

THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO
Proceedings of the Huron City Council
Regular Meeting Tuesday, January 9, 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.**

Staff in attendance: City Manager Matt Lasko, Law Director Todd Schrader, Finance Director Cory Swaisgood, Service Director Stuart Hamilton, Police Chief Terry Graham, Water Superintendent Jack Evans, Planning Director Erik Engle and Terri Welkener, Clerk of Council.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. Dike to approve the minutes of the regular Council Meeting of November 14, 2023 be approved 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: Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion passed.

Audience Comments

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

None.

Old Business

Ordinance No. 2023-50 (second reading)

Motion by Mr. Claus that Ordinance No. 2023-50 (AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND AMENDING AND RESTATING CHAPTER 1313 (BUILDING PLAN REVIEW) 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: Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2023-50 was placed upon its second reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Engle explained that the Planning Department is auditing of their pertinent codes. This legislation is the first of the series, and cleans up some processes to separate out the planning processes from building processes. In the past, the Building Official handled all zoning processes. Those sections will be removed, and that section will be revamped to differentiate between the two processes, as well as clarify what's required for planning permits, zoning permits and building permits.

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

Ordinance No. 2023-53 (second reading)

Motion by Mr. Claus that Ordinance No. 2023-53 (AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND AMENDING AND RESTATING CHAPTER 1139 (ZONING ADMINISTRATION) 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: Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino (7)

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2023-53 was placed upon its second reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Engle stated that as part of the foregoing legislation, the Planning Commission process was moved into Section 1139. Further edits include overall wordsmithing, restructuring language, establishing a clear process for conditional uses, which are special requirements to be considered by the Planning Commission. This ordinance will also establish zoning certificate expirations, which will be aligned with building permits. Currently, those are set at 1 year. Finally, this will establish a 1-year expiration for any area variances.

Mr. Claus asked about the ordinance taking out the conditional use from the BZA and moving it to the Planning Commission review – is that all conditional uses, or are there some that would still be under the purview of the BZA? Mr. Engle answered that it would be all of them – anything listed in the zoning code as conditional would be tied back to that section, in which case, the Planning Commission will review and approve based on staff recommendation. Mr. Claus added that the application for Planning Commission will be updated to include that, but that couldn't be done until this legislation is adopted. Mr. Engle added that as of today, conditional uses would still be used by the BZA.

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

Ordinance No. 2023-54 (second reading)

Motion by Mr. Claus that Ordinance No. 2023-54 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1126 (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCE OF HURON, OHIO TO ESTABLISH A NEW SECTION 1126.19 (WIND ENERGY)) 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: Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino (7)

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2023-54 was placed upon its second reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Engle explained that somehow energy was stuck under Zoning Administration in Section 1139. That is speaks to basic processes, so in an effort to clean up that section, Wind Energy is being moved out of Section 1139 and into a new section under Special Provisions, where all the other kinds of special uses are housed. Staff thought that was an appropriate move.

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

Ordinance No. 2023-51 (second reading)

Motion by Mr. Claus that Ordinance No. 2023-51 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 505 (ANIMALS AND FOWL) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF HURON, OHIO TO ESTABLISH A NEW SECTIONS 505.18 (CHICKENS)) be placed on its second reading.

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

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

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2023-51 was placed upon its second reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Engle stated that this new section lists out regulations for the keeping of chickens, specifically hens, in single and 2-family residential zoning districts. They would be allowing this as a use by right in the R-1 and R-1A Residential and R-2, as stated. They are looking at allowing up to 6 hens for personal use. They do have requirements for coops and accessory structure housing for the hens, and those will be set at 5' from the side and rear property lines. In addition, structures should be located no less than 6' behind the rear-most portion of the primary structure (as is application to any accessory structure), and they cannot be located in the front or side yards. The base surface area of a coop and run must not exceed 80 sq. ft., and shall not be exempt from the lot coverage restriction maintained in the zoning ordinances. The coop and outdoor enclosure must be kept clean, dry and sanitary, free from debris and offensive odors. They are speaking to overall property maintenance issues. There will be no cap on the number of permits issued. The Department and/or Council reserves the right to cap the numbers.

Mayor Tapp asked if the square footage is per lot. Mr. Engle answered that they are not taking away the right to farm. As the code states now, farming is allowed with a 100' buffer. Staff looks at it as, if they meet that 100' requirement, their shouldn't be a limit on the number of hens permitted. This legislation

speaks only to smaller lots. Mayor Tapp said it is an accessory structure, so there is a 5' setback from lot lines. Mr. Engle said that if you have a larger lot, you would still be able to go above and beyond the 6 hens indicated.

Mr. Hagy said the last time they talked about this, he thought Mr. Engle was going to ask the Planning Commission about the opportunity to grandfather folks who have spent quite a bit of money on their coop, and did come to the City 10-15 years ago before they put the coop up and followed all of the regulations they were given at that time. He is curious as to where they are with that. Mr. Engle answered that he spoke with the Planning Commission at their December meeting. They felt that it was not necessary since there weren't any regulations prior. In the event folks are able to present the City with a permit or some sort of documentation stating they received the proper approvals, they would honor those. They have, in a way, grandfathered to an extent, especially to the larger lots. Ultimately, they would consider those nonconforming at that point. They would still be able to use them, it would just be a matter of them coming to the City if they want to expand with regard to the structures themselves. Mr. Hagy said, if he had a chicken coop in Oklahoma, and it is not conforming to all of these things, you are saying that's okay. Mr. Engle answered, yes, that's how they would look at any other accessory structure or any other structure that is built nonconforming. Mr. Schrader added that if Councilman Hagy's facts are changed just slightly – a resident of the Oklahoma neighborhood and he is brand new and doesn't currently have anything, he doesn't have the luxury of doing anything other than following the new proscribed regulations.

Mr. Hagy asked if he did it 10 years ago and have no paperwork, (a) because it was 10 years ago, and (b) maybe nobody gave him paperwork, but he has 8 hens and he is within 4' of the lot line, does he need to get rid of 2 hens and move the pen 2'? Mr. Engle said his short answer would be no. Mr. Hagy asked where that is in the legislation that says he doesn't have to do that. Mr. Engle said that would fall under a nonconformity. They have an entire section in Chapter 1139 that speaks to nonconforming structures, nonconforming uses. When it comes to those, if it is something that historically been taking place, they are not in the business of going after folks. They understand that certain things change over time with regard to uses, codes, etc. Mr. Hagy asked, why not just grandfather it? Reading between the lines of the legislation, it is allowed, then why not just grandfather it – why not just say that? Mr. Engle said that they can definitely do that.

Motion by Mr. Hagy to add a grandfather clause to the hen and been legislation. He has talked to several folks who have spent a lot of money, they did the right thing and came to the City. It would be the equivalent of we change the building and zoning laws on the easement, and I have to tear my garage down now because it is 1' over, even though that wasn't the rule when he built the garage 10 years ago. Mr. Schrader said they have a motion on the floor to amend this legislation to add a grandfather clause, which, assume for the moment that a vote it take and it passes, then they would need some time to go back and fiddle with the legislation to be specific on what is being grandfathered. If we are going to grandfather, he and Mr. Engle are going to have to be precise, is it the square footage, is the setback, is it is the number of birds. They are going to need time. Once Council votes on this, and assuming that it passes, they should also follow with a motion to table 2023-51 pending resolution and pending our amending of it. If the motion on the floor fails, then they are still under their second reading.

Mayor Tapp asked if there are any questions on the motion.

Mr. Claus said that to follow what Mr. Engle explained, doesn't the existing nonconforming administrative code addresses that, although it doesn't use the word, "grandfather." Mr. Schrader answered, when we speak of grandfathering, the grandfathering doesn't apply to health, safety, morals and welfare issues. It applies to setbacks and structures and gravel driveways when you should have a concrete one, etc. He thinks that what he is saying is, notwithstanding the fact that those people are not complying with the new legislation, we are going to recognize them as nonconforming, whether it's nonconforming use, nonconforming in terms of the application of this. He is going to view them as legal, but not conforming with the new Section 505.18. He thinks Section 1139 gives Mr. Engle the flexibility to not enforce this, but if they want to be specific (and he doesn't want to put words in Councilman Hagy's mouth), is to say we should consider bona fide grandfathering in the context of this new ordinance so that if somebody is looking at it, they don't have to go to 1139, they can go here and we will be more specific than Chapter 1139 would be, which is to say what, specifically, is grandfathered – the square footage of the use, how close the coop is, etc. They would be much more specific here. Mr. Claus said his only concern would then be, they can't grandfather the requirements for property maintenance of smells, all of the safety stuff. If they aren't complying with that, the City has to be able to regulate that. How would they write it? They would only grandfather setback distance, maybe number of hens, etc., or maybe find out how many of these are really an issue and are they really nonconforming? Do we know there are people that are closer than 5'? Mr. Hagy said that he didn't get a tape measure out, he just talked to people who own chickens are they are worried they are going to have to move their coop, they may be perfectly.... Mr. Claus said the legislation is available for them to look at. His biggest issue would be that they can still regulate that they keep it clean and maintained, and it's not going to look like a garbage can back yard. Mr. Hagy said he doesn't have any problem with that. He is just trying to go back to the reason we are doing this. He is not sure if it is because we need to do cleanup in our ordinances, or we are seeing a proliferation of chickens around town. Unless the reason we are doing this is because somebody complained, then logically that means nobody is complaining about smell or whatever. If nobody is complaining about it. Mr. Claus said there have been complaints. That's what started this. Mr. Engle said it is two-fold. If these folks are within 100' of their property line, they are currently not allowed to have them, period. This is the impetus for allowing that within the 100'. Those are all currently on the books. You have that aspect, but we have had calls related to chickens getting out, roosters, etc. Mr. Hagy asked if the reason for this legislation was in response to people complaining about chickens. Mr. Engle said that chickens were getting out – they did receive a few complaints. He has also had 4 people inquire if they are allowed. There is interest there, and we know they exist at this point. They are just trying to be proactive in allowing it. We think it's a good idea if people are already doing it while not meeting the current 100' requirement. This is a way to allow that and really encourage the urban/suburban farming. Mr. Hagy said that if they don't specifically grandfather this, he thinks they are in for some amount of complaining – I did the right thing in 2010, I came to the City and this is what they told me to do. Now you are moving the goal post, is it far enough, is it too close? Mr. Claus said that if someone told them it was okay, they were wrong, because it was never legal. He is not debating whether someone told them or not, because I have no idea, but it was never allowed unless there was a 100' setback. He added that he doesn't have a problem with grandfathering so long as we can still enforce the property maintenance aspect of it. Mr. Biddlecombe added that the Register published the article about it and he read some of the comments. The only takeaway he really had from some of the comments is that because of the cost of things like eggs, etc., they are appreciative of the fact that we are putting this ordinance out there so that they are allowed to do that, so people can be self-sufficient. What they didn't like is that we are telling them that we would have to apply for a permit. The City is then allowing you to do something on your own property. Mr. Hagy

said what spurred some of this was that article. It very specifically said those people keeping chickens now are illegal, and he got quite a few calls about that asking, are they going to get arrested, etc.

Mr. Lasko asked, if Council tables this and they go back and amend it, will that come back to Council as a second reading, or would they have to start over? Mr. Schrader answered that it would come back as a second reading. Mr. Artino asked if a chicken coop is considered a temporary structure similar to a shed? Mr. Engle answered that it is considered an accessory structure. Mr. Artino said that if that is true, there were regulations in place for accessory structures. Mr. Engle agreed, but it is very clear that to keep chickens, there has to be a 100' between the property lines. Mr. Artino meant that the people that put these coops in 10 years ago can be grandfathered, as long as they are in compliance with an accessory structure. Mr. Artino said he doesn't want to vote on this until he sees the legislation, because he thinks there could be some issues such as that. If we tell people they are grandfathered in, while they don't comply with regulations that were in place 10 years ago. Mayor Tapp said if they have had this for 10 years, and it's a foot closer, we are not saying they have to move them. Mr. Claus said that what he thinks from Mr. Artino is saying is that the setbacks set by Planning Commission for chicken coops is, essentially, the same setback as an accessory structure. If they build a little building or shed, and turn it into a chicken coop, in theory, they should have at least been compliant with accessory structures, because that was in the code. If we are saying they didn't comply with that, but they did a chicken coop that was illegal and grandfather it – you should be able to move a chicken coop. Mr. Schrader added that Council will have another opportunity to review it, tweak it further, approve it, deny it, whatever the case may be.

Mr. Artino asked what the penalty is for chickens getting loose, similar to unleashed dogs. Mr. Engle said that would be the process – to him, it's almost like a police function at that point, especially if it's after hours. He hasn't quite thought that process through. For example, the one call that they did receive related to a chicken getting loose during the day, so the Zoning Inspector went out, politely knocked on the door and asked them to fix it. They ultimately got a letter saying they can't have chickens. Mr. Artino said he would hate to burden the police with this. From a loose animal perspective...

The Mayor asked 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, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves (6)
NAYS: Artino (1)

There being more than a majority in favor, the motion to add a grandfather clause passed.

Motion by Mr. Hagy to table Ordinance No. 2023-51 until the amendments can be made.

The Mayor asked if there were any questions on that 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 more than a majority in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2023-51 was tabled.

Ordinance No. 2023-52 (second reading)

Motion by Mr. Claus that Ordinance No. 2023-52 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1123505 (ANIMALS AND FOWL) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCE OF HURON, OHIO TO ESTABLISH A NEW SECTIONS 505.19 (BEES)) be placed on its second reading.

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

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

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2023-52 was placed upon its second reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Engle explained that this legislation establishes regulations and rules for bees in all zoning districts except for R-4 – Multi-Family Residential District. This establishes language for permitting processes, penalties, revocation and appeals. They are looking at 1 hive per 2,500 sq. ft. of land tract, and no bee hives are allowed on tracts less than 2,500 sq. ft. The hives can be located closer than 5' to any adjoining lot, and 10' to a dwelling or a dwelling on another parcel. Hives will not be allowed in front or side yards. The bee hives must place away from the property of that residential property closest to it. Regardless of tract size, so long as all lots within a radius of 200' from any point remain undeveloped, there is no limit to the number of colonies allowed. No grandfathering shall be permitted under this section. No hives are permitted on any tract where the setbacks requirements cannot be satisfied. A beekeeper may be exempt from those setbacks by obtaining written permission from the adjacent lot owner. Setbacks to sidewalks and public roadways may not be waived. Each beekeeper must keep their equipment in good condition.

Mr. Biddlecombe asked if this should also follow suit as the chicken ordinance. Mr. Engle said that he has not received any complaints about bees. Mr. Hagy commented that the logic follows. Mr. Lasko said that while not everyone reads the Sandusky Register, watches meetings, etc. What he is fearful of is they find out after the fact that someone did have a beehive, and were off a little bit here and there, and they may have been open to grandfathering, but didn't. He is not trying to sway Council either way, but this may be even more relevant because they are not getting any complaints whatsoever. He wonders that if this should also be grandfathered to also cover the bases.

Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe that we make Ordinance No. 2023-52 consistent with the grandfathering clause.

Mr. Claus agreed that they should be consistent. When someone had questioned about a year from now... are we requiring a permit for this, as well? Mr. Engle answered that it would be a one-time permit. Mr. Claus said that in part of the grandfather discussion, going forward, anyone that is grandfathered still must register. Whether it's chickens or bees, part of the grandfathering is that you still need to get in the system and register. You will just be specifically listed as grandfathered for nonconforming position, etc.

The Mayor asked if there were any further 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: Biddlecombe, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Hagy (6)
NAYS: Artino (1)

There being more than a majority in favor, the motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe to table Ordinance No. 2023-52 until the revisions are made and reviewed.

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 more than a majority in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2023-52 was tabled.

Ordinance No. 2023-55 (second reading)

Motion by Mr. Claus that Ordinance No. 2023-55 (AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND AMENDING AND RESTATING SECTION 1123.01(c) (ACCESSORY USES) UNDER CHAPTER 1123 (RESIDENCE DISTRICTS) 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: Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2023-55 was placed upon its second reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Engle explained that this relates to adding a cross-reference in the Zoning Code to Sections 505.18 and 505.19, to allow the uses by right in the single family residential districts.

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

Ordinance No. 2023-56 (second reading)

Motion by Mr. Claus that Ordinance No. 2023-56 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1125.01 (B-1 NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS DISTRICT) UNDER CHAPTER 1125 (NONRESIDENCE DISTRICTS) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCE OF HURON, OHIO TO ESTABLISH A NEW SECTION 1125.01(a)(7)) be placed on its second reading.

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

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

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2023-56 was placed upon its second reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Engle said that this is an amendment to the Zoning Code to allow for the keeping of bees in the B-1 District. All other non-residential zones refer back to this, so it establishes beekeeping as a use by right in all of the business and industrial zones.

Mr. Hagy asked if it is for beekeeping businesses, or all businesses. Mr. Engle said it is allowing for that use, so if you have another type of business and want to make honey on the side, you can do so.

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

Ordinance No. 2023-57 (second reading)

Motion by Mr. Claus that Ordinance No. 2023-57 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1123.04 (R-3 MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENCE DISTRICT) OF CHAPTER 1123 (RESIDENCE DISTRICTS) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF HURON, OHIO TO ESTABLISH A NEW SECTION 1123.04(f)) be placed on its second reading.

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

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

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2023-57 was placed upon its second reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Engle explained that staff recommends prohibiting chickens and bees in the R-3 Multi-Family Residential Zone due to the transient nature of tenants and ownership liabilities, etc.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution No. 1-2024

Motion by Mr. Artino that the three-reading rule be waived, and Resolution No. 1-2024 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH FLOCK SAFETY FOR THE PURCHASE OF FIVE (5) FLOCK SAFETY FALCON CAMERAS AND RELATED SOFTWARE FOR THE HURON POLICE DEPARTMENT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED THIRTY-TWO THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED FIFTY AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$32,250.00)) 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: Artino, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grievess, Hagy, Biddlecombe (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being more than five votes in favor, the motion passed waiving the three-reading rule and Resolution 1-2024 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Chief Graham stated that Resolution No. 1-2024 authorizes an agreement with Flock Safety, which was budgeted in the 2024 budget. This will authorize the purchase of 5 license plate reader cameras at a cost of \$15,000. Flock requires a 2-year contract, so that would be \$30,000, with the \$2,250 for installation in the first year. This is a contract for 2 years for the flock license plate reader cameras.

Mr. Grieves asked if these are more for safety than tickets. Chief Graham answered that they are not red light cameras, and they are not speed cameras. They are investigatory cameras that take pictures so that they are able to follow up on leads on criminal activity. They also let our offices know if there is any alert established on a plate, such as an Amber Alert. Within 7 seconds it would tell their officers that the car that just drove by this camera. There are also Silver Alerts for a dementia or Alzheimer's patient who has driven away from Mentor, as an example. If there is a Silver Alert, they would know if they are in Huron. It would tell them if the car is stolen or if there is a warrant for the registered owner, all the way up to and including somebody on a terrorist watch list. If there is any alert attached to the plate, the program will notify our offices. They can also do what's called reverse Flock, meaning that if they are taking a complaint and the family members say that their elderly parent drove away, and their license plate number is ABC123, the officer is able to enter that number into Flock and it will tell them all of the Flock cameras that it has driven by. They can tell if that person drove by a camera in Elyria, and it will tell them all of the Flock cameras it has driven by. There are a lot of benefits and deterrents. It is gaining popularity in Erie County. The Erie County Sheriff's Office is purchasing 13, Perkins is purchasing 15, and there are over 300 of these cameras in Lorain County, and over 500 in Cuyahoga County. Because the PD is just getting into this, they have allowed them into the administrative functions of Flock, and they were able to locate a vehicle stolen from town that ended upon on the east side of Cleveland. This is nationwide, so if there is an Amber Alert from Florida and then are coming through, Huron will be alerted. Mr. Hagy asked if these cameras are placed at the ingress and egress of the City, does that imply there are only 5, or is it the most common. Chief Graham answered that 5 is the minimum to get started in the program. Ideally, for him to cover every artery of the City, it would take 13. These 5 are part of a pilot program, and he will have our officers fill out forms when they use the cameras that are successful stories. They are also going to fill out a form so he can keep track of, this happened, and if a camera had been here, they could have identified. He is going to bring this data back to the Safety Committee. This was initially brought to the Safety Committee, and it was unanimously supported. 13 would cover every artery of the City.

Mr. Dike said that he remembers when he first got on Council there was an individual that was very adamant about getting some type of camera when a child was abducted in the community. Will this help in that regard if somebody was to be abducted – look at the cars that have left and passed a Flock area? Chief Graham said that his correct. They can do all kinds of searches. They can do searches of what cars went by that camera in a specific time period. Perhaps they know the suspect vehicle is a red F-150; they could plug that in to refine the search. A lot of people know about the Idaho college student murders – this is how they caught this suspect (using LPR's). They had a very grainy picture of that white Toyota. They put that in their Flock and it was the only car that drove by there. They had DNA in that case, but he wasn't in CODIS. They used the license plate readers to solve that crime, and that was a pretty big crime.

Mr. Artino said, years ago in Sandusky, there was a horrific murder of a lady and her two children. The way they caught that person was the cameras from Firelands Medical Center picked up the vehicle. That

was how they got their first lead. Captain Graham added that as they purchase new vehicles, they will be installing Axon in-car cameras. In those cameras is Mobile Flock, so if an officer is at a red light, it is scanning and reading all of the plates, as well.

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. 1-2024. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Resolution No. 1-2024 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Ordinance No. 2024-1

Motion by Mr. Artino that the three-reading rule be waived and Ordinance No. 2024-1 (A CONSENT ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S INSTALLATION OF ITS CAMERAS ALONG US-6 IN THE CITY OF HURON; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY) be placed on its first reading.

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

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

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Ordinance No. 2024-1 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Motion by Mr. Artino to place Ordinance No. 2024-1 as an emergency measure.

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

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

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2024-1 was placed as an emergency measure.

Chief Graham explained that this is a very standard agreement with ODOT. As you can see, as these LPR's are placed throughout the City, when one is to be placed in the right-of-way of a State highway, you must get an agreement with ODOT. Two of the five cameras are going to be on Route 6. Perkins has had to do them for Route 250, and the County does them as well. It is a very standard form with ODOT, just to get permission to put the cameras in the right-of-way.

The Mayor asked if there were any further questions on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on final adoption of Ordinance No. 1-2024. 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. 2024-1 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 3-2024

Motion by Mr. Grieves that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 3-2024 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH KLEINFELDER GROUP INC. FOR THE PROVISION OF ENGINEERING DESIGN, BIDDING AND CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION SERVICES RELATED TO THE 2-MILLION-GALLON ELEVATED WATER TOWER PROJECT AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-TWO THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED FIFTY AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$132,250.00)) be placed on its first reading.

There being more than five votes in favor, the motion passed waiving the three-reading rule and Resolution 3-2024 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

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

NAYS: None (0)

There being more than a majority in favor, the motion passed and Resolution 3-2024 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Evans stated that this is for a 2-million-gallon storage tank. This will be in addition to their 500,000 gallon and 400,000 gallon tanks. To stress the importance of this tower, this will increase our distribution storage by 2 million gallons, and it will also increase the amount of time water is available in the event of an emergency, such as a failure at the Water Filtration Plant or a major main break. Also, it will provide sufficient water for major structure fires, and may also draw additional residential and commercial industries.

Mr. Hagy asked if they have confirmation of the location. Mr. Evans answered that they are still working on this – there have been some talks. Mr. Hagy said that the design must accommodate where it is going to be located, so are they going to assume it will go there. Mr. Evans answered that they look at the initial space needed for construction, which is obviously much larger than the end product. They have a general idea of how much space that, and they know how much space is available. This is a private landowner, so there has been some initial discussion on that site. Once the proposal is accepted, they will then do their preliminary study to determine if that spot will work and what will be needed. Mayor Tapp asked about the timeframe for this project. Mr. Evans answered that this should move pretty quickly. A water tower is a cookie-cutter style project, and they are hoping to get the engineering and design back relatively quickly to be able to move forward with this project. The \$5 Million received from ODOD will be used to fund part of the approximately \$8.85 Million project.

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. 3-2024. 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. 3-2024 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 4-2024

Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 4-2024 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH KLEINFELDER GROUP INC. FOR THE PROVISION OF ENGINEERING DESIGN, BIDDING AND CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION SERVICES RELATED TO THE HURON RIVER RAW WATER ALTERNATE INTAKE AND SLUDGE LAGOON SEWER PROJECT AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED THREE HUNDRED FORTY-FOUR THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED FORTY AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$344,840.00)) 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, Grieves (7)**
NAYS: **None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion to waive the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 4-2024 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Evans explained that this legislation relates to an intake that will provide redundancy to their primary Lake Erie intake. The primary function of this is to combat frazzle ice, which the City of Huron has dealt with annually, which results from ice being compacted in the intake and preventing them bringing in water for treatment. River intakes have been proven to be successful, it's deeper than the Lake Erie intake, and the continuous flow of water helps prevent the ice from being compacted into the intake. We all like having water, so this protects from a situation where they would not be able to produce water. They could always switch to the river intake in the event of frazzle ice at the Lake Erie intake.

Mr. Claus asked if they would be drawing from both intakes at all times, or do they only switch over in the case of an emergency. Mr. Evans answered that the alternate intake would be used in an emergency. This would have an intake in the river that they could use should Lake Erie intake be unusable, whether it be frazzle ice, harmful algal blooms, chemical spill over the intake, etc. The alternate intake will be exercised monthly, but usage will be primarily for emergency situations.

Mr. Hagy asked, because the alternate intake is combined with the sludge lagoon, is there going to be a sludge lagoon at the new intake? Mr. Evans answered no, the intake will be near the boat basin and will be fairly inconspicuous. The pumps are submersible inside a 12' diameter wet well, and there will be backup generator power. The only footprint will be the building that surrounds the 12' diameter wet well, and the back up generator on the outside can be fixed up.

Mayor Tapp said he is all for this. He knows what the needle ice was like; I know what we had to do for 24 hours straight when it was a problem.

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. 4-2024. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Resolution No. 4-2024 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Motion

Motion by Mayor Tapp to appoint Tim Sowecke to the Planning Commission for a term of 4 years; reappoint Frank Kath to the Board of Building and Zoning Appeals for a term of 5 years; reappoint Dave Finger to the Huron Joint Port Authority for a term of 4 years; and reappoint Pat Deville to the Personnel Appeals Board for a term of 3 years.

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

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

There being more than a majority in favor, the motion passed.

Motion

Motion by Mayor Tapp to appoint Council Members to various Boards, Committees and Commissions for a term ending November 30, 2025, as set forth on Exhibit A included in the agenda packet for this 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: Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being more than a majority in favor, the motion passed – see Exhibit A attached hereto.

City Manager's Discussion

The City Manager spoke on several topics:

Oster's Mobile Home Park – As of today, we are still down to one resident remaining onsite. I do anticipate that that individual, weather permitting, will be relocated sometime next week, and then placed into

temporary housing while their trailer is being transported and hooked up. We are, hopefully, approaching the end but we will continue to stay involved until all residents have been addressed and properly relocated.

Safety Services – Our K-9 Jax recently passed his State certification in narcotics detection and tracking. Officer Ryan Boesch also completed their 6 weeks of training on December 21st, and Jax started his first shift on December 26th. Congratulations to both of them on those accomplishments.

South Main Street Water Main Project – We got several comments throughout the process from residents that were hoping of installation of crosswalks and flashing beacons, particularly at Valley View and Forest Hills to make those crossings safer. We have submitted an application to ODOT for funding through their System Safety Dollars, which would cover 90% of the cost of the crosswalks, the concrete landing zones and the beacons. It is a 90/10 split with the City only having to cover 10% of the cost. I do want to note, as with any ODOT project, if we included that as part of the project now, it would significantly delay the project. We are looking at that as a separate project, likely to be completed in 2025 or 2026. We are taking into consideration those comments and concerns to hopefully be able to make that safety enhancement as second phase of that project.

Personnel/Administration – Department heads are in the process of finishing up their 2023 Annual Report submittals. Once received, those will be summarized and compiled in a formal annual report. We hope to have those to Council and the community in late February or early March.

I also want to acknowledge a new employee in the Police Department, which was included in the 2024 budget. We have recently hired Eric Ritter as a full-time employee. Eric is in the process of attending the Police Academy at Owens Technical College – he started that on January 2nd and should be completed in May. Once Eric becomes a certified police officer, he will be sworn in before Council in either May or June. One of the things I do want to acknowledge is, because of the troubles with recruiting in this particular profession, we actually had budgeted about \$10,000 to send a cadet through the Academy. Fortunately, the cadet has received a \$10,000 grant through the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act through Erie County Job and Family Services. We are very thrilled for him to be able to have that expense covered, and certainly the savings brought to the City. In addition, we have applied for a grant to Ohio Means Jobs Erie County which, if awarded, will cover 50% of his wages as a reimbursement to the City for the first 6 months of his employment. There is a lot of funding out there to help employers recruit individuals in particularly tough to fill positions. We appreciate Chief Graham and all of his efforts to bring those savings to the City.

I want to acknowledge that our recent hire in the Water Department, Sherri Kreutzfeld has passed her Water Supply III examination and has applied for licensure with the Ohio EPA. Congratulations to her.

Agreement – We came before Council last year to authorize the acceptance of grant funds from the Erie County Land Reutilization Corporation for the site clearance efforts at Oster's, which was not to exceed \$100,000 for those improvements. We approved and signed the first \$55,000 MOU, and we are in the process of drawing those funds down now. We have already received our second MOU for \$45,000, and I have executed that to cover the balance of the expenses at Oster's. I wanted to let Council know that we

have executed that. I want to thank the Erie County Land Reutilization Corporation for their continued investment in Huron, and on that project.

Projects Out for Bid – Reminder that the 2023 Repaving Program, which includes Chaska, Old Homestead I and Old Homestead II, was advertised in September. Those bids will be due to the City on January 25th. We received two responses to our Request for Qualifications for the Main Street Corridor Design and Engineering Project, which were due last week. That may seem like a low number, but I will tell you that these two very reputable firms. We have already started the process of reviewing those internally and hope to negotiate a contract for that design and engineering to bring that back to Council in the next couple of weeks. The Huron Waterfront Parks Plan RFQ, which is partially funded by the Coastal Management Assistance Grant, received six responses. We are in the process of narrowing that down to two or three firms to come in for interviews. Hopefully, we will have an agreement to bring to Council in the upcoming weeks. Proposals for the ConAgra development are due to the City this Friday, January 12th. I also wanted to let Council that we are finally out to bid on our first expansion project for Huron Public Power. This will allow Huron Public Power to extend northward down Rye Beach Road, under the railroad tracks, and get to the foot of Sawmill Parkway. We went out to bid on January 4th, and those bids will close on January 25th.

Upcoming Meetings – Planning Commission Meeting on Wednesday, January 17th at 5:00pm in the Council Chambers; Second City Council Meeting of the month will be on Tuesday, January 23rd at 6:30pm in the Council Chambers; We have a Huron Joint Recreation District Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 6th at 6:30pm here in the Council Chambers; the Utilities Committee will meet on Wednesday, February 7th at 5:00pm in the Main Conference Room; the Board of Zoning Appeals will meet on Monday, February 12th at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers; City Council is Tuesday, February 13th at 6:30pm in the Council Chambers; we will then have a Planning Commission meeting on Wednesday, February 1st at 5:00pm in the Council Chambers; and then finish up with our second City Council meeting in February on Tuesday, February 27th at 6:30pm in the Council Chambers.

MLK Day/President's Day – Reminder to Council and the public that City Hall and the administrative offices will be closed on Monday, January 15th in observance of MLK Day. We will also be closed on Monday, February 12th in observance of President's Day.

Mayor's Discussion

Mayor Tapp said:

I just want to acknowledge that the schools are doing something for Evelyn Bauer. Kudos to the schools, that was tough. Thank you for that. Mr. Lasko mentioned ConAgra. He has been approached and asked some questions about what is going on with the lime plant. I will tell you that the lease is up in April and will not be renewed – neither side wants to do that. I believe Mr. Hamilton is going to be on a conference call this week (tomorrow) in reference to the demolition of the structures that are there. They have been hauling off lime and cleaning up the place. Hopefully we know what's going to be going on with that soon. I have been asked a couple of times, in reference to the quiet zone – let me just say that that is in the works. Paperwork is in and Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Lasko are looking at that, and they will come back to Council with what the plan is. I want to thank the staff and everybody for their hard work, and Council for

all of their hard work. We have got a lot of projects going on, and projects to get going. Thank you for that. That is all I have.

For the Good of the Order

William Biddlecombe – I would like to thank staff for all of their hard work. Today is National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, so I would like to acknowledge all of the members of our Police Department and thank them and the rest of our safety services for everything they do in our community.

The School Board had an organizational meeting last week. Some takeaways from that – they swore in the newly elected member from the election Chris Rager. They had a couple of executive sessions throughout the meeting, but then they interviewed the three candidates that had applied to replace Mr. Jones after his passing. There had been more, but that list wasn't made public and they had dropped it down to the three before the meeting. Ultimately, they did select Jodi Mast to rejoin the School Board. The other citizens interviewed were Brian Allen and Greg Marsh. Jodi was then elected as President of the School Board, and Stacey Hartley will be the Vice-President. Chris Rager will serve on the EHOVE Board and Stacey Hartley will be the OSBA Board representative. Following that they had their tax budget hearing. Their next regular meeting will be held on January 22nd at 6:00pm.

The home games coming up are: Girls' Basketball on January 9th and 11th, and both the Girls' and Boys' Basketball have a double header on the 20th. Please come out and support our local events, programs and student athletes, and Go Tigers!

Sam Artino – Nothing, thank you.

Mark Claus – I just want to say Happy New Year to everybody, and he is looking forward to a really busy year ahead. There a lot of things coming up, so he is looking forward to getting going and keeping the ball rolling.

Joe Dike – Nothing.

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

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

Executive Session

None.

Adjournment

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

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

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

NAYS: **None (0)**

There being a majority in favor of the motion, the regular Council meeting of January 9, 2024 was adjourned at 7:37pm.

Adopted: 27 FEB 2024


Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council

EXHIBIT A

TO MOTION APPOINTING CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS TO VARIOUS BOARDS/COMMITTEES

Board/Committee	Council Member
Planning Commission	Sam Artino
Huron Joint Port Authority	Mark Claus
Huron Joint Recreation District	Matt Grieves
Finance Committee	Monty Tapp, Mark Claus and Joel Hagy
Safety Committee	Monty Tapp, Sam Artino and William Biddlecombe
Rescue Squad Trust Fund	Matt Lasko and Monty Tapp (per ordinance)
Erie County Council of Government	Joe Dike and Sam Artino
Volunteer Firefighter Dependent Fund	Monty Tapp and Sam Artino
Enterprise Zone Committee	Monty Tapp and Mark Claus
School Board Liaison	William Biddlecombe
Regional Water Advisory	Monty Tapp and Mark Claus
Utilities Committee	Joel Hagy and Matt Grieves
AMP-Ohio	Sam Artino
Tax Incentive Review Board	Joe Dike
Huron Chamber of Commerce	Sam Artino