

THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO
Proceedings of the Huron City Council
Regular Meeting Tuesday, May 28, 2024 at 6:30pm

Call to Order

The Mayor called the Council meeting 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**. Member absent: **Matt Grieves**.

Motion by Mr. Claus to excuse the absence of Mr. Grieves from the meeting.

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

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

NAYS: None (0)

Staff in attendance: City Manager Matt Lasko, Law Director Representative Travis Filicky (hereinafter, "Law Director"), Finance Director Cory Swaisgood, Service Director Stuart Hamilton, Police Chief Terry Graham, Parks & Recreation Operations Manager Doug Steinwart and Terri Welkener, Clerk of Council.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. Dike to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2024 regular Council meeting, as written.

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

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

NAYS: None (0)

With more than a majority in favor of the motion, the motion passed and the minutes of the regular Council meeting of April 23, 2024 were adopted.

Motion by Mr. Dike to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2024 regular Council meeting, as written.

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

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

NAYS: None (0)

With more than a majority in favor of the motion, the motion passed and the minutes of the regular Council meeting of May 14, 2024 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

None.

New Business

Ordinance No. 2024-18

Motion by Mr. Tapp that Ordinance No. 2024-18 (AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FEES) be placed on its first reading.

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

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

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2024-18 was placed upon first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Captain Nash explained that this relates to third-party billing rates the Department is looking to update. The proposed billing rates were brought to the Department by Medcount, and will put them more in line with the rest of the county. You will see that Sandusky is a little bit lower, but they are also in the same process of going to the same rights proposed by the City of Huron. This doesn't cost City residents any more; this is what the Department can affordably bill agencies and the insurance companies to get reimbursement for an ALS 1, ALS 2 or BLS squad runs. There is no change to the ALS 2 and it will stay at \$1,100. The ALS1 goes from \$750 to \$900, and the BLS will go from \$535 to \$800. The mileage is also built in there, as well.

Mr. Hagy asked what ALS 1/ALS 2/BLS stand for. Captain Nash explained that those terms relate to what they are doing in the back of squad. If they are doing a cardiac arrest, that is going to be an ALS 2 because they are throwing all of the different drugs at it, they are doing tubes, IV's, etc. An ALS 1 may include providing pain medication or something to that effect versus pulling out everything at their disposal to try to help or save a life. BLS stands for Basic Life Support. ALS is advanced life support. They don't often get into a lot of the BLS stuff (maybe a nosebleed), but even then, if they have lost a ton of blood from a nosebleed, they can be an ALS because they are doing an IV to replenish fluids.

Mayor Tapp commented that the City does soft billing. These increased fees will not affect residents of the City of Huron. Captain Nash agreed, saying this is a continuation of that soft billing. They are not looking at doing hard billing.

The Mayor asked if there were any questions on the motion. There were none.

Ordinance No. 2024-19

Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe that the three-reading rule be waived, and Ordinance No. 2024-19 (AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO PERFORM CONSTRUCTION RELATED TO THE US 6 CONNECTIVITY CORRIDOR PROJECT) 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 waiving the three-reading rule. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being more than five votes in favor, the motion suspending the three-reading rule passed, and Ordinance 2024-19 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Hamilton stated that this is ODOT requesting permission to carry out work within the City limits as part of the US 6 Connectivity Corridor Project, which includes the 3 roundabouts that will be partially within the City limits. There is other work, such as the multi-use pathways that will also be within the City limits. This is standard consent legislation, and there is no budgetary impact.

Mr. Dike asked when Council made the decision to do a roundabout in the City limits. Mr. Hamilton answered that this project has been long in the planning, and he doesn't know when this was started. Mr. Lasko said he believes it was 3+ years ago. Mr. Dike clarified his question, asking "Did this body right here make the decision to do a roundabout in the City limits?" Mr. Hamilton answered technically, no, they did not. These are ODOT roads; they just happen to fall within our jurisdiction. They can do what they like to do with their roads, but they just happen to need consent from us to do it. Mr. Biddlecombe asked if Council was to vote NO, would ODOT still do what they want to do? Mr. Hamilton answered that he doesn't have a definitive answer on that, but he is going to guess that yes, they would still do it.

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. 47-2024. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Ordinance No. 2024-19 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect in 30 days.

Resolution No. 49-2024

Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be waived, and Resolution No. 49-2024 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPROVE A LOAN APPLICATION SUBMISSION BY THE CITY OF HURON TO THE OHIO WATER DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY ("OWDA") RELATING TO THE SOUTH MAIN STREET WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED THREE MILLION TWENTY THOUSAND AND XX/100 DOLLARS (\$3,020,000.00)) be placed on its first reading.

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

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

NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion suspending the three-reading rule passed, and Resolution 49-2024 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Hamilton explained that this ordinance authorizes the City to apply for and accept a loan for the South Main Water Main Project. OWDA does gap financing for these projects, and they offer their loans at below-market rates, which is always beneficial for the City. They expect this loan to be in the amount of approximately \$3,000,000 at an interest rate over 20 years of 3.8%, which is at least a couple of points below what the City could get from anyone else.

Mr. Hagy asked if the \$3,000,000 loan was budgeted for 2024 (the service/debt payment)? Mr. Hamilton answered that this was budgeted, and if you go back to the when Council went through the water rate changes, they budgeted this project at 5.7% interest, so coming in at 3.8% saves a couple of points.

Mr. Claus asked when the City has to take out this loan and start making service payments. Mr. Hamilton answered that the City will apply for this as soon as this legislation is done. It will then go through the award process, which is pretty quick. At that point, they get the loan and they can start drawing down on that loan. They will make repayments based on what they are drawing down at the time.

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. 49-2024. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

NAYS: None (0)

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Resolution No. 49-2024 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:

Humanetics Press Release – They wanted to recognize and thank Humanetics for 15 years of operations in the City of Huron. Out at their 45,000-sf facility in the Huron Corporate Park, they currently employ 120 individuals. To celebrate this achievement, the company recently raised the billboard on Route 2 near Rye Beach to remind the community that the safety design of every vehicle in the world has been tested with a crash test dummy originating from Huron, and that those devices have saved millions of lives. We should all be very proud of that. Thank you to Humanetics for their commitment to Huron, but more importantly, the work they are doing to keep every driver and passenger safe. They are going to be extending an invitation for anyone that wants to do a tour of the facility during the week of June 10th. As soon as we have a date in mind, we will circulate that to Council in hopes that some members may be able to attend.

Huron Chamber of Commerce Lake Front Park Event - The Huron Chamber of Commerce Lake Front Market Sunset Sip & Shop event will be held on Friday, June 7th from 5-9pm, and on Saturday, June 8th from 10am-8pm at Lake Front Park.

Anchor Memorial Dedication – Reminder that we will be having the Anchor Memorial public art dedication and celebration on Friday, May 31st at 1:00pm at the Huron Boat Basin & Amphitheater.

Parks & Recreation – They have been awarded, through the Erie Metroparks Local Improvement Grant Program, the amount of funds needed to replace the canopy at the Boat Basin Amphitheater. Mr. Steinwart came here a couple of weeks ago looking for permission to apply for those grant funds. Again, he is appreciative of Mr. Steinwart's efforts to make those requests to the MetroParks to secure those funds.

Water Department – There will be a Water Plant Open House and Tour on Tuesday, June 18, 2024 at 6:30pm. This will be on a first-come-first-served basis maxing out at 20 residents. Depending on the responses, a second Open House will be organized and this will continue to be advertised on our Facebook page.

Personnel – We continue to receive applications and undertake interviews for the Planning Director position. We also continue to receive applications and undertake interviews for the Finance Director position. In the interim, we intend to enter into a Consultant Contract with Mr. Cory Swaisgood to continue to assist the Finance Department operations until the full-time position is filled.

Regarding the Zoning Inspector position, after interviewing several applicants, Huron resident Alec Romick was offered and accepted the position. He will be starting with us next Monday, June 3rd. He comes to us with over 20 years of project management experience with Barnes Nursery, as well as independent construction projects.

Charter Review Commission – On Thursday, May 23rd, the Charter Review Commission completed its initial review of the Charter and came up with a list of proposed changes to send to Council. The Chairman of the Commission, as well as other members of the Commission, will be attending the June 11th Council meeting to present their proposed changes and explain the reasoning behind each proposal. A reminder to Council – you can accept all, some or none of the proposals to put on the ballot in November. A huge thank you to all members of the Charter Review Commission. Mr. Harris is here this evening, and I thank you for dedicating all your time to the cause, and for executing the job with thoroughness, having attended several of those meetings.

Agreement – I wanted to mention one agreement that the City has entered into, which is the LPA Federal-Local LET Project Agreement. This City entered into this Agreement with ODOT for sidewalk and crosswalk improvements at Forest Hills and Valley View Drive along State Route 13. This agreement is required when Federal funding is used by local public agencies. The Federal Highway Administration has designated ODOT as the agency in Ohio to administer those funding programs. This agreement sets forth requirements associated with those funds for the project and establishes responsibilities for the local administration of the project, which will be carried out by the City.

Upcoming Meetings – Utilities Committee will meet on Wednesday, June 5th at 5pm in the main conference room; the Board of Zoning Appeals will meet on Monday, June 10th at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers; our first City Council meeting of the month will be held on Tuesday, June 11th at 6:30pm in the Council Chambers; the next City Council meeting will be held on June 25th (that is going to be a very busy evening) – they will start off with a Council work session at 5:30pm, which will be related to the ConAgra Redevelopment. That will be followed by the City Council meeting following at 6:30pm in the Council Chambers on June 25th. That evening, we have several Public Hearings scheduled to include: Public Hearing on the Tax Budget for FY2025 at 6:30pm; Public Hearing on Firelands Scientific's petition to rescind Ordinance 1121.08, and update other sections of the Huron Codified Ordinances to align with Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3780; and a Public Hearing at 6:30pm in the Council Chambers, a Public Hearing on proposed revisions to Chapter 185 related to a potential local income tax increase; there will be a Planning Commission meeting on Wednesday, June 26th at 5pm in the Council Chambers.

REMINDER: City administrative offices will be closed on Wednesday, June 19th in observance of Juneteenth.

SAVE THE DATE: The Huron Public Library will be celebrating the completed renovation of the Children & Teen area with a ribbon cutting on Friday, June 21st at noon. Musician Zach Morgan will kick off the celebration with a concert at 11am.

Water Safety Day = A huge thank you to all the City departments and outside organizations that participated in another successful Water Safety Day.

Mr. Biddlecombe said just before he came here tonight, he was posting a link to the YouTube video to the meeting and he noticed that there seems to be more traction on the post that the Parks & Recreation Department did about Nickel Plate Beach opening, the passes and the parking lot fees. There are a lot of questions from residents as to why the residents should pay to use Nickel Plate Beach. He asked that Mr. Lasko explain what the fees go for, the whole ownership structure of the park.... Mr. Lasko said he will be putting Mr. Steinwart on the spot to answer this one. Mr. Steinwart explained that some of this has to do with legislation that was put before Council a couple of months ago that increased the daily parking rate from \$6 to \$7 per day. There is a resident parking pass available for the season for \$25, which has remained the same for at least a decade. The increased cost to maintain that public beach and controlling parking are the primary uses of those funds. It is a parking fee; it is not a fee to go to the park. You can walk or bike into the park at will. Parking fees are only collected between the hours of 10am to 5pm. Mr. Lasko added that it is hard when you are talking about public facilities, but with the limited parking, one of the things that is being charged for is exclusivity, not unlike doing a shelter rental to make sure you have that shelter for that amount of time. Obviously, if a shelter is wide open, you can go use it at your pleasure. One of the things we want to charge for versus not charge for, is when you are getting some

level of exclusivity, whether that be a parking space, a shelter, or a specific time on the new pickleball courts, etc. He thinks that leads to why there is at least a modest resident charge for that space.

Mayor's Discussion

Mayor Tapp said:

The memorial events that went on this past weekend and on Monday – Huron High School, Scott Cemetery and the Huron Yacht Club – all positives on those. He heard the military jet fly over several times. The Yacht Club did a great presentation; a couple of the Council members attended that.

Water Safety Day – thank you guys, Captain Nash is here, Mr. Steinwart, Parks. That's a big hit. There was a lot of action on social media about how nice that was. I know the kids loved it. Thank you for that.

Congratulations to Humanetics. They have been here longer than I thought.

I always want to thank Mr. Steinwart. I attended Kindergarten graduation at the Amphitheater. It's not a son, now it's a grandson. They did a great job, and everything looks great. The place was packed, there were a lot of people there.

Regarding the Anchor Memorial dedication to be held on May 31st, Councilman Grieves is going to speak there because he is on the HJRD, and that was part of this deal. He is supposed to be there and will say a few words.

Thank you to the Charter Review Commission. He doesn't know what they are going to come back with, but it wasn't easy to get everybody together. It is a commitment, so I just want to thank you for your hard work.

For the Good of the Order

Joe Dike – I would like to say congratulations and best of luck to the Huron Baseball Team. They play this Thursday in the Regional Semifinal against Napoleon up in Bowling Green. I just want to say good luck to them. Secondly, over Memorial Day weekend, I was able to attend one of my children's baseball tournaments over at the VFW in Norwalk. I sent everyone on the Council a picture of a beautiful, very large flagpole and flag. I think it would be very cool if they looked at putting something that massive in our community just to show the pride of our country, and to have that somewhere, I think that would be very neat to have somewhere. I am going to press that, remind people, and hopefully we can figure out some different things. That is going to be something I am going to be pushing over the next months. Lastly, schools are out at the end of the week. I hope everybody has a wonderful summer and I hope it's a fun summer.

Sam Artino – I have nothing, thank you.

Mark Claus – I also would like to say congratulations to Humanetics. I think they announced they have a tour, and years ago when it was out on Route 250 before they merged, he did a tour with the Boy Scouts and his son, and that was super-interesting. If you get a chance, that would be an interesting tour. It is interesting to think that that company affects cars all over the country, if not the world. Also, a big thanks

to the Charter Review Commission, Tom and your group. As Mayor Tapp said, we are looking forward to hearing change you have recommended. The Memorial Day events – I personally attended the Scott Cemetery and Huron Yacht Club events. Those were both very well-attended and well-organized. It was a good kickoff to the summer for Memorial Day for the community. Joe had mentioned the baseball team. Also, there is Boys and Girls Track athletes heading to States this weekend, as well. William will probably give us more details on that. I want to wish them luck from City Council.

Joel Hagy – No sir, I have nothing for the good of the order.

William Biddlecombe – Thanks, staff, for all your hard work. Welcome, Alec Romick, to the Zoning Department. Thank you to everyone who continues to ensure Water Safety Day continues to occur each year. It is a worthwhile program. Congratulations, as well, to Humanetics. He got to work with crash test dummies in one of his college co-op assignments, and they are a neat thing and have saved a lot of lives. Hats off to them.

I would like everyone to know that the next large item garbage day will be Monday, June 3rd.

Takeaways from the past regular School Board meeting: They had an acknowledgment sendoff to their retirees. They acknowledged Senior Kayla Weyer, who painted an awesome new mural where the front office has been relocated. If you get a chance to go over there, check that out. They acknowledged their teacher, Sandy Schuh, who was named Huron Chamber Educator of the Year. Senior and Student Liaison to the Board, Lucy Watson, was honored for her work the last two years with a new award named in honor of John Jones. The Treasurer gave his 5-year forecast, which now shows that deficit spending will begin a year later, thanks to around \$900,000 in new funds they have coming in. There was a overview/presentation given by Mike Sudsina on municipal bonds advisory services, and they voted to hire Matthew Ayers as the new District Director of Activities and Athletics. There was also a Special Meeting on Friday before graduation, but he was unable to attend that meeting.

As Mr. Tapp pointed out, he would like to thank Doug and his staff. He was also at the kindergarten graduation, and the facilities did look great. Congratulations to the Boys Baseball team on their Division II District Championship, and good luck in Regionals. Good luck to all the State-bound Track athletes. Congratulations to the Class of 2024.

We've got some Boat Basin events coming up: We have Abbey Rodeo on June 8th at 7pm. Parks & Rec events coming up: Safety Towns June 10-12 and June 17-19; Track Camp June 5-7; Baseball Camp June 10-13. Please come and support our local events, programs and student athletes, and Go Tigers!

Mr. Dike asked Mr. Biddlecombe about the Schools forecast \$900,000 in additional revenue – where did that come from? Mr. Biddlecombe answered that he believes it was through property tax increases.

Executive Session

Motion by Mr. Claus to enter into executive session to consider the hiring and compensation of a public official, and to invite Mr. Lasko and Mr. Ebert (via phone, if needed) and Mr. Filicky.

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. Member of Council voted as follows:

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

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor of the motion, the motion passed and Council moved into executive session at 7:00pm. Mayor Tapp said that Council would most likely take additional action following the Executive Session.

Return to Regular Session

Council returned to regular session at 7:16pm.

New Business (continued)

Resolution No. 47-2024

Motion by Mr. Claus that the three-reading rule be waived, and Resolution No. 47-2024 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF HURON, WITH SEELEY, SAVIDGE, EBERT & GOURASH CO., LPA FOR THE PROVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR FROM JUNE 4, 2024 THROUGH JUNE 3, 2025 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED ONE HUNDRED FIFTY FOUR THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND XX/100 DOLLARS (\$154,500.00)) 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 waiving the three-reading rule. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

NAYS: None (0)

There being more than five votes in favor, the motion suspending the three-reading rule passed, and Resolution 47-2024 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko explained that this the City's annual renewal with SSEG, who has been our Law Director for the past several years. As a reminder for the public, Todd Schrader is our primary Law Director, and the Assistant Law Director is Mr. Gary Ebert. This agreement reflects a 3% increase, which totals \$4,500 extra. This will increase the contract from \$150,000 to \$154,500. This is the first increase they have seen since 2021. Generally, all other terms of the agreement stay the same. Either party has the ability to cancel the contract with 90 days' notice. Also, this covers basic legal fees and duties. Outside litigation has always been separate in previous agreements, and they have not increased the rate for outside litigation, which is discounted at a rate of \$200/hour. This new agreement would start on June 4, 2024, and run for 265 days. They thought it was important to keep this as an annual contract as they monitor their annual expenses for the Law Director position, whether they decide to staff it or contract it.

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. 47-2024. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Resolution No. 47-2024 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Adjournment

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

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

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

There being a majority in favor of the motion, the regular Council meeting of May 28, 2024 was adjourned at 7:19pm.

Adopted: _____

11 JUN 2024



Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council