

THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO
Proceedings of the Huron City Council
Regular Meeting Tuesday, July 9, 2024 at 6:30pm

Call to Order

The Mayor called to order the regular Council meeting of July 9, 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 I

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 Grievess and Joel Hagy.**

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, Fire Captain Mike Hohler and Terri Welkener, Clerk of Council.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. Dike to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2024 regular meeting of Council, 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, Grievess, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and the minutes of the March 26, 2024 regular Council meeting were adopted.

Motion by Mr. Dike to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2024 regular meeting of Council, 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, Grievess, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and the minutes of the April 9, 2024 regular Council meeting 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.

Sue Doherty- Director of Serving our Seniors, 310 E. Boalt Street, Sandusky. I am here this evening to ask for your moral support and your leadership by attending a public forum we are holding to discuss the problem of affordable rental housing for retirees. We are inviting retirees who are paying market rate rent and she is also going to all cities, villages, townships and calling individuals to ask that they please attend the meeting for the purposes of lending us your moral support and your leadership. This is not a finger-pointing session, it is not a name-blaming session. As a community leader, you have circles of influence that I do not have. You have knowledge that I do not have, and I envision being able to fill the room with Erie County's leaders so we can dialog with the panel. You will see that we have your City Manager as a panelist to help us this discussion. It is all questions and answer so that we can understand the nature of the problem. Also in the audience with the leaders will be older adults who are paying market rate rent. I will be facilitating the dialog along with the assistance of Matt Westerhold. They will be holding microphones into the audience so that we can ask the panel question to understand the nature of the problem. Only when we understand the problem can we start to work on a solution. It is a one-time meeting, and I am here simply to ask, "Would you do me the favor of attending on August 15th, and would you listen and contribute to the extent you are comfortable doing so." Mr. Artino said it is on his calendar.

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. 2024-20 (third and final reading)

Motion by Mr. Artino that Ordinance No. 2024-20 (AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND AMENDING AND RESTATING SUBSECTION 1126.15(d)(1) (SETBACKS) UNDER SECTION 1126.15 (SELF-SERVICE STORAGE AND MINI-STORAGE) OF CHAPTER 1126 (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCE OF HURON, OHIO TO ESTABLISH A NEW SUBSECTION 1126.15(d)(1)(D)) 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: Artino, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2024-20 was placed upon its third and final reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Lasko reminded Council and the public that they were made aware due to a recent project going through the planning process (mini-storage project) for which they have separate ordinances (created in

2017). Within those codes, there are requirements for 30' front and rear setbacks, and 15' side setbacks. However, the project in question is being built in an industrial district. Our current code in both I-1 and I-2 require no setbacks. What they are doing is creating an exception in the mini-storage code for property located in an I-1 or I-2 District to allow those setback requirements to take precedence. They have also added that through the planning and design review process, safety services can require increased setbacks. There was a question from Councilman Dike at the last meeting if an applicant still has the ability to go to the BZA with regard to any setbacks required by police or fire. As Mr. Schrader answered at that meeting, anyone can go the BZA not just based on this code, but because of any other codified ordinances in which they feel aggrieved. They are creating an exception in the mini-storage code that if it is being built in an I-1 or I-2 District, those setbacks take precedence.

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. 2024-20. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Ordinance No. 2024-20 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Ordinance No. 2024-25 (second reading)

Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe that Ordinance No. 2024-25 (AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORS OF A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE II, SECTION 2.08(2) OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF HURON RELATING TO POWERS OF THE COUNCIL) 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: Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Hagy (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2024-25 was placed upon its second reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Schrader pointed out to Council that they are on the second reading for this ordinance and the four that follow, and they may want to think about if they want to adopt one, some, all or none. Each of the amendments stands alone. This ordinance relates to Section 2.08(2). The Charter Review Commission felt that this change was necessary. The Charter provided that Council would have the power to "establish the internal organization and staffing of departments." That may have been true back in the 1950's when the Charter was promulgated, but now they want to the change to read, "establish the internal organization of the city administration..." to be more consistent with how things are in current time.

Mr. Hagy asked if the language they have on their sheets is the original language or the proposed new language. Mr. Schrader answered that the initial language is in the ordinance at the top where it says,

"Among the powers that Council shall have..." and the number (2) shows up. That's the initial language, and the stuff that is changed is below.

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

Ordinance No. 2024-26 (second reading)

Motion by Mr. Artino that Ordinance No. 2024-26 (AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORS OF A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE VI OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF HURON TO DELETE SECTION 6.09 RELATING TO ALLOTMENTS) 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: Artino, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe (7)

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2024-26 was placed upon its second reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Schrader explained that Mr. Swaisgood attended one of the meetings with the Charter Review Commission, and they questioned whether the Allotment section was relevant. If retained, this section permitted the Department Heads to evaluate their budget on a quarterly basis and propose changes by and through the City Manager. Mr. Swaisgood indicated that this is just not the way things are done now. The budget is established and if there are needs, those things are brought by the department heads to the City Manager, but the departments no longer ask for quarterly updates to their budget. Mr. Swaisgood thought this section was somewhat archaic and onerous, and not consistent with the way the City currently operates.

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

Ordinance No. 2024-27 (second reading)

Motion by Mr. Dike that Ordinance No. 2024-27 (AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORS OF A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE IV, SECTION 4.02(2) OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF HURON RELATING TO DUTIES OF THE CITY MANAGER) 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: Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp (7)

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2024-27 was placed upon its second reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Schrader stated that the change to this section is necessitated by what will follow. Andrea Rocco took a hard look at Article VIII with the Charter Review Commission's recommendation. This is to comport with

that particular change whereby it said that the City Manage could appoint, removal all officers, etc. under the "merit system," and they changed Article VIII to clarify that the merit system really only applies to police and fire only. This change is to be consistent with the changes requested to Article VIII in Ordinance No. 2024-28.

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

Ordinance No. 2024-28 (second reading)

Motion by Mr. Grieves that Ordinance No. 2024-28 (AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORS OF A PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE VIII OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF HURON BY REPLACING ARTICLE VIII RELATING TO PERSONNEL IN ITS ENTIRETY) 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: Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp, Dike (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2024-28 was placed upon its second reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Schrader explained that Article VIII has been completely redone to correctly identify it (in the current Charter it is identified as Article VII), but more importantly to more accurately reflect that police and fire are subject to merit requirements and testing, while other positions in the City are not. This is a wholesale change to be more consistent with the way the City is currently operating.

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

Ordinance No. 2024-29 (second reading)

Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe that Ordinance No. 2024-29 (AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORS OF A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE V, SECTION 5.10 OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF HURON RELATING TO QUALIFICATIONS OF THE DIRECTOR OF LAW) 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: Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Hagy (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2024-29 was placed upon its second reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Schrader stated that there is a statute in the Ohio Revised Code that states that when a law director serves a municipality, that law director shall serve as legal counsel to the local school district. They are permitted by change of the Charter to usurp that ordinance and override it by changing our Charter to say

that it is not permitted... that the city law director will serve the city and shall not serve as legal counsel for the Huron City School District. This is to ensure and reflect what is currently happening. The School Board has their own counsel and this assumes that the law director is also qualified to be legal counsel for the School Board. He can only speak for himself, but he is not permitted to undertake offering legal advice on matters that he is not competent in and he couldn't do it even if he was asked. The statute also says that they shall serve for no additional compensation.... Mayor Tapp asked if Mr. Schrader has ever heard of a law director serve in both capacities. Mr. Schrader answered no. He is familiar with other municipalities that have this language in their charter.

Mr. Hagy said that while the current circumstance is that Mr. Schrader is not qualified to represent the School Board, why codify not doing it when there could be a situation where someone is qualified and you get economies of scale with one attorney instead of two. Why make a rule that says we can never do it. Is there a conflict of interest? Mr. Schrader answered that he hadn't thought of the conflict of interest issue. It may be happening in other municipalities – there may be a law director who has experience and expertise in municipal law and also in schools in the 88 counties and all the municipalities. However, of the municipalities he is aware of and they have researched that have this, they changed this long ago. They don't want that happening in their municipality, and the school boards have their own legal counsel. Monty Tapp said he could maybe see in a small district when there's not so much going on. Mr. Hagy commented that you can't get much smaller than Huron. The idea that there's no compensation.... Mr. Schrader added that when the Charter was passed in the 1950's, maybe it was more common and expected. Maybe the law wasn't as specialized as it is now. Mr. Hagy asked why they should eliminate the option. There's got to be a reason we never want this to happen, therefore we are going to write an ordinance or put in the Charter that it can never happen. Mr. Schrader answered that the ordinance as drafted that the law director for the City shall, it's not optional. Otherwise, if he (or any other law director) was summoned, he would have to resign because he is not competent.

Mr. Lasko said that if they were hiring for a law director and they know they may have another obligation for which they are not going to be compensated for, they would have a really hard time hiring a law director. Also, who gets priority? If we have a law director, we want their attention. That's not to say that we couldn't work out an agreement or a relationship, but this doesn't codify how prioritization would be given in terms of where they are giving their time. Selfishly, on the administrative side of things, it could create some challenges if it were ever put into practice.

Mr. Harris was acknowledged by Mayor Tapp from the audience. Mr. Harris said one of the biggest reasons they decided to put this before Council was because it was almost obvious that if this ever did happen, we would lose our law director – they are going to walk away. You tell them that they have to do this for not compensation... he knows that he would walk away. They all came to the same decision that this should change because that is a great way to lose your law director without any question. It is common sense that if that was ever the case, the City would almost automatically lose our law director. Mr. Hagy appreciates, but said he hates loses options. He is always looking for ways to get more options.

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

Ordinance No. 2024-32 (second reading)

Motion by Mr. Artino that Ordinance No. 2024-32 (AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND AMENDING AND RESTATING SECTION 1121.08 (REGULATIONS APPLYING TO ALL DISTRICTS) OF CHAPTER 1121 (DISTRICTS ESTABLISHED; BOUNDARIES; GENERAL REGULATIONS) OF THE HURON CODIFIED ORDINANCES) 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: Artino, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Biddlecombe, Hagy (7)

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2024-32 was placed upon its second reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Lasko said he would like to address Ordinances 2024-32 and 2024-33 at the same time. These ordinances are in relation to the statewide vote last year as it relates to allowing the dispensing of recreational marijuana. These amendments would bring our Codified Ordinances up to date with the minimum standards as required by the Ohio Revised Code. 2024-32 does one thing – it changes Chapter 1121, specifically Regulations Applying to All Districts. As currently stated, the retail dispensing of marijuana for recreational purposes is prohibited in all zoning districts. If there is already an existing medical marijuana dispensary, any city, township or village cannot preclude them from doing retail recreational dispensing. What they can do, however, is limit the number of additional companies that can come into the community. What they are proposing to change is Section 1121.082 is, “Retail dispensing of marijuana for recreational purposes is limited to one (1) location citywide.” They are allowing the current medical dispensary to do recreational, but they are allowing no additional dispensaries to come into the City.

Ordinance 2024-33, which speaks to medical retail dispensaries, specifically, does two things: (1) it only used to speak to medical marijuana, and now it speaks to both medical and recreational marijuana simultaneously; and (2) there are a few more ORC references in the Codified Ordinances section based on what was passed at the last election.

Mr. Schrader wanted to keep Council and the public apprised of the status of Firelands Scientific’s request for licensure as a recreational marijuana dispensary. He received correspondence from Attorney Jesse Gannon, legal counsel for Firelands Scientific, by letter dated July 3, 2024 whereby he states as a follow-up to our discussions that Firelands has received a provisional license from the Ohio Division of Cannabis Control on July 3. They currently hold a medical license and what they now call “Dual Use Provisional” license for their facility at 2344 University Drive. “Please know that Licensee’s Dual Use Provisional License does not authorize Licensee to begin adult-use dispensing. The Division is currently reviewing application materials, which may result in the issuance of a Certificate of Operation, which would allow Firelands to begin adult-use cannabis dispensing. Licensee will follow up with communications to inform local government and law enforcement when a Certificate of Operation has been issued and when Firelands intends to begin adult-use cannabis use activities before commencing said activities.” He received a phone

call this afternoon from Attorney Gannon to check. He is not feeling well, but wanted to let us know that they have not been issued any formal Certificate of Operation for recreational dispensing as of today.

Mr. Claus asked Mr. Schrader about the change to only allow 1 dispensary because they have to given Firelands' situation. Would it be worthwhile to add in there... we are allowing because we know we can't stop them, essentially, given their situation. What if they decided, although unlikely, to not be a recreational dispensary. Couldn't we just say... because if that wasn't the scenario, we wouldn't have to let somebody else do it. If we say 1, someone else could open up a separate recreational dispensary based on our language. Mr. Schrader answered that it would be inappropriate for them to add to the ordinance language saying 1 recreational dispensary and it will be Firelands Scientific. Knowing what the law is, that they are the only one that has a medical certificate in the City, and they are the only one that has adjacent and contiguous property, and that has also petitioned for a recreational license, they are the ones that we can't stop. Others, we can, because they don't have a Certificate of Operation and they are not opening on current land or land adjacent and contiguous to... that's the game changer for them. If they don't own the land or are operating on land they own or contiguous, that changes the approach for the City and their ability to say we are not going to permit it. Mr. Claus said, but aren't we changing our language that says none to one. We are not distinguishing them, specifically. Mr. Schrader answered that if Firelands were to bail for some reason, he supposes they would have to reconvene and determine.... Mr. Claus said they can always reconvene if they thought there was a situation. If they could add their name to the ordinance, they would, because it's obvious as that's who the statute was designed to protect. Mr. Claus wondered if additional language could be added such as, "to a current operating entity..." per the State's language. Mr. Hagy asked if the State's law specifically says that you have to have a medical facility in order to qualify to have a recreational facility. Mr. Lasko answered no, what it does say is if there is an existing medical, you cannot stop them from dispensing recreational. Mr. Hagy said that it is self-disqualifying because someone would have to come in, start a medical and then apply for recreational, and the City could say no to them starting a medical dispensary. Mr. Lasko said an even quicker fix if the existing operator did fold or at least decided to get out of one of the two business, instead of having to go through a series of codified ordinance reads, you could probably quickly do a moratorium under one read until you change your code. We could revisit it, a moratorium could be used to put the brakes on it until we figure out what we would want to do. Mr. Claus said we know Firelands definitely wants to do and they are in the business for the long haul with a large investments. The likelihood that they are not going to do it is unlikely. Previous Councils decided to put a restriction on, and they are only taking it off for this one case because the Ohio Revised Code requires it.

Mr. Schrader added that the City is not doing this because they are okay with having a recreational dispensary, they are only doing this because Firelands already has a medical dispensary operating license, and they want to open on adjacent or contiguous land. That's the only reason the City can't stop it.

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

Ordinance No. 2024-33 (second reading)

Motion by Mr. Artino that Ordinance No. 2024-33 (AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND AMENDING AND RESTATING SECTION 1126.16 (MARIJUANA RETAIL DISPENSARIES) OF CHAPTER 1126 (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) OF THE HURON CODIFIED ORDINANCES) 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: Artino, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2024-33 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Lasko said he had nothing further to add.

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

Resolution No. 57-2024 (second reading)

Motion by Mr. Claus that Resolution No. 57-2024 (A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NECESSITY OF AN ELECTION ON THE QUESTION OF APPROVING THE PASSAGE OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTIONS 185.01, 185.03, 185.04 AND 185.06 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO, IN ORDER 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 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 waiving the three-reading rule. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being more than five votes in favor, the motion suspending the three-reading rule passed, and Resolution 57-2024 was placed upon its second reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko noted that the City had a pretty lengthy public hearing at the last meeting on the heels of what has now been 5 other public meetings. This is a Resolution of Necessity to go to the ballot in November to increase the local income tax from its current 1% with zero credit to 1.75% with a 100% credit to those that are paying income taxes to other taxing jurisdictions. He said he is happy to answer any questions that may have arisen since the public hearing 2 weeks ago.

Mr. Hagy asked what the difference is between this resolution and the Ordinance 2024-24 that has been tabled, because the language looks identical. Mr. Lasko answered that they needed to have an ordinance number to put the measure on the ballot. What is tabled would be the actual changes to the codified ordinance that wouldn't happen until November if approved at the ballot box. They introduced Ordinance No. 2024-24 to assign it an ordinance number needed for the Resolution of Necessity and then immediately tabled it because Council cannot take action until immediately following the election. This was requested by the Board of Elections. The Resolution is used to place the measure on the ballot, which the Ordinance is to enact it if it passes.

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

Ordinance No. 2024-31 (first reading)

Motion by Mr. Hagy that Ordinance No. 2024-31 (AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE RATE TO BE PAID BY RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY OWNERS FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 2025 THROUGH DECEMBER 2025 FOR RESIDENTIAL SOLID WASTE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL; AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE TO CERTIFY THE COSTS OF SAME TO THE ERIE COUNTY AUDITOR FOR PLACEMENT ON THE TAX DUPLICATE FOR COLLECTION WITH OTHER CITY TAXES IN 2025; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY) 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: Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves (7)

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2024-31 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Hamilton explained that this is the annual legislation to set the rate for trash services for the following year, and to allow them to certify to the County Auditor for placement on the tax duplicate. The City signed a 5-year contract with Republic Services that includes a 5% incremental increase each year. They also negotiated a fuel adjustment charge, which has worked in the City's benefit for this year. Instead of passing on a 5% increase this year, that increase will be only a 1.9% increase. The City managed to take that positive money, keep it in the bank, and then pass that savings on to the residents. The rate will increase to \$25.30, which is \$303.55 annually.

Mr. Claus repeated that instead of going up 5% per the contract, they are only going up 1.9%. Mr. Hamilton confirmed that is correct.

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

Resolution No. 62-2024

Motion by Mr. Grieves that the three-reading rule be waived, and Resolution No. 62-2024 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE LICENSE AGREEMENT DATED MAY 16, 2024 BETWEEN THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO AND THE HURON ROTARY CLUB TO HOLD THE HURON ROTARY FESTIVAL IN THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO ON THE RESCHEDULED DATE OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2024; AND FURTHER ALLOWING PLACEMENT OF RELATED EVENT SIGNAGE IN THE MEDIAN) 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: Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp, Dike (7)

NAYS: None (0)

There being more than five votes in favor, the motion suspending the three-reading rule passed, and Resolution 62-2024 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko explained that this a request based on the unfortunate cancellation of Rotary Fest on June 29th due to inclement weather. They are looking to make an amendment to the original License Agreement entered into on March 26, 2024. This legislation would look to do two things: (1) approve the date of the festival to be changed to September 7, 2024, and (2) change the dates upon which their banner signage can be erected throughout the City, which would actually start on August 12th and shall be removed by September 8th.

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. 62-2024. 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, Resolution No. 62-2024 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 Redevelopment – I wanted to provide an update on ConAgra for those who didn't see tonight's presentation or may not be watching online. We had the first work session presentation tonight for the first of the two finalists for the ultimate redevelopment of the ConAgra property. K Hovnanian Homes/Knez Homes made a joint presentation. They will hold a second work session at 5:30pm on July 23rd, and that will be a presentation by Prephan Enterprises who rescheduled after meeting the last meeting.

Utilities and Infrastructure – I want to let Council know that, based on authorization from Resolution No. 50-2024 adopted in June, we executed the agreement with TranSystems Corporation for professional design and bidding services related to the Route 6 Phase II Project. That project, from a design standpoint, is now getting underway.

Street Resurfacing in Chaska/Old Homestead – All construction work has been completed. Mr. Hamilton and team carried out a very long and thorough walk-through on July 2nd. A punch list is currently in the process of being generated. We are hoping all final work should be completed by the end of July.

South Main Street Water Main Replacement Project – All customers on South Main Street are now connected to the new water main. Residential taps are currently being installed on Mudbrook. Once all taps are installed in this area, the old water mains will be physically disconnected from the system and abandoned in place. This relates to South Main and Mudbrook, specifically. A new water main has been installed on Valley View Drive and bacteria samples have been collected. Once these samples have passed and are confirmed to be negative, this street will receive their new water taps. The contractor is currently

installing a new water main on Hickory and Forest Hills. The contractor's schedule is consistent with the most recent project schedule. Mr. Hamilton estimates that the contractor is on schedule with the main line installations, but approximately 2-3 weeks behind on installation of water services and tie-ins. I did want to pass along some positive news – the City was a successful recipient of a low-interest loan from OWDA with a repayment over 20 years at 3.48%, which was a competitive loan. We recently learned about and executed an Ohio Public Works Commission Infrastructure Program Project Agreement relating to the project, and what that entails is receipt of a grant in the amount of \$275,000 (which we were not anticipating) and they also got a loan of \$137,500. The project must be completed by April. I really want to give our team kudos for securing what was a competitive loan at a competitive rate, and then also bringing in additional grant proceeds that we weren't necessarily budgeting for.

Personnel Updates – Specifically, I wanted to acknowledge several notable work anniversaries for many people on our team through June of this year:

Steve Didelot – 30 years of service in February;
Jodi Rutherford – 25 years of services in April;
Dan Soisson – 15 years in March;
Nick Thaxton – 15 years in April;
Bill Evert – 15 years in June;
Christine Gibboney – 15 years in May; and
Rick Reinbolt – 10 years in April.

Congratulations to all of those individuals and all the great work they do for the community.

Upcoming Meetings - To close out the month, we have a Planning Commission meeting scheduled for Wednesday, July 17th at 5pm in the Council Chamber; as just mentioned, we have a second work session for ConAgra on Tuesday, July 23rd at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers followed by the regularly scheduled Council meeting at 6:30pm; the Scott Cemetery Board will meet on Monday, July 29th at 5pm at Huron Township Hall. I will save the plug for River Fest for Councilman Biddlecombe.

Mr. Hamilton added that there is a rescheduled BZA meeting on Monday, July 15th at 5pm.

That concludes my remarks.

Mr. Artino asked about the watermain in the City – they pretty much are fairly up-to-date now and newer? What percentage of watermain should we be concerned about coming up? Mr. Hamilton answered that not knowing the history of what has been replaced over the years, there is Grand Forest Beach, Oklahoma – 3 or 4 major neighborhoods have very aging infrastructure underground. They still have a lot of work to do. They keep chipping away at them as best they can and some of the bigger projects will have to be cut down due to the size and the money it would cost. They analyze the damage and the leaks they get every year and keep reassessing what the biggest priority is. Mr. Lasko added that they have a separate Capital Improvement Plan just for water. With the City addressing Berlin Road in 2021 and Route 13 and the Hickory/Forest Hills, Valley View neighborhoods, the 2 biggest priorities have been taken care of. The other 2 he wants to mention that he knows are on the CIP are Old Plat, which is a big one, and Superior Avenue. There are 4 big ones in the 10-year CIP that they will chip away at.

Mr. Biddlecombe asked, as far as Hickory, Valley View and Main Street go, what is the timeline for fixing the roads after they have completed the water main job. Mr. Hamilton answered that the intent is to go up through Valley View, Forest Hill and Hickory to get the water lines and taps done, and then they will move down to Huron and Mill Street. They want to try and pass through behind in one shot to resurface the roads. That way, there is only one mobilization cost. He believes they will probably shut down Valley View, Forest Hills and Hickory to get that all down and then spread out from there. It will probably be late August into September.

Mayor's Discussion

Mayor Tapp said:

Thank you to K Hovnanian/Knez Homes for the presentation at the work session – it was informative. I know we have another one coming up and it gives Council something to look at and think about. I know Sue Daugherty sent out everything and gave a flyer to each of the Council members, so he recommends that anyone that can attend do so. Mr. Artino already said he was going to be there.

I want to reiterate what Mr. Hamilton said about the garbage rate. I hope the audience hears this – that was a contracted 5% increase for the community. With the work that they did and as far as the fuel charge negotiated – I think that's great that we got it down to a 1.9% increase.

At our last meeting, there was a community member/couple here that was questioning placement of a fire hydrant. We did receive an email from Mr. Hamilton that they did follow through with that. Mr. Evans had a discussion with the homeowners and came up with a semi-solution that everyone has agreed upon. I just wanted you to know that we do follow through.

On top of that, following through, Mr. Schrader the light annoyance issue – where are we on that? Mr. Schrader answered that they have a number of proposed ordinances they have looked at, some of which are very simple. One used by another municipality is enforced by the police and there are others that are very elaborate and talk about foot candles and diffuse lighting, etc. Those proposed ordinances have been sent to staff for review and evaluation. Mr. Lasko added that what they talked about, because they have been unfortunately filled with work sessions, is to use the next available date for Mr. Schrader to send out in advance what some other communities are doing and what our options are, and then hold a work session. At this point, it will probably be in August. Mayor Tapp asked that staff contact Mr. DeLuca. Mr. Lasko answered that they have let him know the status.

River Fest is this weekend. That's all I have.

For the Good of the Order

Sam Artino – Nothing, thank you.

Mark Claus – Nothing this week.

Joe Dike – Nothing.

Matt Grieves – Nothing for the good of the order.

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

William Biddlecombe – Thanks, staff for all of your hard work. Takeaways from last School Board meeting (I wasn't able to attend in person but I did watch the video) – the majority of the meeting revolved around discussions on LifeWise. They will have a vote on a policy related to that next month. The next regular meeting is on August 19th at 6pm.

We've got River Fest starting on Friday at 5pm with our opening ceremonies. That finishes on Sunday at 6pm. You can find more information at www.huronriverfest.com or our Facebook or Instagram pages @Huron River Fest. I know that the community gets the opportunity to meet Mr. Tapp and Mr. Lasko in person, so come on out for that.

At the Boat Basin coming up after River Fest are moving starting on Wednesdays nights, with the first one being the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles on July 17th at dusk. Then we've got the band Cruisin' on July 20th at 6pm, and then starting on Sundays at the Boat Basin, we've got High Frequency Flute Quarter on July 21st at 7pm. Some other Parks & Rec events coming are Soccer Camp running from July 15-18, Tennis Camp from July 22-24, and Junior Fun Camps that started on Monday. They run through August 1st, M-Th from 9am-2pm. Please come out and support our community events, programs and student athletes, and Go Tigers!

Executive Session

None.

Adjournment

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

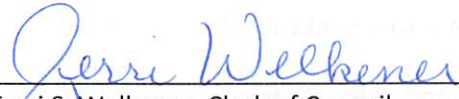
The Mayor asked if there were any questions on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor of the motion, the regular Council meeting of July 9, 2024 was adjourned at 7:21pm.

Adopted: 13 AUG 2024


Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council