

**THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO**  
**Proceedings of the Huron City Council**  
**Regular Meeting Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 6:30pm**

**Call to Order**

The Mayor called to order the regular Council meeting of December 10, 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, Mark Claus, Monty Tapp, and Matt Grieves**. Council members absent: **Sam Artino and Joel Hagy**.

**Motion by Mark Claus to excuse Mr. Artino's and Mr. Hagy's absences from the meeting.**

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

**YEAS: Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Biddlecombe (5)**

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and Mr. Artino's and Mr. Hagy's absences were excused.

Staff in attendance: City Manager Matt Lasko, Law Director Todd Schrader, Service Director Stuart Hamilton, Police Chief Terry Graham, Parks & Recreation Operations Manager Doug Steinwart, Finance Director Ed Widman and Terri Welkener, 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.

**Old Business**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-45 (third and final reading)**

**Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe that Ordinance No. 2024-45 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 305.01, TRAFFIC CONTROL MAP, AND CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 305.02, TRAFFIC CONTROL FILE, REGARDING NO RIGHT TURN 7AM – 8AM AND 2PM – 4PM ON MAPLE AVE FROM LAKE ERIE PARKWAY; AND NO PARKING, STOPPING OR STANDING ON BOTH SIDES OF MAPLE**

**AVE ANYTIME BETWEEN BUCKEYE ROAD AND DEERWOOD ROAD , AND ON THE WEST SIDE OF OHIO STREET BETWEEN MCCORMICK TO CLEVELAND ROAD WEST, AND ON JIM CAMPBELL BLVD., FROM THE GYM ACCESS ROAD TO THE HANDICAPPED PARKING AREA WITHIN THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO) 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. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS: Biddlecombe, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves (5)**

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2024-45 was placed upon its third reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Chief Graham explained that this legislation resulted from a series of complaints that eventually made their way to the Safety Committee. The Safety Committee unanimously agreed to forward these changes to Council. The first change is the addition of a “no right turn from 7am-8am and 2pm-4pm” on the stop sign at the intersection of Lake Erie Parkway and Maple Avenue. These hours include arrival and dismissal times to assist in a traffic congestion problem with vehicles turning right there and going northbound on Buckeye. Additionally, the “No Parking at Any Time” signs on Buckeye and Deerwood will be changed to “No Parking, Stopping or Standing.” This same change will be made to a small area on Jim Campbell Blvd. from the gym access road to the handicap area at the High School, and also in front of McCormick School from Cleveland Road West southbound up to the school. This should alleviate some traffic problems and issues. If approved, these changes will be enforceable starting January 11, 2025. They may have the signs posted before then. If they do, they will use that as a time for education. He will also touch base with the Superintendent of the Schools to send out an email to the parents to remind them of these proposed changes.

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

**YEAS: Biddlecombe, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves (5)**

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2024-45 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect in 30 days.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-47 (third and final reading)**

**Motion by Mr. Dike that Ordinance 2024-47 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND REPLACING SECTION 1137.03 (YARD MODIFICATIONS) OF THE HURON CODIFIED ORDINANCES AND AMENDING AND RESTATING CHAPTER 1123 (RESIDENCE DISTRICTS) TO ADD RELATED CROSS REFERENCES) 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. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS: Dike, Grieves, Biddlecombe, Claus, Tapp (5)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2024-47 was placed upon its third and final reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Attorney Waters explained that we are on the third and final reading of this ordinance. This ordinance modifies part (a) of 1137.03. The previous wording of this section was rather confusing, even to people who went to law school. There were some complaints from staff, so this was redrafted to keep the meaning of that section, but makes it easier to read. It makes the setback for any residential structure to be equal to the neighboring two buildings on either side of the lot. If the neighboring two buildings are farther back than the minimum, then the new residence will have that minimum increased so it is in line with the other houses (also works in the opposite direction). The lowest setback amount is set at 10', and it cannot exceed 50'. The ordinance also adds cross-references to Chapter 1123, Sections .01-.04, which describe the normal setbacks for these residential districts, so when you are looking in those section you will know to look at this section.

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

**YEAS: Dike, Grieves, Biddlecombe, Claus, Tapp (5)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2024-47 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect in 30 days.

### **New Business**

#### **Resolution No. 92-2024**

**Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution 92-2024 (A RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE CITY MANAGER'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSAL AND EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH MEDICAL MUTUAL FOR THE PROVISION OF 2025 MEDICAL HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE) 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, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves (5)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion passed and Resolution No. 92-2024 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Lasko explained that this is a ratification for something they had to sign pretty quickly at the end of November. This the 1-year healthcare renewal with Medical Mutual. They are seeing about \$116,000 increase to the premium compared to 2023, which is an 8-9% increase. He noted that as they are seeing

these skyrocketing healthcare costs, they have nearly doubled their premiums since 2022. Staff will be spending a lot of time early next year to see if they can eradicate some of the larger increases seen over the last couple of years. As part of this increase, they have also increased the employee contribution from 5% to 6% to offset some of that increase the City is experiencing. Finally, as part of this renewal, they are moving from an HRA to and HSA. The City will provide funding deposited into an HSA account for our employees to draw down from to offset their medical expenses. They prefer the HSA because they know what the expense is – it is not volatile or changing. They deposit the money one time and know what it is (it's predictable). The premiums and HSA contributions are included in the summary as estimates. Ultimately, that number could change as they go through open enrollment. There may be people that drop off their insurance, and there may be people who join their insurance. The premium number and the HSA numbers are based on last year's enrollment. Open enrollment ends this Friday, so if there are any modifications to these numbers, they will alert Council. This is a one-year renewal.

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

**YEAS:** Biddlecombe, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves (5)  
**NAYS:** None (0)

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 92-2024 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

#### **Resolution No. 93-2024**

**Motion by Mr. Grieves that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 93-2024 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO MAKE APPLICATION TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF WATERCRAFT, FOR A 2025 MARINE PATROL ASSISTANCE GRANT FOR THE HURON POLICE HARBOR PATROL PROGRAM IN THE CITY OF HURON; AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE GRANT AWARD IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED THIRTY-FOUR THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED TWO AND 73/100 DOLLARS (\$34,902.73) AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF WATERCRAFT, 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:** Grieves, Biddlecombe, Claus, Tapp, Dike (5)  
**NAYS:** None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion passed and Resolution No. 93-2024 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Chief Graham explained that this is the annual Marine Patrol Grant request submitted to ODNR Watercraft. The maximum amount is \$35,000, and they have requested \$34,902.72 on the application. If awarded, this resolution also authorizes acceptance of the award. There is a 25% match required of the City, which would be \$11,634.24, for a total to run this program of \$46,536.97.

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

**YEAS:**           Grieves, Biddlecombe, Claus, Tapp, Dike (5)  
**NAYS:**           None (0)

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 93-2024 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

**Resolution No. 94-2024**

**Motion by Mr. Tapp that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution 94-2024 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT APPLICATION SUBMISSION BY THE HURON FIRE DEPARTMENT TO THE ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTER GRANT PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF EIGHTY-SIX THOUSAND SIXTY-TWO AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$86,062.00); AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE GRANT AWARD IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED EIGHTY-SIX THOUSAND SIXTY-TWO AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$86,062.00) AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTER GRANT PROGRAM, SHOULD THE APPLICATION BE SUCCESSFUL) be placed on its first reading.**

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

**YEAS:**           Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Biddlecombe, Claus (5)  
**NAYS:**           None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion passed and Resolution No. 94-2024 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Lasko stated that they are seeking permission to apply, and if awarded, accept a grant from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. The Fire Department is seeking to replace the fire hoses. The total cost for that project is just over \$90,000. This is a grant program that requires a 5% local match. The grant request is for just over \$86,000, and the City responsibility (at 5%) is approximately \$4,300. He noted that due to the City's with Huron Township, that \$4,300 would be split 50:50, if awarded.

Asked by Mr. Grieves if the hoses would need to be replaced whether we get the grant funds or not, Mr. Lasko answered that they would have to replace them at some point. This is very much like the bunker gear where we ended up replacing about 25% of it between the Township and the City, and then they were, fortunately, awarded a grant. At some point they will have to replace the hoses, but prior to that, they want to turn over every stone to see if we can get this funded through grants. Mayor Tapp added that every hose gets tested every year. The hoses can get nicks in them. Mr. Lasko said replacement of the hoses is not in the budget for 2025, but he believes it will be for 2026.

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. 94-2024. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS:**           Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Biddlecombe, Claus (5)  
**NAYS:**           None (0)

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Resolution No. 94-2024 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

**RESOLUTION NO. 95-2024**

**Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution that 95-2024 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL AND ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL AEP SERVICES CONTRACT WITH OHM ADVISORS FOR THE PROVISION OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE CITY OF HURON AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED EIGHTY-FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$85,000.00) FOR THE CONTRACT TERM JANUARY 1, 2025 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025 ) 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, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves (5)**

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion passed and Resolution No. 95-2024 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Hamilton explained they have changed up how they are going to do the contract this year. If approved, they would enter into an agreement for \$85,000. The minimum amount that will be paid out in this contract would be \$51,000, with the rest being on an "as needed" basis. That \$51,000 covers Larry Fridrich being here for grant applications, inspections, doing some of our stormwater changes, etc. This will be renewed every year, and if it works out, they will stick to this format instead of having the \$94,000+ they paid last year. They expect a savings on this contract.

Mr. Dike said we have OHM on a retainer, and when a project comes in, they help us through the engineering services, correct? Mr. Hamilton answered that as it stands right now, they have a client representative (Mr. Fridrich) who sits in the office for 24 hours a week. We use OHM for engineer's estimates, design and bidding, etc. When it comes to projects, the City gets a price from them and they are paid outside of the contract for project work. The contract is for in-house engineering. The building drawings go to the Township for review, but our in-house engineering will look at the stormwater, stormwater control and anything else outside of the building and zoning purview. They also do flood plain evaluations. With regard to grants, Mr. Fridrich writes most of our grants. He and City Manager find grants, and then go to Mr. Fridrich, who completes the legwork to see what they need to apply, and will actually go through the application process. He does a lot of the legwork for a lot of the loans and grants that we get. Mr. Dike said it is a valuable resource to have someone who looks at grants. We should look for people who have strong aptitude for finding grants. There are big pools of money out there, both federal and state, that can help our community.

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. 95-2024. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS: Biddlecombe, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves (5)**

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Resolution No. 95-2024 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

**Resolution No. 96-2024**

**Motion by Mr. Claus that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 96-2024, (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO MAKE AN ANNUAL PREMIUM PAYMENT TO THE BUREAU OF WORKERS COMPENSATION FOR THE POLICY PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2025 THROUGH JANUARY 1, 2026 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED SIXTY-ONE THOUSAND EIGHTY AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$61,080.00) ) 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: Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Biddlecombe (5)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion passed and Resolution No. 96-2024 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Widman said that for the past several years, the BWC premiums have hovered around \$50,000. This year, however, it is \$61,000.

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. 96-2024. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS: Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Biddlecombe (5)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being a majority in favor of adoption, Resolution No. 96-2024 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

**Resolution No. 97-2024**

**Motion by Mr. Claus that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 97-2024, (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSAL AND ENTERING INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH TRUASSURE INSURANCE COMPANY FOR THE PROVISION OF 2025 DENTAL INSURANCE COVERAGE) 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 (5)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion passed and Resolution No. 97-2024 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Widman said that the dental insurance premium have remained the same for several years.

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. 97-2024. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS: Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Biddlecombe (5)**

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Resolution No. 97-2024 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

#### **Resolution No. 98-2024**

**Motion by Mr. Claus that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 98-2024, (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSAL AND ENTERING INTO A 2-YEAR AGREEMENT WITH VSP VISION CARE FOR THE PROVISION OF 2025/2026 VISION INSURANCE COVERAGE) 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 (5)**

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion passed and Resolution No. 98-2024 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Widman said there is only a light cost increase. Mr. Dike asked what the cost is. The Clerk answered that the rates are \$12.90 for single and \$29.00 for employee + children or family. The increase is only a few cents for each coverage level.

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. 98-2024. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS: Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Biddlecombe (5)**

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Resolution No. 98-2024 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

#### **Ordinance No. 2024-53**

**Motion by Mr. Claus that the three-reading rule be waived and Ordinance No. 2024-53 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2023-49, ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 12, 2023, 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: Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grievess, Biddlecombe (5)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2024-53 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Widman stated that they are making an adjustment so that the Police Department can take advantage of the remaining funds in the Marine Patrol Grant, moving it into wages/fringe benefits.

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. 2024-53. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS: Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grievess, Biddlecombe (5)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Ordinance No. 2024-53 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

#### **Resolution No. 101-2024**

**Motion by Mr. Dike that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 101-2024 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A RENEWAL CONTRACT WITH THE ERIE COUNTY SHERIFF FOR THE PROVISION OF EMERGENCY DISPATCH SERVICES TO THE CITY OF HURON POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-NINE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED FORTY-TWO AND 90/100 DOLLARS (\$189,642.90) FOR THE AGREEMENT TERM OF JANUARY 1, 2025 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2026) be placed on its first reading.**

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

**YEAS: Dike, Grievess, Biddlecombe, Claus, Tapp (5)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion passed and Resolution No. 101-2024 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Chief Graham explained that this is a 2-year agreement with the Erie County Sheriff's Department to provide dispatch services. The contract term of 2 years will align with the dispatchers' bargaining unit negotiation. He anticipates in 2 years that they will go to a 3-year contract to align with their contract. The annual amounts are lower than paid in prior year. They have switched to a % calculation based on the number of calls you have for police, ambulance and fire. This is the contribution for both police and fire. For 2025, the cost is \$97,021.92, and for 2026 the cost is \$92,620.97. The City currently pays \$8,510/month, and this would be approximately \$7,901/month. The cost to provide dispatch services in-house would be approximately \$400,000/year. They did a pilot program where they did Sheriff's department from 12pm-8am, and in-house from 8am-12pm, but it eventually dissolved.

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. 101-2024. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS: Dike, Grieves, Biddlecombe, Claus, Tapp (5)**

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Resolution No. 101-2024 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

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

The City Manager spoke on several topics:

**ConAgra Property** – We are finalizing the process with ODNR to formally dedicate a portion of the ODNR Boat Launch property as public right-of-way, which is the driveway entrance. The preliminary dedication plat has been sent to Erie County for review, and they will ultimately bring that to Council to be legislated, hopefully in the next couple of weeks. Mr. Schrader has been working with the surveyors and the County to get that to the point of being legislated. As part of that plat, the City would then turn around and provide a temporary name for the roadway (Access Street) for the sake of recording the plat. Ultimately, we will need to come up with a permanent name, and staff is proposing calling it River Road. Very much like Berlin Road crosses north and south, keeping that as River Road may make sense. Ultimately, that will be a Council decision. We will have that discussion in the upcoming weeks. We are also putting finishing touches on a Joint Easement Agreement with ODNR, which will permit the City temporary construction easements outside of the normal roadway. We are also providing ODNR with an access easement across the property they will be dedicating to the City to ensure people will have perpetual access to the Boat Launch.

**Light Trespass** - The Law Department completed their drafts to address light trespass on residential buildings. This is not the nuisance component, which has already been approved. This includes change to our code when people are constructing a new residence or adding on to a residence so that we can address light trespass during the construction process. We plan to introduce that legislation to Council for its first reading on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

**802 Williams Street** - There has been some back and forth through some emails this morning related to the property at 802 Williams Street. At one point, that was going to be donated to the City. In the interim, it has been sold to be renovated. That new property owner has decided to demolish the property due to the property being unsalvageable. They are going to move forward with demolition on their own. As such, we have notified the Erie County Land Reutilization Corporation that there is no need for us to retain the \$20,000 grant proceeds they were going to provide to the City for the demolition.

**2025 Budget** - We concluded our Finance Committee meetings on Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup>. That budget was unanimously recommended to Council, and we will have a public hearing on December 18<sup>th</sup> prior to considering the budget.

Ohio House Bill 296 I want to mention Ohio H.B. 296. We continue to pay close attention as that works its way through the legislature. That Bill would increase employer contributions to the Ohio Police & Fire Pension Fund, specifically for police officers. If approved, employer contributions would increase from 19.5% to 24% over a 6-year period. It has already been approved by the House and is moving to the Senate. Countless municipalities, particularly some of the larger ones, have come out against the Bill, including the Ohio Municipal League, due to the major financial constraints it is going to place on every single municipality that pays into any type of pension fund. We will continue to keep Council apprised of potential budget ramifications if that is approved by the Senate and signed by the Governor.

Kyle Capodice – I wanted to congratulate Kyle Capodice for passing his Water Supply I examination – very well done.

West Side Water Tower – An extension was granted by the Ohio Department of Development to commit funds for the \$5 Million grant we received. The project must be awarded to a contractor by June 30, 2025, and construction must be completed by August 1, 2026. We are happy that ODOD was willing to agree to that extension of funding.

Bargaining Unit Negotiations – We have held multiple meetings with all four bargaining units. The Patrol Officers voted to approve the contract, and this will be considered by Council at our December 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Sergeants also voted to approve the contract, and that will be considered at the December 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, as well. AFSCME representatives have tentatively agreed, but they still need to formally vote. We hope that vote will occur this week, and if in the affirmative, we will present that contract to Council on the 18<sup>th</sup>, as well. With regard to the Fire contract, I do anticipate us still needing a little bit of work. It is not unforeseen that that contract approval may bleed into January.

Agreements and City Manager's Approvals – Going back to the ODOD water tower grant, we entered into that First Amendment with the Ohio Department of Development to move back the usage of those funds to August of 2026.

HPP Switchgear Procurement Bid - I also wanted to mention one project that is out to bid – the Huron Public Power Substation Switchgear Procurement. A Request for Bids was posted on December 4<sup>th</sup>. The last day for questions is December 30<sup>th</sup>, and the bids are due on January 6, 2025 at 2pm.

Website – The website goes live on December 17<sup>th</sup>. There may still be some functionality things to work through.

Upcoming Meetings – Planning Commission meeting on Wednesday, December 18 at 5pm in Council Chambers; second City Council meeting on Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in Council Chambers.

City Offices Closed – A reminder to the public that City administrative offices will be closed on December 24<sup>th</sup> starting at noon, closed on December 25<sup>th</sup> in observance of Christmas Day, closing at noon on December 31<sup>st</sup>, and closed on January 1, 2025 in observance of New Year's Day.

**Mayor's Discussion**

Mayor Tapp said:

I want to thank all of the ladies and gentlemen for showing from Mrs. Merckens class. You are welcome to come anytime. We try to keep it semi-light... if you have any questions, you come up to the Council podium and speak. You can reach out after the meeting, during the week – staff, Council, whoever, are all willing to answer your questions. I appreciate everyone showing up.

Winter Fest was this past Saturday. It went well, even though the weather was not the most inviting. The lights in the trees did get lit up. There were a lot of good things said about the Parks Department for putting that on. Thanks to Doug and his staff, and everyone that showed up to the Winter Fest.

Lastly, I would like to send my condolences to Mr. Biddlecombe – he had a passing in his family this past week. I just want you to know that our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

**For the Good of the Order**

**Mark Claus** – I also want to congratulate and thank Doug and his staff for another great event – Winter Fest. He heard some good feedback on the parade. It was winter, so we actually had winter weather. It may have been nicer if we had warmer weather. The fireworks were really good and there were a lot of people out and about in town. He was out in the N. Main area and there were a lot of people out there and businesses were busy, as well, which is another good thing. I would also like to give my condolences to the Biddlecombe family for their loss. That's all I have.

**Joe Dike** – I would also like to give my condolences to the Biddlecombe family – sorry for your loss. I got the flyer in the mail. All of the individuals that have been here for a number of years working for the City – I just want to say, congratulations. I didn't realize the number of years some of those individuals had. That was very impressive to see. Thank you.

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

**William Biddlecombe** – Thanks, staff, for all your hard work. Congratulations to Doug and your team for a great Winter Fest. I drove in the parade again this year, and I attended the tree lighting and fireworks. They were all well-attended, and it was really great. The next School Board meeting is coming up on Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at the High School. Home games coming up:

Girls Basketball – December 21, 29 and January 4

Boys Basketball – December 10, 17, 21, 17 and January 10 and 11

Bowling – December 14, 17 and January 7 and 8

I would like to thank all of the students who came from Mrs. Merckens' class. Feel free to give me a call or send me an email if you have any questions. If anyone is interested, after this meeting I will show you how to get on the website to where our full packet was that we were looking at tonight. Please come out and support our local events, programs and student athletes, and GO TIGERS!

The Mayor and City Manager then posed with the students of Mrs. Merckens' class for a photo.

**Executive Session**

**Motion by Mr. Claus to enter into executive session to consider compensation of a public employee or official, and to invite the Law Director, Mr. Schrader.**

Mr. Claus indicated that there may be further action following the executive session.

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

**YEAS: Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Biddlecombe (5)**

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion passed and Council moved into executive session at 7:15pm.

**Return to Regular Session**

Council returned to regular session at 7:31pm.

**Motion**

**Motion by Mr. Claus to give the City Manager a one-time performance cash bonus of 10% of current 2024 base pay, no base salary or cost of living increase for 2025.**

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 (5)**

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed.

**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, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves (5)**

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being a majority in favor of the motion, the regular Council meeting of December 10, 2024, was adjourned at 7:16pm.

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Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_