

**THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO**  
**Proceedings of the Huron City Council**  
**Regular Meeting Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at 6:30pm**

**Call to Order Public Hearing**

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 Matt Grieves**. Member absent: **Joel Hagy**.

**Motion by Mr. Claus to excuse Mr. Hagy's absence from the public hearing.**

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

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

**NAYS: None (0)**

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

**Public Hearing**

Public Hearing on the Re-Zoning Application of Sawmill Creek LLC on parcels annexed into the City of Huron from the current R-1 Single Family Residential to B-3 General Business.

**Swear in Witnesses**

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

**Witness Testimony**

Mayor Tapp called on the witness(es) to testify regarding the Re-Zoning Petition of Sawmill Creek, LLC.

Mr. Lasko testified as follows:

I will provide a few introductory comments, and then if folks on behalf of Cedar Fair want to say anything, I will certainly defer to them. Obviously, as our codified ordinances require that any property that is annexed into the City of Huron automatically reverts to R-1 Single Family from a zoning perspective. What the applicant has done is submit a re-zoning application moving this property to B-3, which is the most appropriate zoning classification for what is currently existing on the property. This is just right-sizing this property with the correct zoning for what is currently there, in place. This matter was sent to the Planning Commission that has recommended this to Council for consideration and approval. With that, I would be happy to open it up to folks if they would like to anything to that commentary.

Majeed Makhoulf testified as follows:

Good evening, I am Majeed Makhoulf with the law firm of Berns, Ockner & Greenberger, here for the applicant. I did not get sworn in. As legal counsel, I do not get sworn in, but I really don't have a

presentation other than to just.... We are here if the Council has any questions we are happy to answer them. As Mr. Lasko, we see this as the last step effectively in the annexation process. We even referenced in the agreement that that application will happen afterwards, so we are just finishing the annexation and the zoning of the property for it all to be compatible and make sense. We are happy to answer any questions.

The Mayor asked if there were any questions or comments from Council.

Mr. Claus asked Mr. Schrader if the potential motion is to approve, or is this our first reading? What's our action? Mr. Schrader answered that there is an Ordinance in New Business that will be on its first reading. Mr. Schrader stated that Council can still recommend approval.

#### **Motion**

**Motion by Mr. Claus to approve the Re-Zoning Application of Sawmill Creek LLC on parcels annexed into the City of Huron from the current R-1 Single Family Residential to B-3 General Business.**

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

**YEAS: Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, 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 to 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: BBiddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves (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 Matt Grieves.** Member absent: **Joel Hagy.**

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

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

Staff in attendance: City Manager Matt Lasko, Law Director Todd Schrader, Finance Director Cory Swaisgood (via Microsoft Teams), Police Chief Terry Graham and Terri Welkener, Clerk of Council.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

**Motion by Mr. Dike to approve the minutes of the regular Council meeting of September 12, 2023, as written.**

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

**YEAS: Dike, Grieves, 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 meeting of September 12, 2023 were adopted.

#### **Audience Comments**

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

None.

#### **Old Business**

**Ordinance No. 2023-30 (second reading)**

**Motion by Mr. Claus that Ordinance No. 2023-30 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND RESTATING CHAPTER 1139.03(b) (PROCEDURE FOR CHANGE [RELATING TO DISTRICT BOUNDARIES OR CLASSIFICATIONS OF PROPERTY AS SHOWN ON THE ZONING MAP])) be placed on its second reading.**

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

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

There being more than a majority in favor of the motion, Ordinance No. 2023-30 was placed on its second reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Lasko reminded Council and the public that they continuously look for ways to enhance the speed upon which we provide customer service to those seeking re-zoning in a practical way. This is, quite simply,

making a change to the Codified Ordinances to allow anyone making an application for re-zoning, instead of coming to Council first to be referred to the Planning Commission, to submit those applications immediately to the Planning Commission for consideration. They are just finding a practical way to shave off anywhere between 2 to 4 weeks of that process for those individuals.

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

#### **New Business**

##### **Ordinance No. 2023-34 (first reading)**

**Motion by Mr. Artino that Ordinance No. 2023-34 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF HURON TO REFLECT THE REZONING OF APPROXIMATELY 182.32 +/- ACRES OF LAND OWNED BY SAWMILL CREEK LLC, LOCATED ON THE NORTH SIDE OF CLEVELAND ROAD, ERIE COUNTY, OHIO PERMANENT PARCEL NUMBERS 39-01076.029, 39-01076.004, 39-01076.000, 39-01076.005, 39-00553.000, 39-00827.000, 39-00859.000, 39-00864.000, 39-00864.001, 39-01076.001, 39-01076.017 & 39-01076.003 FROM THE CURRENT R-1 (SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) TO B-3 (GENERAL BUSINESS)) 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, Grieves, Biddlecombe (6)**

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being more than a majority in favor of the motion, Ordinance No. 2023-34 was placed on its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Lasko said that he has nothing further to add on top of the comments from the Public Hearing, but he would be happy to answer any questions, if there are any.

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

##### **Ordinance No. 2023-32**

**Motion by Mr. Grieves that the three-reading rule be suspended and Ordinance No. 2023-32 (AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF HURON'S ACCEPTANCE OF A QUIT-CLAIM DEED FROM THE ERIE COUNTY LAND REUTILIZATION CORPORATION FOR VACANT LAND LOCATED ON SILVERN STREET IN HURON, OHIO, BEING ALL OF ERIE COUNTY, OHIO PERMANENT PARCEL NUMBER 43-00067.000, WITHOUT CONSIDERATION) 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: Grieves, 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. 2023-32 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

**Motion by Mr. Grieves to place Ordinance No. 2023-32 as an emergency measure.**

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

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

**NAYS:             None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2023-32 was placed as an emergency measure.

Mr. Lasko said, back in 2019, the City acquired several parcels of real estate along Silvern Avenue (approximately 2-3 acres). At the time, there was no immediate plans for the real estate, although ideas were kicked around from a westside green space to aiding in stormwater efforts on the west side to help with potential flooding issues. He does think some of those ideas remain relevant today, although there are no ongoing planning efforts. In recent weeks, they were approached by the Erie County Land Reutilization Corporation, also known as the Erie County Land Bank. There was a parcel of real estate that went to Sheriff's Sale, which was not bid on by the public. What happens in those instances is those parcels immediately revert to the Erie County Land Bank. The Erie County Land Bank does not have any use for the property, so they have offered this parcel to the City for no consideration, with the exception of conveyance fees and recording fees, which they believe to be approximately under \$50. It is a 0.28-acre parcel. The City does currently own the land to the south, west and north (the east side of this parcel is Silvern Avenue), so they thought it made sense to acquire for nominal cost so that they can have that entire block between Silvern and what is an unplatted Michigan Ave., which was never constructed, likely because there is a small creek that runs through that space. There are not immediate plans for the real estate, but they thought it made sense to move forward with acquisition given their holdings to the south, west and north.

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

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

**NAYS:             None (0)**

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

#### **Ordinance No. 2023-33**

**Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe that the three-reading rule be suspended and Ordinance No. 2023-33 (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:** Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp, Dike, 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. 2023-33 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Swaisgood stated that Ordinance 2023-33 is a request for supplemental appropriation. Additional appropriations are necessary in the Police Department's budget to pay for additional community policing throughout the year. They are also necessary in the Property Maintenance Fund for County fees for the sidewalk and grass cutting assessments. Finally, the Sawmill Creek TIF Fund budget needed to be increased for the taxable bonds that were issued for the Cedar Fair subsidy and interest payment on the 2022 notes. This was not fully budgeted during the 2023 process due to the timing of the notes issued in December, and the uncertainty of whether the debt would be bonds or notes. All funds that are increasing budgets have sufficient cash balances to cover the budget.

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

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

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Ordinance No. 2023-33 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately in accordance with Section 3.06 of the Charter of the City of Huron.

#### **Resolution No. 63-2023**

**Motion by Mr. Artino that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution No. 63-2023 (A RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE CITY MANAGER'S SUBMITTAL OF AN APPLICATION TO THE ERIE COUNTY LAND REUTILIZATION CORPORATION (ECLRC) REQUESTING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE RELATING TO SITE CLEARANCE FOR 2.23 ACRES OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED ADJACENT TO CLEVELAND ROAD, WEST, IN HURON, OHIO, AND CURRENTLY KNOWN AS OSTER'S MOBILE HOME PARK, IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND AND XX/100 DOLLARS (\$100,000.00); AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT SAID GRANT AWARD IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND AND XX/100 DOLLARS (\$100,000.00); AND ENTER INTO ANY AGREEMENT(S) WITH THE ECLRC UPON AWARD, 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:** Artino, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Biddlecombe (6)  
**NAYS:** None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 63-2023 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko has mentioned in previous Manager's Reports that we believed, and had in writing, notification from ECLRC that they would be provided funding to assist in site clearance efforts at the Oster's Mobile Home Park in 2023 and 2024. This resolution seeks approval and ratification of that grant application, which was made a handful of months ago. They were just recently formally notified by ECLRC that they have been awarded \$100,000 to aid in those site clearance efforts. \$55,000 of those funds will be made available in 2023, with the \$45,000 balance made available in the first half of 2024. ECLRC has already sent them the MOU for the first \$55,000, and they are waiting to execute that contingent on this legislation being approved. Those funds are pretty flexible in terms of how they can be used. They can be used for vacant trailer removal, demolition of the permanent structure that remains onsite, dead tree removal, concrete pad removal, debris removal, and final site clearing and grading. They are flexible in helping us with our needs. They believe this will be more than sufficient to finish up the final work that will be needed there once the site is 100% vacated. They are very appreciative of the Land Bank's assistance and support for this important project. This is the second project they have assisted with in the last year, and he reminded Council and the community that they have provided upwards of \$75,000 to aid in the improvements at Berlin Rd. and the 6 acres they purchased there. They are really thrilled with their investments in the community to eliminate some of the conditions in some important sites throughout the City.

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. 63-2023. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Resolution No. 63-2023 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

#### **Resolution No. 64-2023**

**Motion by Mr. Claus that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution No. 64-2023 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT DOCUMENTATION TO ODNR- DIVISION OF WATERCRAFT FOR APPROVAL OF THE PLACEMENT OF NAVIGATIONAL AIDS (BUOYS) AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE CITY'S INTENT OF ENFORCEMENT) be placed on its first reading.**

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

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

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 64-2023 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Chief Graham said that this is a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit documentation to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources – Division of Watercraft for the approval and placement of

navigational aids, and acknowledgment of enforcement, and also to make application for navigational aids for a grant to replace damaged and lost buoys. The application to replace damaged or lost buoys is self-explanatory. The first part about the placement of navigational aids refers to the City's mooring lane located between Nickel Plate Beach and Old Homestead I. Currently, the mooring lane is located on the eastern side of Nickel Plate Beach. This application is to flip the mooring lane so it is on the western edge of Old Homestead I's beach. They had a Safety Committee meeting where they brought in representation of Breakwater Cottage, Nickel Plate Beach Association and Old Homestead I to get their opinions about their agreement with us. They unanimously agreed to have this mooring lane moved over. The Safety Committee concurred. He made note that none of these three neighborhood associations have any authority or ownership to the water, but they wanted to make sure that we communicated what we were doing with them, and everybody was in agreement.

The Clerk clarified that the City is not requesting replacement of the buoys with this application. The application is for buoy locations only. Mr. Claus asked if we would be coming back for that request separately. The Clerk answered that we just the new buoys, and Chief Graham confirmed that we quite a few new buoys. The Clerk checked both the Resolution and the Application, and neither referenced a request for replacement of buoys. The error was only made on the Agenda. Mr. Schrader confirmed that Council could move forward with the legislation, as written.

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. 64-2023. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Resolution No. 64-2023 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

#### **Motion**

**Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe to set the re-zoning application of Lemmy's Restaurant on approximately 0.5597 acres of property comprised of 3 parcels (PPN's 43-00306.000, 43-00305.000 & 43-00307.000) from the current R-1A Single Family Residential to B-3 General Business for a Public Hearing to be held on November 14, 2023 at 6:30pm in Council Chambers.**

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

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

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and the matter was set for Public Hearing on November 14, 2023 at 6:30pm in Council Chambers.

#### **Ordinance No. 2023-35**

**Motion by Mr. Artino that the three-reading rule be suspended and Ordinance No. 2023-3 (AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING THE CITY MANAGER'S EXECUTION OF A FIRST AMENDMENT TO REAL ESTATE PURCHASE AGREEMENT AND ESCROW INSTRUCTIONS, AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER'S**



**EXECUTION OF A SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE REAL ESTATE PURCHASE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN OSTER'S MHP, LLC AND THE CITY OF HURON, AS RATIFIED BY ORDINANCE NO. 2023-7 ADOPTED ON MARCH 28, 2023; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY) be placed on its first reading.**

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

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

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Ordinance No. 2023-35 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

**Motion by Mr. Artino to place Ordinance No. 2023-35 as an emergency measure.**

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

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

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2023-35 was placed as an emergency measure.

Mr. Lasko stated that this legislation seeks to accomplish two things:

- (1) Ratification of a First Amendment, which was actually done a couple months ago, and candidly, probably should have come before Council when they ratified the original underlying agreement. During the due diligence process, the City sought an extension to that due diligence period as relates to having enough time to review the title paperwork. There were a lot of things that came back on the title report, all of which ultimately were deemed to be okay in the eyes of the City. This amendment extended the amount of time to respond with title objections until August 6, 2023. They were supportive of what they found, resulting in the ultimate ratification of that underlying agreement. They want to ratify the First Amendment just to clean things up.
- (2) As we discussed in a couple recent meetings, they are looking to propose a Second Amendment to that underlying agreement, which would seek to accomplish two things:
  - (a) To approve the first of three potential 60-day extension to the Vacation Period. The Vacation Period is the amount of time the Seller had to vacate the park appropriately and lawfully. Understanding we still have a handful of folks there that have not located housing, we want to be proactive and approve that first 60-day Vacation Period extension, which would extend full vacation to January 29, 2024.

- (b) More importantly, they inserted language in the Second Amendment that states that the Seller and the Buyer (the City) will work collaboratively to ensure that any remaining residents are afforded additional and reasonable time to relocate, provided they are engaged in proactive relocation efforts, whether that's independently or through the assistance of the multiple social service agencies they have engaged. He noted that this does not necessarily apply to any residents who are not paying rent, are engaged in unlawful activities, or in breach of other legal obligations. They thought this was necessary because the original agreement states that the Seller is going to continuously show progress in the vacation of the property, but they want to be sensitive to those folks that are really trying to find a place, and just haven't found the right place, while at the same time not holding the Seller in breach of contract for being lenient in providing more time to those residents. He is happy to answer any questions, but is happy to put this in front of Council for consideration.

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. 2023-35. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Ordinance No. 2023-35 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately in accordance with Section 3.06 of the Charter of the City of Huron.

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

The City Manager spoke on several topics:

**Oster's Mobile Home Park** – As of this evening, we believe we are at 15 households out of 27 that have physically relocated offsite. We have another 3 trailers that will be moving, one as early as tomorrow, weather permitting. We have several other households that will be relocating in the next 7 to 10 days. What does that mean in totality? As we sit here this evening, we believe we are down to 3 or 4 households that still need to locate housing, which he finds to be a tremendous number at this point in the project. We always knew that there would be 3 or 4 households, for whatever reasons, that would have difficulty locating housing, whether that is based on affordability or size of unit. We think we are in a positive place. Couple that with the amendment approved by Council tonight, and we are excited to get across the finish line over the next couple of months. I will note, too, as the number of vacant trailers has continued to increase because of the vacation efforts, we have made the decision and following up on a communication to Council, that we are going to proceed with some interim efforts to eliminate those vacant trailers. Over the next week or two, we will begin deconstructing and demolishing those trailers that are owned by the City, and those also those homes and trailers that are owned by the Seller, who has provided us with authorization. I anticipate some of that work will start in the next couple days, which is purely from a safety standpoint, to get those vacated units off the premises.

**Huron Chamber of Commerce** – I want to provide an update as to the Huron Chamber of Commerce. I know there has been a lot of talk in the community about the long-term viability and plans of the Huron

Chamber of Commerce. The Board of Directors has been in ongoing conversations to become an affiliate of what is known as the Greater Sandusky Partnership. This is driven a lot by financial constraints at the Chamber, so the Board has been exploring ways to ensure the long-term viability of the Chamber, but more importantly, ongoing representation and advocacy for its members and the broader community. At the Board meeting in September, which was last week, it was unanimously voted to allow the Greater Sandusky Partnership to begin drafting necessary documents to lay out a proposed framework for consolidation. The Board unanimously agreed that this is a beneficial result to ensure the future operations of the Chamber and benefits to its members. As these talks continue, we will keep Council and more importantly, the community and the membership up to date.

Infrastructure and Engineering – City staff and OHM did a punch list walkthrough with Smith Paving to approve the final punch list for Sawmill Parkway. That list is in the process of being agreed upon, and we anticipate that project will be fully closed by mid-October.

Chaska, Old Homestead I & II. I want to provide Council and the community with an update as it relates to the improvements planned for Chaska, Old Homestead I and Old Homestead II. Based on a recent meeting we had with OHM last week, we anticipate being able to bid the comprehensive reconstruction and patching of both Old Homestead I, Old Homestead II and the Chaska neighborhoods by either November or December of this year so that we can start that work early in 2024.

Parks & Recreation – The tennis court surface has been installed along with the topcoat. The fencing is expected to be up during the week of the 25<sup>th</sup> (this week). Once this is installed, the nets will be next, followed by final striping and the last topcoat will then be applied. Final grading and restoration will be the last component of the project. This project is anticipated to have a mid-October completion.

Finance Department – The August financial report is report and was sent to both the Finance Committee and Council on September 15<sup>th</sup>. There is a link to that report in the Manager's Report.

2024 Budgets – The Finance Department has completed multiple meetings with all departments to review draft budgets and capital requests for 2024. Over the next few weeks, Cory, myself and a few others will be finalizing the recommended budget for the Finance Committee. The first budget meeting begins on October 23<sup>rd</sup> in the Council Chambers at 4:00pm.

Water Department – As everyone remembers, we had a damaged water line on Sawmill Parkway as relates to a crash that occurred with a private driver. That work was completed last week. We now have full service on Sawmill Parkway again, and as Mr. Swaisgood mentioned, we will be able to be reimbursed for that cost.

South Main Street Water Line Replacement Project. In our meetings with OHM last week, we are anticipating being able to bid this project in November or December of this year. This also includes the complete resurfacing and select curb replacement of Forest Hills Drive, Hickory Road and Valley View Drive. We also, as part of our engagement with the community and those neighborhoods, have been asked to consider, as part of this project, installing a crosswalk at Valley View Drive to connect to the sidewalks on the east side of Main Street. We are going to explore the feasibility of that installation in the upcoming weeks, as there is currently no connectivity from Valley View to any existing sidewalks, either to the north or to the east. We will explore that improvement.

Personnel – We opened a Maintenance Worker I in the Streets Department. We have interviewed several applicants for the recently vacated position, which has resulted in the hiring of the preferred candidate, Troy Halstead. Troy is a Huron resident with more than 15 years of relevant experience, and we are excited to have him join our team. His first was last week, and we are excited to welcome him to the team.

Upcoming Meetings for October

- Huron Joint Recreation – Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 in the Council Chambers.
- Utilities Committee – Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 in the main conference room.
- Board of Zoning Appeals – Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 in the Council Chambers.
- City Council Meeting – Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in the Council Chambers.
- Planning Commission – Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 in the Council Chambers
- City Council Meeting – Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in the Council Chambers.
- Huron Joint Port Authority – Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 at Huron Township Hall.
- Records Commission – Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am in the main conference room.
- Finance Committee Budget Meeting – Monday, October 30<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm in the Council Chambers.

Mr. Dike said he had an individual approach him regarding water runoff. For example, if water runs off a property onto a neighbor's, does that individual have to fix that problem? Mr. Lasko answered that yes, typically the owner of the property from which the water is running off of would have to take remediation efforts to eliminate that. Obviously, that would be subject to inspection to verify it is something with the existing property or structure that is causing that property. That would be a joint inspection – they would typically have our Planning Department, our Building Official and, a lot of times, they will also bring in Erie Soil & Water, the foremost expert in that. The first point of contact would be to send them to our Planning Department, who would then rope in Erie Soil & Water and/or the Building Official.

Mr. Dike asked, what's the latest with the ConAgra property? Mr. Lasko explained that they know that the conceptual plan was approved by the Planning Commission in late spring/early summer. Since then, full disclosure, the City had looked at engaging OHM to do what would be the preliminary and final plat, but they weren't fully satisfied with their proposal, for several reasons. At that point, they had a conversation with the developers to have them take the lead in providing the preliminary plat and final plat. They had that final conversation with them in late July/early August. They are still waiting on feedback from the developer as to where that stands.

Mr. Dike then asked, when the City does the repavement project in the neighborhoods, are they going to distribute some type of map that says, these are the areas that we need attention to... just to get any feedback from the residents that live there? Mr. Lasko has those maps. They are overlayed with red areas which aren't fully scaled. They are happy to distribute them. Mr. Dike said it would be beneficial to distribute them to the associations in those neighborhoods.

Mayor's Discussion

Mayor Tapp said:

I don't have a whole lot. I want thank staff, Mr. Lasko and all of the entities that are helping with the Oster's project. There's a lot that is getting done. There is a lot that has already been done. Like Mr. Lasko said, I think we are at a great point right now, and I feel that, as he pointed out, we are extending things. We are making sure everybody is going to have a place to go. We are extending timeframes to take care of that. So, I want that to be known. I also want to thank Erie County Land Bank for their... there are two projects we had, Berlin Road and Oster's Park, in helping us with the financial part of that. One more thing I want to bring up, there is a student in Huron High School... she is a Senior, her name is Meg Krafty. She had a medical issue, I guess it's out there on social media – she did have a tumor, a brain tumor. I have been following that information. She's got a lot of support, and I was contacted by her mother earlier today. She is planning on getting released tomorrow from rehap, so I am working with the Police Chief and Officer Lobsinger, and we are going to try to have some kind of a procession when she comes back through town. We do not know the exact time that she may get released, but if you hear some sirens or something, that's what it is – supposedly around 4 o'clock she will leave there, 5:30 here, but I'm not positive. Please send your prayers for Meg Krafty. With that, that's all I have.

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

**William Biddlecombe** – Thanks to staff for all their hard work. Welcome Mr. Halstead. My condolences, also, to the Brown family. I would like to let the residents know that the next large item garbage day is Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. There is a Dine to Donate at the Huron Domino's in support of the Huron PTO. I would like to congratulate 2023 Huron Homecoming Queen Casey Brown, and King Charlie Hardy. The Huron Homecoming parade was definitely well-attended on Wednesday, and it was my honor to be able to be able to drive Grand Marshall John Jones in the parade this year.

Takeaways from the last School Board meeting:

There is still no news on who is behind the LLC who purchased the Shawnee School, and since Shawnee was damaged in the storms we had last August, that will likely delay the transfer. Their next work session is scheduled for October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm, and their next meeting is scheduled on October 16<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

Don't miss the Huron Pumpkin Festival coming up on October 14<sup>th</sup> at the Huron Boat Basin from 11am to 5pm with the hugely popular Pumpkin Drop at 2:30pm. Also, coming up on October 14<sup>th</sup>, you can come celebrate 150 years of the Huron Fire Department with their Open House at Station #2 on Bogart Road, and that is from 1pm until 3pm. Trick-or-Treating in Huron is scheduled for October 31<sup>st</sup> from 5-7pm, rain or shine. If your neighborhood association prefers to set your own date and time, let me know and I will be happy to announce that, too.

I would like to congratulate the Girls' Golf Team – they have made districts this year. Some home games coming up: Girls' Tennis on September 28<sup>th</sup>; Girls' Soccer on September 30<sup>th</sup> and October 2<sup>nd</sup>; Boys' Soccer on September 30<sup>th</sup> and October 2<sup>nd</sup>; Volleyball on September 30<sup>th</sup>, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>; Cross Country on October 7<sup>th</sup>. The Tigers had a big homecoming win this past Friday against Port Clinton, bouncing back from their loss against Tiffin-Columbian. This Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, the Tigers will travel to Bellevue to renew their rivalry with the Redmen before returning home again on October 6<sup>th</sup> to battle the Vermilion Sailors for the Win Oar. Both games kick off at 7pm. Please come out and support our local events, programs, student athletes, Meg Strong and Go Tigers!

**Sam Artino** – I just want to express my condolences for Dave Brown and his family, and prayers for Meg Krafty. That's it.

**Mark Claus** – Nothing for the good of the order tonight. Thank you.

**Joe Dike** – I would like to thank everybody. I also want to give my condolences to the family of Dave Brown, to his sons and family. We lost him a few weeks ago. For those of you who don't know who Dave Brown was, he was a long-time Huronite, and also the Athletic Director back when I was in high school. He was a great guy, so he is going to be missed and I just wanted to give my condolences. That is all I have.

**Matt Grieves** – Nothing for the good of the order.

**Executive Session**

None.

**Adjournment**

**Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe to adjourn the regular meeting of Council.**

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

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

**NAYS:** None (0)

There being a majority in favor of the motion, the regular Council meeting of September 26, 2023 was adjourned at 7:17pm.

Adopted: 10 OCT 2023

  
Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council