

THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO
Proceedings of the Huron City Council
Regular Meeting Tuesday, October 8, 2024 at 6:30pm

Call to Order

The Mayor called to order the regular Council meeting of October 8, 2024 to order at 6:30pm. The Mayor called for a moment of silence. After the moment of silence, the Mayor led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call

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

Staff in attendance: City Manager Matt Lasko, Law Director Todd Schrader, Service Director Stuart Hamilton, Police Chief Terry Graham, Fire Fighter Chris Folger, Parks & Recreation Operations Manager Doug Steinwart, Finance Director Ed Widman and Jen Kilbury, Acting Clerk of Council.

Approval of Minutes

None.

Audience Comments

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

None.

Tabled Legislation

Ordinance No. 2024-24 (TABLED)

Motion by Mr. Claus that the three-reading rule be waived, and Ordinance No. 2024-24 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 185.01, 185.03, 185.04 AND 185.06 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO, TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF AN ADDITIONAL SEVENTY-FIVE ONE-HUNDREDTHS PERCENT (0.75%) INCOME TAX BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2025, AND PROVIDING A CREDIT UP TO 1.75% FOR INCOME TAX PAID TO OTHER MUNICIPALITIES; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY) be placed on its first reading.

Old Business

Ordinance No. 2024-42 (third and final reading)

Motion by Mr. Grieves that Ordinance No. 2024-42 (AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND REPLACING SECTION 541.04 (CRIMINAL MISCHIEF) OF CHAPTER 541 (PROPERTY OFFENSES) OF THE HURON CODIFIED ORDINANCES) be placed on its third and final reading.

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

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

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2024-42 was placed upon its third and final reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Schrader explained that this is the final reading of the light trespass element that was added to the Criminal Mischief ordinance. This prohibits anyone from interfering with the use of property by originating light from a residential property and causing that light to unreasonably shine, glare, reflect or direct onto the property of another. This is language that is quite similar to many other municipalities. There is going to be another light trespass ordinance that will be before the Planning Commission for consideration. While this legislation is in the Criminal Code, the new ordinance, if contemplated and passed, will be in the Building and Zoning Code so they can address shielding of lighting and avoiding it during periods of construction and improvement to real estate.

The Mayor asked if there were further questions. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on final adoption of Ordinance No. 2024-42. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Ordinance No. 2024-42 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

New Business

Ordinance No. 2024-43

Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be waived and Ordinance No. 2024-43 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2023-49, ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 12, 2023, TO PROVIDE FOR SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE GENERAL FUND AND OTHER FUNDING) placed on its first reading.

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

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

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2024-43 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Widman explained that the Economic Development Fund has funds and we have spent the current funds that were appropriated for 2024. Mr. Lasko thought it might be good to add another \$10,000 to the budget.

The Mayor asked if there were further questions. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on final adoption of Ordinance No. 2024-43. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Ordinance No. 2024-43 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 75-2024

Motion by Mayor Tapp that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 75-2024 (AN RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY SERVICES FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWENTY-SIX (26) SETS OF TURNOUT GEAR FOR THE HURON FIRE DEPARTMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-SEVEN THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-SEVEN AND 50/100 DOLLARS (\$137,237.50) 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, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a five ore more votes in favor, the motion passed and Resolution No. 75-2024 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Lasko stated that this is a follow-up to a purchase that the Fire Department made a couple months ago of about \$50,000 for bunker gear/turnout gear. Fortunately, the Fire Department was successful in receiving a grant of just over \$135,000 from FEMA to outfit the overwhelming majority of the remainder of our sets, which are nearing about 15 years of age. Typically, you want those to be no more than 10 years in age. This will allow them to replace almost 100% of the remainder of our bunker gear. They received 3 quotes, with the lowest quote coming in at just over \$137,000, of which the City will be responsible for just over \$5,000 with the remainder paid through the FEMA grant. There is a little bit of balance left that they may be able to use, and they are still in conversations with FEMA about using that once this initial is completed. This is something they have applied for year after year, and they are very fortunate to be able to secure the grant. He really appreciates the work of the Fire Department and the Captains to secure this funding for the Department.

The Mayor asked if there were further questions. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on final adoption of Resolution No. 75-2024. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Resolution No. 75-2024 was adopted. The Ordinance 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:

ConAgra Development – We have sent a draft Letter of Intent to the development partners for their review and comment. Mr. Schrader has also sent a draft of the Development Agreement to the administration for review, which we are doing at the moment. They are simultaneously working on a first draft of a Purchase and Sale Agreement. We are continuing to move forward in getting those documents prepared and, ultimately, presented to Council so that we can continue to move forward on that development.

S. Main Street Repaving – Full curb replacement has been added to Valley View, Forest Hills and the Hickory area. Fortunately, because of how well that project was managed and the costs coming in below budget, we are able to do 100% curb replacement in that neighborhood. It is absolutely needed because as they milled the road down, the curbs were not salvageable. We are fortunate to be in a position to do full curb replacement. They have laid the base course in that neighborhood and will return shortly to remove and replace the old curbs. The paving contractor will then remobilize with the finish layer/top course. Huron Street patching and Mill Street resurfacing has been completed, as well as the new sidewalk installation on the east side of Huron Street. We also did some lawn restoration and tree removal, which has also been completed.

US 6 Connectivity Corridor Project – We haven't talked about this project in quiet a while. Last week, the Mayor and myself, along with the City of Sandusky, Erie County, the Ohio Department of Transportation and Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, were recently acknowledged for our work in securing a nearly \$25 Million federal RAISE grant to offset the overwhelming majority of the project costs. The Mayor and I had the honor of attending the Greater Sandusky Partnership Annual Meeting last week (October 3rd) to be presented an award from regional collaboration.

City Hall Parking Lots – Work is substantially complete behind City Hall on the parking lots, selective sidewalk replacement, and catch basin repairs. They are now open to vehicular traffic and we will be undertaking final inspections and punch list creation over the next week or two.

Zoning Code and Planning – As a follow-up to the light trespass legislation Mr. Schrader just spoke to, SSEG has completed an initial draft to address light trespass on residential buildings. We have reviewed and offered comments. This code creation will be presented to the Planning Commission at an upcoming meeting to secure their feedback prior to being presented to the full Council.

802 Williams Street - I also wanted to bring to Council's attention the property located at 802 Williams Street. We are in conversations with the owners about a possible donation of this property to the City. This is the one north of RPM behind the Hy-Miler just south of the tracks. The property, which sits north of RPM, has been a longstanding issue for this community with code compliance. Prior to considering donation and presenting to Council, we wanted to ensure that funding exists to offset the demolition of that property. We have reached out of the Erie County Land Reutilization Corporation (ECLRC). To date, we have received a verbal offer from ECLRC upwards of \$20,000 to offset that demolition cost. We are

hoping this covers 100% of the cost. We are working with contractors to determine if that funding is sufficient. Our goal is to not present a potential donation agreement to this Council unless we know the cost of demolition is 100% covered. Stay tuned as we move forward on that property over the next couple of weeks.

Finance – We are commencing our next round of income tax informational sessions with our first meeting being tomorrow. I will denote those meetings when I go over the meeting calendar at the end of the report. The library will be hosting City staff on October 29th to undertake a podcast at 10am to talk about the tax measure and will also be hosting us on November 2nd, which is a Saturday, from 10am – 12pm that morning to do a Coffee & Conversation to not just talk about the income tax, but any other matters of concern to our local stakeholders.

Ongoing Contracts – We have had conversations with Huron Township to do a simple 1-year extension to the existing Emergency Services Agreement with the Township. All terms would remain the same. Our Law Department has a draft of the First Amendment to that agreement, which is currently being reviewed by Huron Township. If approved for a 1-year renewal, we will bring that to Council for consideration over the next couple weeks.

City Prosecutor and Personnel Officer – I wanted to mention that we are looking to do a new 2-year agreement with Ms. Rocco for both positions, which would cover both 2025 and 2026. We are currently reviewing those agreements with her and will bring them to Council over the next month or 2 if we can reach agreement on terms.

Upcoming Meetings –

Income Tax Public Meeting – October 9, 2024 @ 6pm at the Huron Boat Basin;
BZA Meeting – Monday, October 14, 2024 @ 5:30pm in Council Chambers;
Income Tax Public Meeting – October 15, 2024 @ 6pm at the Huron Library;
Planning Commission – Wednesday, October 16, 2024 at 5pm in the Council Chambers;
Finance Committee Budget Meeting – Monday, October 21, 2024 @ 4pm in Council Chambers;
Council Meeting – Tuesday, October 22, 2024 @ 6:30pm in Council Chambers;
Income Tax Public Meeting – Wednesday, October 23, 2024 @ 6pm at Huron Boat Basin;
Finance Committee Budget Meeting – Monday, October 28, 2024 @ 4pm in Council Chambers;
Scott Cemetery Board Meeting – Monday, October 28, 2024 @ 5pm at Huron Township;
Income Tax Public Meeting – Tuesday, October 29, 2024 @ 6:30pm at the Huron Library.

Huron Pumpkin Fest is Saturday, October 12th from 11am to 5pm at the Huron Boat Basin. The actual pumpkin drop will occur at 2:30pm.

Trick-or-Treat is on October 31, 2024 starting at 5pm.

Mr. Dike said he forwarded emails to Mr. Lasko from citizens that have some questions and concerns. Has anything been formally sent to them to give them a timeline of when things are going to take place and how long it may be. Have we communicated in any way with them? Mr. Lasko answered that he did receive the emails today, which he has forwarded on to Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Fridrich with OHM. I don't know that we have disclosed or announced that information to the full neighborhood or given them a

timeline yet. Mr. Hamilton said the curb replacement hasn't been announced to the residents up there. The original project timeline was supposed to run through the end of November, so they are still within the original project timeline. We haven't notified the neighborhood that we are replacing all of the curbs yet, but between Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Dike, Mr. Lasko and Owen from OHM, we have talked to most of the residents up there. Mr. Lasko added that although some may not be able to understand what it means, all of the old sections of curb that have not been removed have now been marked for replacement. Some may know what the means, some may not. We will ultimately have a full disclosure to all of the residents, but we are fortunate to be in a position to do 100% replacement. Mr. Dike said one of the emails he sent was from a resident who has a concrete barrier around their landscaping, and they feel that when the City put the water line in, that it cracked it. He wanted to talk to somebody about that – please make sure to talk to him about it. It wasn't about curbs, it was about damage to their personal property. Mr. Hamilton said that he has already forwarded that email on to the inspection team. They have the address and the image, and will definitely look into it.

Mr. Dike asked about when someone needs a permit to put in a driveway. If I have an existing driveway and I tear that out, do I have to get a permit to replace that? Mr. Lasko answered that there is a permit for driveway or apron replacement. What they also have to determine is are they widening the driveway as well. If so, that would fall under a right-of-way permit if they are operating in the right-of-way. Mr. Dike said the reason he is asking is because he got two conflicting answers. I just want to make sure. In the code, it says 24' wide, so if my entrance is 24' or less, can I just tear it out and replace it and leave it as is. I was told I do not need a permit, and then somebody told me I did. If it is 30', do I have to revert back down to 24'. Mr. Hamilton said that if you are replacing your driveway, the reason you need the right-of-way permit is we have to come around and inspect that portion of your driveway poured within the right-of-way. You are not actually permitting replacing your driveway, you are getting a permit to work within the right-of-way. That's where some people get a little confused. Mr. Dike asked, if I do not work in the right-of-way, I do not need a permit. If I add to the width that is not in the right-of-way – say, it's 24' to start, but then on my property it goes to 30', do I need a permit? Mr. Hamilton answered that you do not because it's on your private property. Unless you touch the right-of-way, you do not need a permit. However, if you are within the right-of-way, you need a permit. If you have a 30' driveway within the right-of-way and you want to replace it, as long as that driveway went in before the code section was written, you are grandfathered in. Mr. Schrader clarified that if you have a 30' driveway, you can replace it as a nonconforming use, but you cannot expand it. Once you rip it out, you can't make it larger.

Mr. Dike asked if he is a business and come in to get a contractor's license to do electric work, and now I am going to plant trees or build a house, do I have to get a second contractor's license, or is there a universal contractor's license? Mr. Lasko answered that they have several different contractor registrations, depending on specialty. In the spring, there was a cap put in place on what you would ultimately have to pay. If you did 4 trades, and it is \$100 per trade to register, we now have caps for people that are registering under multiple trades. The caps put in place reduced what people historically had to pay that were multiple trades.

Mr. Dike asked for single dwelling house, it says you need a covered 1-car space. What if you don't have a garage? Why do you need a covering. If somebody builds a structure without a garage, why do you need a covering. Do they still need a covering? Mr. Lasko answered that, without seeing the code that we have at the moment, he will have to get back to him on that, but he is happy to get that information to him. I

do think we have requirements for at least for at least 1 garage space for new construction – not necessarily pre-existing, but does not want to misspeak.

Mr. Dike asked Chief Graham if we are looking into anything for the safety of scooters. We see a lot of kids riding them, and sometimes they are doubled up. Back when I was a kid and there were mopeds, if you were 14 you had to have a license and wear a helmet. Do we have anything in place for those motorized scooter. Chief Graham answered that our officers are usually doing that more for contact to try to educate some of these younger kids on rules of the road and where they can be operated, stop signs, rights-of-way, etc. We do stop and talk with them. I don't think it's a widespread problem.

Mayor's Discussion

Mayor Tapp said:

We had a work session this evening with OHM Advisors regarding the Lakefront Parks Plan. It involved ideas and suggestions, and Council and staff are going to discuss this more. There is going to be a community survey that goes tomorrow that I hope everyone gets involved in. As Mr. Lasko said, we attended the GSP Annual Meeting and there was a lot of information. They gave an idea of what their goals are, what they have set out to do, and what they want to do. There were over 400 people registered and in attendance. I am looking forward to the future of the GSP and we will see how all of this comes together and how this works out.

Route 13 is now open – you can get from Huron to Route 250 now.

I just want give my prayers down in Florida. We know people that live there and visit there, and who own property there and in other southern states. They got hit hard 2 weeks, and they got hit hard again. If there is some kind of help we can give, our prayers...

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For the Good of the Order

Mark Claus – Nothing.

Sam Artino – Nothing.

Joe Dike – Nothing, thank you.

Matt Grieves – I have nothing for the good of the order.

Joel Hagy – I have nothing for the good of the order.

William Biddlecombe – I've always got something. Thanks, staff, for your hard work. The next School Board meeting is on Monday, October 21, 2024 at 6pm at the high school. Like Mr. Lasko said, the Pumpkin Festival is this Saturday with the pumpkin drop at 2:30pm, and trick-or-treating is on Thursday, October 31st. A couple neighborhoods that he knows of that vary from that are Huron Heights (October 31st from 6-8pm) and Eagle Crest is on Saturday, October 26th from 5-7pm.

Home games coming up:

Volleyball – October 10

Boys and Girls Soccer – October 9

Cross-Country SBC Championship – Saturday, October 12th

Cameron Manner is definitely showing why he was on First Team All-Ohio last year. When the Tigers went and spoiled Port Clinton's Homecoming, as well as beating Bellevue last week. This Friday, October 11th, the Tigers will travel to Vermilion and battle with a very good 6-1 Vermilion Sailors team to hopefully retain the Win Oar, which Vermilion has not possessed since 1966. On Friday, October 18th, they will travel to Clyde to take on the Flyers. Both games begin at 7pm. Please come out and support our local events, programs and student athletes, and GO TIGERS!

Adjournment

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


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

YEAS: Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Hagy (7)

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor of the motion, the regular Council meeting of October 08, 2024, was adjourned at 6:57pm.

Adopted: 18 DEC 2024


Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council
(minutes prepared from audio recording)