

THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO
Proceedings of the Huron City Council
Regular Meeting Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 6:30pm

Livestream Meeting

Mayor Tapp advised that the regular videographer was on vacation, and that while the meeting would still be livestreamed, there would only be one fixed camera.

Public Hearing

Mayor Tapp announced that the public hearing in reference to Two Rivers Phase I Planned Unit Development has been cancelled and the developer has requested the hearing be rescheduled.

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, Matt Grieves, Joel Hagy**. Member absent: **Joe Dike**.

Motion by Mr. Claus to excuse Joe Dike's 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, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being more than a majority in favor of the motion, Mr. Dike's absence from the meeting was excused.

Staff in attendance: City Manager Matt Lasko, 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. Artino approving the minutes of the March 14, 2023 regular Council meeting, as written.

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, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being more than a majority in favor of the motion, the motion passed and the minutes of the March 14, 2023 meeting were approved.

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.

Donna Green – 540 Adams Ave., Huron, OH. I actually have a homework assignment tonight from my 80-something-year-old neighbor. I met him while he was out rolling his Rollator down the sidewalk to talk about the tree situation on Adams Avenue, and also in Oklahoma. I hope most of you know that we had a huge limb come down last Saturday and literally, my brother and I had walked under it 20 minutes earlier – just 20 minutes. This time, it was only an inconvenience for about 400+ houses for a day, but it's getting really scary. Next time, a tree may fall on a house and kill someone in their bedroom, a child out playing, whatever, and I know that you guys have made some effort to maybe get an arborist to go through and "X" the trees that were old. My sister and I have lived in Oklahoma off and on since we were kids, and one of the most beautiful things about Adams Avenue was always those mature trees that were, at that point when we were kids, about 70-80 years, and when you came down that hill and up both sides had huge trees – this beautiful canopy. I talked to someone that grew up on Wilder, and she said, "I've always wanted to live on Adams because it was just so beautiful." And now, when you come down the hill on the left side, which would be the south side, all of those trees have been removed and not one person replaced them. And it kills me how when you talk to some of the people that have had trees taken out, they're just like, "Well, I don't want to rake leaves." I'm sorry – that's not a good enough excuse. I always tell them, "You're going to be dead before that tree makes enough leaves for you to rake." It takes 20-30 years for a tree to get mature. I thought that the plan was that the trees that were identified and X'd were going to be taken out. The people had an opportunity first to do it themselves. If they didn't do it, the City was going to have some tree service take them out, put it on their property taxes over 5 years and help spread it out, and then that would help with the cost. But nothing's happened in like 1-3/4 years since they did that, and now the X's are all faded – you can hardly tell, you know, which ones were identified. So, I kind of like went on Sandusky's website and I know we used to have a Tree Commission. Is that anything that you have ever been interested in bringing out again? I would love to serve on something like that – I mean, I'm not an arborist, but I did write the gardening column for the Register for like 10 years. I know a lot about, you know, plants. The other thing, too, is that sometimes when people do take trees out, they don't come up here, they don't get the sheet that tells them what's allowed to be put in a boulevard. My neighbors put in a dogwood. A dogwood is a beautiful tree, but it's low and across the sidewalk. There's just certain things... and then we've had probably 4 or 5 people on our street put in Bradford Pears. They are a junk tree, and they are currently outlawed, like silver maples. So, we need to have someone or a commission or whatever, that can kind of be on top of this. I didn't even know if it would be possible to purchase the services – that maybe another city has an arborist. The Clerk called time at 3 minutes. Mayor Tapp said that he appreciates all of her comments, and somebody will be contacting her. They have talked about this, and as long as they get her phone number...

Cindy Defazio - 567 Adams Ave., Huron, OH. The whole Hastings family other than one lives on Adams, so we have been there forever. Mine's real quick, and I'm not really complaining – I'm just like, sort of, wondering what you guys would say about this, and maybe it might with you, Terry, I don't know. We are getting more and more, on Adams Avenue, work vehicles, we have a Browns bus now that's parked out there. Everybody is parking all this stuff on the street, and they're big vehicles, and when are trying to come down to go toward Fabens Park, you can't even see what's coming around. I mean, there's been a couple of time when I thought I was safe trying to get around a big work vehicle, and almost hit a bicyclist, you know? I'm not sure... I've lived in Huron my whole life... I know if you go to a lot of other

neighborhoods, there are no vehicles like that sitting in Chaska, Old Homestead, Beachwood – it just doesn't happen. You guys pay association dues, and stuff. Huron, and over on Adams Avenue, that's never going to happen. I mean, people over there probably wouldn't give \$10 – they really wouldn't. So, is there anything that can be done? I know in big cities where they had very, very extreme parking, you get one parking pass on the street and that's it. But we have people that have a camper, that have a car, and then they have a truck. I mean, they have three big vehicles for 2 people, you know? So everything lines along there, and when you have the Fabens people going through, going like 40 mph, you know, they don't know that they need to stay over to the side. They'll come racing around, you are trying to get around this way, and I know something's going to happen, I just know that it will. I really don't like the Browns bus, I really don't like the Hartland's Furnace stuff out there, and it's like, is there any way that that can be... that anybody knows, Gary? Can anything happen with this that's legal that isn't going to cause an issue, or what. Mayor Tapp said that they will talk with the Chief. Ms. Defazio continued: Terry, I thought maybe... but we're concerned about that, and of course, we're concerned about the, you know, speeding and stuff on Adams Avenue. Now that baseball's starting, everybody is, like, flying down those streets that are trying to get the kids there for baseball – they are going 50 mph. You know, we have kids on the street, and I don't want anybody to get his. Mayor Tapp said that is understandable. Ms. Defazio continued: I really wish everybody could just go down the bypass and come in, and not even use Adams, I really wish we could do that, but I don't know... It's really bad on Dawg Days, you know, I mean it's really bad when we have all these people from Kentucky and Illinois and everything, coming in. It's awful, it's just terrible. So, if you guys have any idea, that would be good. I will be so happy. Mayor Tapp said they would have the Police Chief look into it, and get with you, and we appreciate you coming in.

The clerk indicated that she has one comment that was emailed in:

Robin Garland – 218 Ohio Street, Huron, OH. The subject matter is related to the sale of Oster's Mobile Home Park, and she was requesting a community meeting, and the entire text of the email was shared with all of Council, and the entire text will also be included in the meeting minutes. A copy of the email from Robin Garland is attached hereto as Exhibit "A".

Old Business

Resolution No. 16-2022 (AMENDED)

Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be suspended and Amended Resolution No. 16-2022 (AN AMENDED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THREE (3) PROPOSALS AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH ENGINEERED PROCESS SYSTEMS, LTD FOR THE PROVISION OF ELECTRIC ENGINEERING AND PROJECT COORDINATION SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED TO THE CITY OF HURON RELATING TO THE HURON PUBLIC POWER EXPANSION PROJECT IN A COMBINED AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SIX THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED NINETY AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$126,490.00)) 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: Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp, Grieves (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Amended Resolution No. 16-2022 was placed upon its first reading. The Assistant Law Director read the Amended Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Hamilton explained that this relates to three proposals wrapped together, all of which relate to HPP's expansion. As they started working on expansion down to Sawmill Parkway, they found that the right-of-way was extremely congested with the other utilities. That is why they decided to pivot and move HPP out into an electrical easement that be gained from the property owners. This addition is in the amount of \$4,550 and relates to the change in planning for that project.

Mr. Hagy asked if this is only conduit (not copper). Mr. Hamilton answered that this is for the design portion of it, but yes, they will be taking power along with it. Mayor Tapp asked if that included the laterals, which was confirmed by Mr. Hamilton.

The Mayor asked if there were any further questions on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on final adoption of Amended Resolution No. 16-2022. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Amended Resolution No. 16-2022 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

New Business

Resolution No. 31-2023

Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution No. 31-2023 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT CONFIRMING THE JOINT ACQUISITION, OPERATION AND/OR MAINTENANCE OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND AN AGREEMENT FOR THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF SUCH FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS ESTABLISHED BY THE HURON JOINT RECREATION PROGRAM) 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, Grieves, Hagy (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 31-2023 was placed upon its first reading. The Assistant Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Swaisgood stated that that resolution authorizes the annual contributions between the City of Huron and Huron Township related to the Huron Joint Rec District. This agreement is consistent with the 2022 agreement, and the dollar amounts you see that will be a contribution from the City of Huron and Huron Township are the same as discussed during the 2023 budget.

Mr. Hagy asked if the \$444,122 consistent with years past, or is that higher or lower? Mr. Swaisgood answered that it is actually lower than in years past, because only 2 parties are contributing this year. The reduction is approximately \$45,000-\$50,000.

Mr. Biddlecombe said that he was looking through this rather large pamphlet from Parks & Rec about the 2023 events and programs, and they really have put a lot together this year. It's really good to see that the Township and the City are still partnering together to make sure the Joint Rec District keeps going.

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. 31-2023. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Resolution No. 31-2023 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 32-2023

Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution No. 32-2023 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH HURON TOWNSHIP, OHIO FOR THE ALLOCATION OF PARTIAL FUNDING OF A SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER POSITION WITHIN HURON CITY SCHOOLS FOR A PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS) 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, Grieves, Hagy (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 32-2023 was placed upon its first reading. The Assistant Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko said that he may ultimately defer to Chief Graham to make a few comments, but he did want to mention that with this agreement, they are looking at a new 3-year agreement in partnership with our two historical partners: the School District and the Township. He thinks this is something they are happy to bring to Council this evening so that the City is able to provide this additional funding for the benefit of our School District, primarily, and the broader community, generally. This is a huge resource for the Huron School District and, candidly, for a lot of school districts throughout the State and country that have similar school resource office programs. He is appreciative that the City and Council continue to consider this contribution to this program for the benefit of our students.

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. 32-2023. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Resolution No. 32-2023 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 33-2023

Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution No. 33-2023 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE HURON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR THE ALLOCATION OF PARTIAL FUNDING OF A SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER POSITION WITHIN HURON CITY SCHOOLS FOR A PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS) 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, Grievies, Hagy (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 33-2023 was placed upon its first reading. The Assistant Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Chief Graham explained that as Mr. Lasko said, this is an agreement over 3 years to continue the School Resource Office Program. This program is very valuable, our SRO provides many services in the school, in addition to safety services. He supports the program and echoes the comments made by Mr. Lasko.

Mr. Lasko said that he wanted to provide one nuance about the agreement, for the benefit of everyone, and those watching at home. They did things a little bit differently in this agreement. Historically, with the last agreement, he believes at least one, if not two, of the partners' contribution was held steady in years past. Luckily, with this agreement after conversations with both of our partners, the cost sharing is going to be 1/3, 1/3, 1/3. Therefore, inflationary costs, whether it's a wage increase contractually negotiated with our bargaining units, will be continuously split 1/3, 1/3, 1/3 versus setting a dollar amount, which would require them to come back and amend. This was a way for them to clean things up, and not have to come back to Council.

Mayor Tapp commented that he full, 100% support the SRO in our schools. Growing up, he didn't have that – then, he thought that was a good thing. Now, he thinks it's a good thing that we do have one. He wholeheartedly support this program.

Mr. Hagy asked Chief Graham – we are at day 101 of the year and 115 mass shootings into the year, right? With a couple notorious school shootings, are you looking at doing anything different, or do you feel like what we've got is the right coverage right now, from a security standpoint? Chief Graham answered that he is not going to talk about their tactics, their equipment or their response. Of course, he would like more people in the school, who wouldn't? It would be his goal to have an officer in every school., but that comes

down to a financial obligation. With regards to what they have right now, he has altered how they do business so that they can increase their patrols in and around the schools, and all day long.

Mr. Claus asked if this 3-year agreement corresponds with the bargaining unit agreement. Would the adjustments spoken of occur each year of the 3 years, or is it set for the 3 years? Mr. Lasko answered that they do not line up. Their bargaining unit contracts are through 2024. With that said, whatever is negotiated between the City and the bargaining units, will still be captured in the SRO agreement because it is a flat 1/3, 1/3, 1/3, as opposed to set dollar amounts. They don't line up, but changes will still be captured.

Mr. Artino added that it's good that we went this route – with the 3 years. He thinks that makes it a lot simpler to keep up, and we see a true commitment on the part of the 3 entities.

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. 33-2023. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Resolution No. 33-2023 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 34-2023

Motion by Mr. Artino that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution No. 34-2023 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE FUNDING AWARD FROM THE ERIE COUNTY LAND REUTILIZATION CORPORATION PURSUANT TO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AUTHORIZED BY RESOLUTION NO. 68-2022 ADOPTED ON AUGUST 9, 2022, FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES RELATED TO ASBESTOS ABATEMENT, DEMOLITION OF THE RESIDENCE STRUCTURE AND GRADING AT 624 BERLIN ROAD, HURON, OHIO IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED SIXTY-TWO THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$62,000.00)) be placed on its first reading.

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

YEAS: Artino, Claus, Tapp, Grieves, 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 34-2023 was placed upon its first reading. The Assistant Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Hamilton asked to address this resolution along with Resolution No. 35-2023, as they are connected. Resolution 62-2022 authorized the MOU between the City and the Erie County Land Bank for the \$62,000 to demolish the house structure at 624 Berlin Rd., and seeding, grading and cleaning up the site to put it back to a usable state. Resolution 34-2023 is authorizing acceptance of that grant funding.

When the City first purchased 624 Berlin Rd., they were hoping to save the barn structure. After they gutted it and did some investigation, they determined that the structure could not be saved. This legislation approves a second MOU for \$12,000 for the additional work required to demolish the barn structure.

Mr. Lasko said that it's not often when you are in the middle of a project, and you either find out you need to do more work or decide to do more work, that a funder is willing to find a means to provide additional funding. They are very fortunate to have their relationship with the Erie County Land Bank. There isn't a major need in this community, but when we have one, they have shown that they are a very helpful and willing partner. He wanted to echo, a little bit stronger, Mr. Hamilton's comments about how appreciative they are for their assistance in helping clear that site.

Mayor Tapp said that if you are not familiar with 624 Berlin Rd., the County Land Bank has taken care of clearing everything at their expense, so there have been no City funds used for that. Now they have come back and offered to clean up more, so it's a great partnership.

Mr. Lasko then asked to make a shameless plug. The City has engaged City Architecture, who is going to lead the community efforts in terms of helping determine what that site is ultimately going to be from an amenity standpoint. Because they had such a successful community survey relating to Main Street, they anticipate doing something very similar with that visioning process over the next couple months. They will get the word out when the time is right, but they want to do something very similar so that they can get folks' input, whether it's through Council meetings or directly in their homes so they can provide us that feedback. They will let people know when that survey is ready to go out.

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. 34-2023. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Resolution No. 34-2023 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 35-2023

Motion by Mr. Artino that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution No. 35-2023 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE ERIE COUNTY LAND REUTILIZATION CORPORATION AND THE CITY OF HURON RELATING TO REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES FOR DEMOLITION OF THE BARN STRUCTURE LOCATED AT 624 BERLIN ROAD, HURON, OHIO; AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE FUNDING AWARD IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED TWELVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) 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, Grieves, 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 35-2023 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. 35-2023. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

NAYS: None (0)

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Resolution No. 35-2023 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Ordinance No. 2023-9

Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be suspended and Ordinance No. 2023-9 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2022-69, ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 27, 2022, TO PROVIDE FOR SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE GENERAL FUND AND OTHER FUNDING SOURCES) be placed on its first reading.

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

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

NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Ordinance No. 2023-9 was placed upon its first reading. The Assistant Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Swaisgood stated that Ordinance 2023-9 is requesting supplemental appropriations specifically related to the demolition of the barn structure at the 624 Berlin Rd. property. Although the City will be reimbursed 100% from the Land Bank, they must budget appropriately to pay for the expense.

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

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

NAYS: None (0)

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

Motion

Motion by Mr. Claus to reschedule the public hearing on the Two Rivers Phase I – Planned Unit Development Project for Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at 6:30pm.

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, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being more than a majority in favor of the motion, the Public Hearing on the Two Rivers Phase I – Planned Unit Development Project was rescheduled for Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at 6:30pm.

City Manager's Discussion

The City Manager spoke on several topics:

- **ConAgra Development** – The developers for the ConAgra property will be back in town at Planning Commission on April 19th. This will be the review of their updates to their conceptual site plan that went in front of Planning Commission a meeting or two ago. Updates from that meeting looked at unit staggering, rear loading some units from a parking standpoint, and attempting to increase off-street parking. They have a joint Planning Commission/City Council work session that evening starting at 5:00pm – that is more specifically for the Main Street planning update, but certainly any Council members that can stay for the regular Planning Commission, which begins at 6:30pm, are urged to attend, because they will start with the ConAgra project. Some were able to come to the last meeting, which was great, but anyone who can stay for that meeting starting at 6:30pm would be great, as well.
- **Oster's Mobile Home Park Purchase** – I wanted to mention that there is still a lot of work to do. There are still probably more questions than there are answers at the moment. They are very early on in the process, but he does think they are getting a good team in place. To date, there has been an initial meeting of social service providers, who will continue to meet every two weeks to share information, to undertake strategies, to engage residents and help with relocation. Also, they will continue to add agencies to that group. He does not believe that everyone that can help and wants to help was in the room that first meeting, so they are certainly encouraging additional agencies to help out and be part of those efforts as they move forward. They have already added some agencies since that meeting – they are very appreciative for that. Some Huron community members organized a meeting with residents last week at Lemmy's. This was an initial meeting to provide some introductions, and to start intake processes, at least from that meeting moving forward, but they that there's still a lot of work to do. They are also working with local community members to organize one-on-one meetings with individuals and families who own their trailers. He thinks everyone acknowledges that although everyone is going to be eligible for assistance, the ones that own their trailers do pose a heightened complication from a relocation standpoint and an economic standpoint. The City really wants to understand what that need is. They don't claim to know what that need is, so they think sitting down with those individual owners is critical, and they are hoping to get those on the calendar for next week. He wanted to acknowledge, specifically, Roxanne Goss and Sheila Preston, who have been helping get those meetings set up

for next week. They are also aware, from the Seller, that notices, if not received, are going out to residents. Per Ohio Revised Code, individuals that are in good standing that rent their unit are minimally afforded 4 months for relocation, and residents that are in good standing that own their trailers are minimally afforded 6 months for relocation. They hope that they will be use that time to find adequate housing for every single individual. He knows that there has been some narrative out in the community that the City at this point has maybe done very little to aid in the relocation efforts. Again, he wants to stress that, from the City's perspective, it is still so early on and they are collecting information. He doesn't say that to minimize the stress and gravity of the decision, but he knows that they are going to work through that over the next weeks and months, and engage every single household. His promise from the administration side, as time plays out, is that they will be deeply involved in those relocation efforts.

- Eastside Sidewalk Project – Regarding the piece of sidewalk between Gateway and Anchorage, where four easements will be needed from private property owners to construct that piece of sidewalk, as of today they have signatures on 3 of the 4 easements. Hopefully, they will wrap those up in the next couple weeks, and will look to bid and construct that project.
- Bid to Repaint Portions of Bike Lane – Staff is considering issuing a bid to repaint portions of the US6 Phase 1 bike lanes. He thinks we are ready for a refreshment at this point, and they know that are some improved products out on the market. It has certainly been a learning curve over the last year/year and a half. One of the things they are also looking at is to not necessary paint across the bridge decking, which is grooved concrete. From their understanding and talking to industry professionals, there is not much paint that is going to hold on that bridge decking because of the freeze/thaw process – even the white paint seems to struggle. The benefit of that, though, is that it is going to significantly reduce the cost going forward to do future refreshers of that bike lane painting. They may make that slight change moving forward.
- Trash RFP – As mentioned during the work session earlier tonight, they issued an RFP for trash collection services. The current contract expires on June 30th. That RFP is going to close on April 28, 2023. It is available on the City's website under the Bid Notices and Tabulations area. They look forward to getting those bids in over the next couple of weeks.
- Joint Work Session – As mentioned earlier, there is a joint Planning Commission/Council work session on April 19th beginning at 5:00pm regarding plan updates to the Main Street visioning process and suggested upgrades. This meeting will talk through suggested land uses, streetscape designs and suggested improvements based on survey feedback (they had almost 800 respondents to the survey in the fall), and to solicit feedback from Planning Commission and Council. Hopefully, everyone can attend that meeting.
- Parks and Recreation – Related to the Spring City-Wide Clean-Up/Green-Up event, that event is scheduled for Saturday, April 29th from 9:00am to 11:00am at the Huron Parks and Recreation office at 110 Wall Street. Participants will receive a Clean-Up/Green-Up assignment and sent out into the community in small groups. The Erie Conservation District and the Erie County Solid Waste District Green-up/Clean-Up trailer will be onsite and equipped with tools and necessary equipment for a successful cleanup event. New this year, the Huron Parks and Recreation Department will be partnering with Grow Huron, a local non-profit, to help with the event. Grow Huron committee members will be participating and available to discuss their green efforts throughout the community. Please take pride in Huron by taking part in the Clean-Up/Green-Up efforts to beautify Huron's parks and public spaces. The event is open to the public, and refreshments and donuts will be offered. For further details, please contact the Parks and Recreation office at 419-433-8487.

- Fish Cleaning Station – The final electrical work has been completed, and the lighting controls have been tested. Acceptance testing has been scheduled with ODNR for April 25, 2023. ODNR will be up here with our team to actually run some fish through the machines to make everything's working. Upon a hopefully successful test, the fish cleaning tables will remain open to the public after that April 25th test date, sort of in a soft opening status. We anticipate ODNR wanting to do a bigger Grand Opening sometime in May or June, but again, assuming we have a positive test on April 25th, we are going to keep those tables and station open.
- Tennis Courts – They have reviewed final design documents prior to bidding. The project did go out to bid yesterday, April 10th, with bids due May 2, 2023 at City Hall. During the bidding process, the City is issuing a community survey to determine which type of sport is more desired and more likely to further activity at Fabens Park. They are looking at some combination of tennis and pickleball courts, some of which can be done simultaneously, like we have now. The goal here is to maximize usage of that space. They are going to circulate that survey. He sent it out to Council, and will get that out to everyone possible, whether it's through the Register or on our Facebook page. Any other way Councilmembers want to get that out to the broader community – that would be great, as well. Ultimately, they hope to have a work session in front of Council (tentatively set for May 9th) to look through survey results and the bids of the options for Fabens tennis courts resurfacing and reconstruction.
- Finance Department – The March financial report is available for review. There is a link in the Manager's Report and a link was sent out to the Finance Committee and Council earlier this week. They maintain an unencumbered General Fund balance of \$1.6 Million, or 29% of annual expenditures. Income tax revenue is 8% higher than March of 2022. This can really be attributed, still to the Ardagh expansion and new revenue from the Sawmill Creek Resort, which we are now receiving income tax from. Interest earnings doubled through the first 3 months of 2023 compared to 2022. Although better than expected increases in revenue are a good sign, they still continue to struggle with inflationary increases on the expense side of things. On that front, it sort of washes out, but the City remains in a fairly healthy and strong financial position.
- Water Department – There was a customer water service line that was disrupted by a fiber company at 622 Center Street. There was some difficulty located the tap at the main. The service line was capped and the leak was stopped. Center Street should be open, sometime later this week.
- Primary Intake – They are actively communicating with Pat Murphy at Lake Erie Diving. What they are looking to do is actually clean out that primary intake. There are portions of that intake that are all the way down to 12 inches in width, when there should normally be 36 inches of clearance through the pipe. They are going to get that cleaning done quickly this year to clean out those sedimentation spots on that primary intake.
- Agreements – These are things that would normally come to Council, but Code changes were made to allow the administration to execute those agreement. Starting with the Huron 5K Series banners, they received and approved an annual request from Angie Edwards to place banners on both sides of the pedestrian bridge on US6 for its 7 events scheduled for this calendar year. Each banner will be 4'x8' in size, and they will hang the banners up approximately 1 month prior to the first race of the series, which starts in June. He didn't go through all of the dates, but they are included in the Manager's Report – there is a series of 7 races starting on June 17th, and ultimately culminating on November 2nd. Secondly, a request was received and approved from the Huron Garden Club for signage in the median strip for its plant sale to be held on May 20, 2023. The sign is approximately 1'6"x2'8", which will be put up on Sunday, May 13, 2023 and removed on

Saturday, May 20th by noon. The money they raise from this sale helps to purchase decorations for the Huron Library Christmas program, as well as gardening books and magazines, and flowers for the Lake Front Park garden. In addition, the Garden Club makes an annual \$100 contribution to the McBride Arboretum on the Firelands BGSU campus. He wanted to let Council know of those two approvals.

- Upcoming Meetings – To close out the month of April: Joint Planning Commission/City Council Work Session on Wednesday, April 19th at 5:00pm in Council Chambers; City Council meeting on Tuesday, April 25th at 6:30pm in Council Chambers.

Mayor's Discussion

I don't have a lot, and just to kind of reiterate some of the things that Mr. Lasko said, these surveys that go out to the community, believe me, we appreciate all of the feedback we can get. Like he said on Main Street, I think there were 800+ responses, and believe me, we take those into consideration – we do look at those, so please, get that out and tell your neighbors. I want to thank everybody that showed up, and I have said this many times. We like you guys showing up and giving us feedback and give us comments. Ms. Green, I just want to bring up an issue for you, is that I was driving through town yesterday, and I want to tell you that I appreciate... I saw you and some other person walking down the sidewalk picking up trash. I don't know if you get enough recognition for that, but... I was going to beep the horn, but I didn't know if that was going to... (Ms. Green said she found about \$10). It is appreciated and I want to thank you for that. I did receive a letter, also, from Ms. Garland at 228 Ohio Street, and that was in reference to the trailer park and transient rentals, and that, Ms. Welkener is available if somebody wants to see that, so that's public records. I want to thank Ms. Garland for reaching out. I also would like to, as far as the tree stuff, we will get back with you, Ms. Green, and Chief Graham. I also want to say, being on Council – we make tough decisions, and I am very happy with all of the Councilmembers and while we disagree on some things, lots of things we agree on, but we all work together. We are all working for the rest of our community and I have learned and some things we are going to disagree on, but we are all working for the best for the community. I support the Councilmembers and I am very happy to have them here. I also support the staff wholeheartedly and trust in their decision-making and their research and everything that goes along with that.

For the Good of the Order

William Biddlecombe – I would like to thank staff for their hard work. I would like to announce, also, the next meeting of the Scott Union Cemetery Board is Monday, April 24, 2023 at 6:30pm at the Huron Township building. Those are very exciting meetings, and I invite you all to come out. I agree - the survey on the Fabens tennis courts - it's available right now, and the link is on the City's Facebook page. Like I do with all of the correspondence regarding upcoming City things, it has also been shared on my City Council Facebook page, as well. So, I invite the residents to go out to William Biddlecombe Huron City Councilman on Facebook and like that page, and then you might see some upcoming meetings listed there. I would like to also go ahead and congratulate Jimmy Harkelroad for being named the MAC Men's Track Athlete of the Week last week, Lily Boldman for being named the GMAC First Team All Conference and Stunt Athlete of the Year at Ashland University, and then I would also like to congratulate Macy Majoy, winner of the Marshall University Female Individual Performance of the Year for her contribution to their pole vault program. Varsity home games coming up: Boys Baseball – April 12th, 15th, 19th, 21st and 24th; Girls Softball – April 12th, 15th, 19th, 20th, 22nd and 24th; Track is April 22nd; and Boys Tennis – April 18th, 22nd and

24th; Track is April 22nd, and Boys Tennis – April 18th, 19th, 20th and 25th. Please come out and support all of our student athlete, and Go Tigers!

Sam Artino – I would just like to come back and talk a little bit about the effort that this Council and this administration has been making to be transparent and to involve citizens. I think you heard tonight about surveys and studies, and I am virtually begging you to be involved. I've said for the 18 years I've been on Council, Council is only as good as your input. We don't make decisions in a vacuum, and without your input, we are making decision on our own, and so I really appreciate everybody's involvement, and to hear that 800 people responded to the one survey – it doesn't sound like a lot when you're look at about 7,000 people, but believe me, when you look at surveys, that's a lot. Your input means a lot to us, and the only way we are going to make the best decision we can for the overall City. So thanks for being involve d.

Mark Claus – Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I would also like to thank staff for all of your hard work. I want to thank Matt for his summary and update regarding the Oster Mobile Home Park project, or purchase. I just want to mention to the citizens – I know we don't have a lot of people here, and there's probably people watching at home – if you have any questions, there is a lot of misinformation out there, facts that maybe are inaccurate. If you have any questions, please reach out to the City Manager's office or one of the Councilmembers, if you will. They may have to get the answer from staff if we don't have it directly, but I appreciated we have gotten a lot of requests, we have gotten people that ask questions. I think all of us have a few people that we have gotten emails from and we've been able to communicate with, and we really appreciate. This is a difficult situation – we all realize that an I, for one, just truly have compassion for the folks/the residents there, and want to make it clear that we and myself – I am going to do everything I can to make sure that these people are treated fairly and compassionately in this process. I think that, as Mr. Lasko stated, we are still pretty early in the process. I know not everybody thinks it's real early. I think we've got some time, so we are not delaying anything, but we are still learning a lot of facts and our ability to react to the situation. That's it – we don't take these decisions lightly, and it was a very difficult decision. Thank you.

I just also wanted to add, and I think William mentioned this earlier, but I don't know if this is a preview, but an early copy of the Parks and Recreation flyer and brochure Doug and his team has put together – this is an amazing... a little town like we have, that we have this many events. This kind of community support for all of these events – they do an awesome job, and I just want to thank Doug and his team and we look forward to a great summer season, while this is basically year-round, mostly summer stuff since we're on a lake.

Joel Hagy – Nothing for the good of the order.

Matt Grieves – I have nothing.

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, Grieves, Hagy (6)

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor of the motion, the regular Council meeting of April 11, 2023 was adjourned at 7:23pm.

Adopted: 25 APR 2023


Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council

Terri Welkener

From: Robin Garland <rgarl37988@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, April 10, 2023 11:59 AM
To: Terri Welkener
Subject: Public Comment for Tuesday, April 11, 2023

Hello Ms. Welkener,

I am writing to register my public comment for the City Council meeting to be held Tuesday, April 11, 2023.

I am Robin Garland of 218 Ohio Street. I believe the city is aware of the confusion and concern created by business related to Osters Mobile Home Park. Many members of the community are upset by the methods used to achieve the sale and are questioning what has appeared to be by secretive and dangerous means. I have been told that I don't 'know' all the details. This may be true but I am still questioning why I don't know. Given the magnitude of the reaction of the community I am requesting that the city conduct a community meeting or meetings related to the mobile home park. Failure of the city to be proactive with this situation is a grave mistake and threatens to create further chaos. It is time to speak up and to give the community an opportunity to dialog with city leaders. Thank you.

Robin Garland
rgarl37988@aol.com