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 23-2023

Motion by Mr. Tapp that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution No. 23-2023 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH AXON ENTERPRISE,

INC. FOR THE PURCHASE OF SEVENTEEN (17) TASER 7 CERTIFICATION BUNDLES FOR THE HURON POLICE DEPARTMENT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED SIXTY-SIX THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY-TWO AND 40/100 DOLLARS (\$66,422.40)) 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 23-2023 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Chief Graham stated that this resolution is for the new tasers that are Bluetooth interfaced with their body-worn cameras. When they initially got the quote for the tasers last year, the budget for this in June 2022 was \$60,000, but that price has now increased to \$70,000. He was able to negotiate with them and get the \$7,000 decreased to \$6,600 over 5 years. Mayor Tapp commented that Axon went down on the cameras and bumped us up on the tasers. Chief Graham said the City still made out in the long run.

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. 23-2023. 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. 23-2023 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 24-2023

Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution No. 24-2023 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH RAYMOND E. ENDERLE FOR THE REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT PERMANENT PARCEL NUMBERS 42-01718.000, 42-01722.000 and 42-01721.000 AS REFLECTED IN THE RECORDS OF THE ERIE COUNTY, OHIO AUDITOR) 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 (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 24-2023 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Hamilton explained that as the City closed on the purchase of this property, staff reached out to Mr. Enderle, who has farmed the properties for many years, to see if he wanted to continue to farm the properties while they figured out what they are going to do with them. He was more than excited to do so. He already farms some of the City's land out by Woodlands School. This lease will take us through the end of the year. He usually pays at the end of the year after he has pulled his crops out, and then he will be on an automatic renewal year after year, as long as they both agree to carry on the lease. The lease amount will be for \$5,000/year. Mr. Hagy asked what he used to pay to Warren Slag. Mr. Hamilton said Mr. Enderle was vague on that point. Mr. Lasko said that there is no formal lease signed between Warren Slag and Mr. Enderle, so that was nothing the City could have collected during due diligence. They do understand that Mr. Enderle is paying \$172/acre for the Woodlands property. This is a little bit less than that per acre; their assumption is that as the acreage goes up, then the per acre cost should probably go down a little bit, so they gave him a little bit of a discount versus what he pays per acre at Woodlands. They did not have that information as there was not a written document. Mayor Tapp added that since this is a year-to-year lease and that we can at any time say it is over, and also he recently installed tile... Mr. Lasko said, to be candid, this is not economically driven; this is to make the City whole for any maintenance costs or operating costs they have, which are nominal, while they are in the designing process of what goes on the site is really the most important thing, and to have someone that's a good steward of the property in the interim would make sense for both parties.

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. 24-2023. 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. 24-2023 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

City Manager's Discussion

The City Manager spoke on several topics:

- Jack Evans Introduction – Mr. Lasko introduced Jack Evans, the new Water Superintendent, who they are pleased to have with them at his first Council meeting. If you haven't had a chance to meet him, hopefully after the meeting or sometime over the next couple days or weeks, certainly he comes very well credentialed. They were certainly sad to lose Mr. Gibboney, but getting someone of Mr. Evans' qualifications and background was really critical and important for us, and they are very fortunate to have him with the City. Welcome to Mr. Evans.
- Warren Slag Property – As of March 10th, the City closed on the purchase of the Warren Slag parcels. Those three parcels total about 40 acres. The plan now is to start thinking about the next steps for that property, which includes thinking about design for whatever public infrastructure may go on that site, and how a service complex may fit into that site. They will be starting the conceptual design process over the next couple of months.
- Huron Public Power Infrastructure – They had an RFP for the purchase of a third transformer. This is primarily to ensure that they have redundancy on the system, but would also allow them to attract additional customers. They only received a single respondent, which is not atypical for

something that is so specific. Mr. Hamilton and our consultant are asking for some clarification on some technical details of the RFP/RFQ, and if that is answered satisfactorily, they anticipate bringing back a purchase contract for Council consideration for the purchase of that transformer. It won't cover the labor, but given the lead times on transformers, they wanted to get that purchase done sooner rather than later. They are close to bidding out the first expansion project for Huron Public Power. This will allow HPP to extend northward along Rye Beach and go under the railroad tracks, which they have already secured the permit for with Norfolk Southern, and that should get them to the entrance of Sawmill Parkway. By doing so, they hope to pick up additional customers on a case-by-case basis, should property owners be interested in changing their power provider to HPP.

- Republic Trash Contract – The Republic contract expired on June 30, 2022. They did exercise a 1-year contract extension, which will take them through the end of June 2023. They attempted to negotiate the current contract to manage costs, but are not able to come to an agreement, and there are some questions as to whether they can actually negotiate that contract without going to a new RFP. To be safe, they are going to issue the new RFP, and Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Swaisgood are putting the finishing touches on that. They are going to have several tiers and options, and they are going to bid out what they have now, but then also other options as relates to services levels so they can take a wholistic approach to what those costs will be looking into the next contract. They hope to start that process in the next couple of weeks and bring some of agreement to Council before the end of June.
- USACE Pier Improvements/Dredging – As a follow-up to an email sent to Council last week, the City received notification from the US Army Corps of Engineers that they were recently approved to undertake \$11.5 Million worth of work in and around the Huron River and West Pier. \$1.5 Million is dedicated to dredging and \$10 Million to west pier maintenance. They are reaching out to the Army Corps of Engineers to get a detailed scope of work – he knows Mr. Steinwart has reached out, but they do not have that detailed scope of work as of yet. As soon as they do, he will make sure that the public and Council are notified of exactly what that scope of work is. This is truly one of the largest awards to any port along the Great Lakes, so we are very grateful of US Representative Marcy Kaptur, who was instrumental in securing that funding for the City.
- Parks and Recreation – They are hoping to bid the tennis court reconstruction project in late April. They are looking to bid the project in two ways: Option 1 would include 5 tennis courts with 5 striped pickleball courts, with mobile net systems; and Option 2 would include 3 tennis courts with 6 permanent pickleball courts. During the bidding process, they also anticipate releasing a community survey to determine which types of sport is most desired, and most likely to activate Fabens Park, as well. They hope to present the results of this survey, along with the results of the bid, to Council during a work session so that they can make a final decision to get the work completed on schedule in the summer and early fall.
- February Financial Report – Mr. Swaisgood sent out a link last week to the February financial report; that link can also be found in the Manager's Report.
- Water Rate Agreement Sewer Shutoff Agreement – They have received final comments from Erie County on the potential agreement for realizing the City's assistance for sewer shutoffs, which are currently being reviewed. If approved, this will be combined with this water rate increase. With regard to that agreement, the City has received final comments back from Erie County, and they are now waiting for Erie County to legislate a vote on that agreement.
- Secondary Water Intake – They received two responses back to the RFQ for the design services relating to this project and are reviewing those qualifications. They hope to begin negotiations

with the chosen firm in the upcoming weeks. With the water rate increase, one of the things they committed to is aggressively seeking funding and on a three-year basis, always reviewing our water rates to determine whether they are in line and can possibly be reduced based on federal and state funding we may receive. We are fortunate to be able to apply for those funds.

- School Resource Officer – Next week, the School Board will be considering renewal of the School Resource Officer Agreement, which is set to expire this summer. Under the agreement, the City, Schools and Township each pay for 1/3 of the wages and benefits of the school resource office. They will follow up after their Monday meeting next week (March 20th) with, hopefully, news of renewal for that agreement.
- Agreements Section in Manager's Report – In the future, the Manager's Report will include anything that the City Manager or administration would have executed, whether that's a license agreement, easement, etc. This is in relation to some of the legislation Council approved in the fall, which provides the City Manager and the administration to enter into agreement that are non-monetarily driven. He wanted to mention in this report that they executed a Temporary Easement Agreement with Bradley Francis, who owns property at the western end of Sawmill Parkway. Having this temporary easement will help avoid backups on Rye Beach Road while they are installing and constructing Sawmill Parkway. Smith Paving will actually be constructing a temporary roadway across this property for when they have the western portion of Sawmill Parkway closed. The City is very fortunate that the property owner wanted to participate and cooperate in allowing for this temporary access.
- Upcoming Meetings – There is a Planning Commission meeting tomorrow, March 15th at 5:00pm in Council Chambers – he would encourage, minimally, all Council members that can attend to do so, as there will be a second presentation on the conceptual plan for ConAgra, and he thinks there will be good conversation and feedback; BZA is on Monday, March 20th at 5:30pm in Council Chambers; the second City Council meeting for the month will be on Tuesday, March 28th at 6:30pm in Council Chambers; and there will be a Records Commission meeting on Thursday, March 30th at 9:00am in the conference room.

Mr. Dike was wondering if he could get an overview regarding Mr. Moss' question – just some of the general things we have in place in case something like that were to happen. He can remember when there was a train derailment right in front of the Shell gas station with a bunch of corn – he thinks he was in high school. If there was a toxic chemical or something, he doesn't know what comes through here, just a brief overview. He wanted to know if they could share some commentary and put it out there. Mr. Hagy added, how do you keep anything out of the water? Are there ways to keep it out of the water. Captain Nash answered that it depends where the spill is, but they are already looking into contacting Norfolk Southern for trainings. His Lieutenant is the training captain, and he has already identified the program. We are trying to contact them, as they have simulators that can come into areas. They are pretty busy right now, for obvious reasons, and are answering a lot of questions from a lot of different people. They do have their own training bureau, and our fire department has been trying to get a hold of them. They are trying to be proactive

Our fire department has had fuel spills near the river, and depending on where the incident were to occur, it is going to be pretty hard to contain. They have dive team and stuff to throw in the water. They can do the best we can with what we have and our EMA has as far as HazMat equipment. They have contacts as far as cleanup, but it's going to be mass quantities that they are going to need. Mayor Tapp added that there is a HazMat trailer. Captain Nash said that Lieutenant Soisson is in charge of a team in handling the

trailer sitting out at Station 2 in the Township. That is where the trailer will be housed for the summer. They are trying to find a great location for it for easy access for the entire county.

Mr. Biddlecombe asked if one of the vehicles will eventually be outfitted for the K-9 unit, or is that something for the future. Chief Graham explained that when these cruiser were initially ordered, they were ordered before he came into office, and did not include rear air conditioning. It is very important that we have rear air conditioning for the K-9 unit. He has already talked with Mr. Lasko about this, and for 2024, they are ordering two vehicles that will have rear air conditioning, and one of those will be outfitted for the K-9 unit. He has spoke with other K-9 officers, and they can hook up hoses and do stuff to get it back there, but he doesn't think that's the best practice. This is a humungous investment, and he wants that dog taken care of, and he thinks rear air conditioning is very important. The K-9 will not be purchased until 2024. Mayor Tapp asked if that is when the K-9 unit will go into service. Chief Graham said they have both a new hire and promotional process going on right now, and people are letting both processes work out. Once those are done, they will identify a K-9 handler, and then they will have to get into a purchase process of a dog, they will have to get a vehicle, and then the dog, the vehicle and the handler will have to go to training together. They are probably looking at 2024 before the K-9 unit is ready for patrol. Mayor Tapp said he was concerned that they would need the rear air conditioned vehicle before they obtained the dog. Chief Graham said that they are not going to have the dog before they get the car.

Mr. Claus asked for clarification on the tennis courts/pickleball striping – he thinks Mr. Lasko said 5 pickleball courts on Option 1, but does he mean 4 courts on the 2-court system? Mr. Lasko agreed that it would be 4 striped pickleball courts with mobile nets.

Mayor's Discussion

Mayor Tapp said, I do want to welcome Jack Evans and thank you for joining us and we are proud to have you here. It's kind of funny how that all worked out, we kind of just switched. I hope everything's working out for you, and it's a great place learn and you've got a great staff over there. We are looking forward to great things. I wanted to bring it up, and he knows with this Army Corps of Engineers thing trying to get information it is probably difficult. There is no timeframe, you don't have any of that yet? Mr. Steinwart said that emails back and forth are indicating for the 2024 project they are engineering right now, and they will keep us up to speed as things happen. Mayor Tapp said he knows it's a good project, it's just that with \$10 Million he's trying to comprehend what they are going to do on the pier, especially when, I think, you are only supposed to walk out so far, as far as the Army Corps of Engineers is concerned. Mr. Steinwart said we have at least the Block House, so they will keep us updated. Mayor Tapp said that's all we can ask for – I know it's going to be touch. Other than that, he keeps wanting to say things are slowing down, but just don't slow down. We've got a lot of projects going on – we've got a lot of grants that we are applying for and hopefully those come through and are a big help to everything in the community. The staff is doing a great job. Other than that, I have nothing else. There will be two executive sessions.

For the Good of the Order

William Biddlecombe – As always, I would like to thank staff and I would like to welcome Mr. Evans, as well. At the School Board meeting, as Mr. Lasko said, it is on March 20th at 6:00pm at the Board office – I will be sure to report back after that. I would like to congratulate the Huron Indoor Girls Track Team 4x8 squad, Jaden Towns, Lucy Watson, Allie Blevins and Kennedy Schlessman. They broke a school record and placed third at the Indoor State Track Championship. A second congratulations to Kenneth Schlessman on

also beating a different school record and placing seventh in the 1600m at the same track meet. Varsity home games coming up: Boys Baseball on March 20th, 25th, 27th, April 5th, 8th and 10th; Girls Softball on March 25th, 27th, 29th and April 10th; and Track on March 28th and April 4th; Boys Tennis on April 6th. Please come out and support all of our student athletes and Go Tigers!

Sam Artino – Welcome, Jack. I might be a little biased, but I think your plant has a great group of people to work with.

Mark Claus – I would just like to welcome Jack Evans. We are glad to have you on board, and good luck. If you need anything from us, let us know. That's all I have.

Joel Hagy – Nothing.

Joe Dike – Nothing.

Executive Session

Motion by Mr. Claus to move into executive session to confer with legal counsel regarding pending litigation, and to consider the purchase of property for public purposes, and to invite Mr. Schrader, Mr. Ebert, Dan Downing (via Microsoft Teams) and Mr. Lasko.

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 five or more votes in favor of the motion, Council moved into executive session at 7:13pm.

Return to Regular Session

Council returned to regular session at 8:04pm.

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 March 14, 2023 was adjourned at 8:04pm.

Adopted: 11 APR 2023


Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council