

**THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO**  
**Proceedings of the Huron City Council**  
**Regular Meeting Tuesday, February 13, 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 and Joel Hagy**. Member absent: **Matt Grieves**.

**Motion by Mr. Claus to excuse the absence of Mr. Grieves from tonight's meeting.**

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

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

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

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, Parks & Recreation Operations Manager Doug Steinwart, OHM Engineer Larry Fridrich and Terri Welkener, Clerk of Council.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Motion by Mr. Dike to approve the minutes of the November 28, 2023 regular Council meeting, as written.**

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

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

With more than a majority in favor of the motion, the motion passed and the minutes of the regular Council meeting of November 28, 2023 were adopted.

**Motion by Mr. Dike to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2023 organizational/regular Council meeting, as written.**

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

**YEAS: Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus (4)**

**ABSTAIN:** Tapp, Dike (2)  
**NAYS:** None (0)

With more than a majority in favor of the motion, the motion passed and the minutes of the December 1, 2023 organizational/regular Council meeting were adopted.

**Motion by Mr. Dike to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2023 regular Council meeting, as written.**

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

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

With more than a majority in favor of the motion, the motion passed and the minutes of the regular Council meeting of December 12, 2023 were adopted.

#### **Audience Comments**

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

None.

#### **Charter Review Commission Appointments**

##### **Motion**

**Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe to appoint Dr. Cindy Miglietti to the 2024 Charter Review Commission.**

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

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

There being more than a majority in favor, the motion passed and Cindy Miglietti was appointed to the 2024 Charter Review Commission.

##### **Motion**

**Motion by Mr. Artino to appoint Terry Graham, Sr. to the 2024 Charter Review Commission.**

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, Hagy, Biddlecombe (6)  
**NAYS:** None (0)

There being more than a majority in favor, the motion passed and Terry Graham, Sr. was appointed to the 2024 Charter Review Commission.

**Motion**

**Motion by Mr. Claus to appoint Mr. John Ruf to the 2024 Charter Review Commission.**

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

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

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being more than a majority in favor, the motion passed and John Ruf was appointed to the 2024 Charter Review Commission.

**Motion**

**Motion by Mr. Tapp to appoint Mr. Andrew Kurtz to the 2024 Charter Review Commission.**

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

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

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being more than a majority in favor, the motion passed and Andrew Kurtz was appointed to the 2024 Charter Review Commission.

**Motion**

**Motion by Mr. Dike to appoint Mark Majestic to the 2024 Charter Review Commission.**

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

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

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being more than a majority in favor, the motion passed and Mark Majestic was appointed to the 2024 Charter Review Commission.

**Motion**

**Motion by Mr. Tapp to appoint Melissa Fries to the 2024 Charter Review Commission.**

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



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

There being more than a majority in favor, the motion passed and Melissa Fries was appointed to the 2024 Charter Review Commission.

#### **Motion**

**Motion by Mr. Hagy to appoint Dr. Andrew DuFresne to the 2024 Charter Review Commission.**

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 (6)  
**NAYS:** None (0)

There being more than a majority in favor, the motion passed and Dr. Andrew DuFresne was appointed to the 2024 Charter Review Commission.

#### **Old Business**

**Ordinance No. 2023-51 (TABLED)**

**Ordinance No. 2023-51 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 505 (ANIMALS AND FOWL) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCE OF HURON, OHIO TO ESTABLISH A NEW SECTIONS 505.18 (CHICKENS))**

**Ordinance No. 2023-52 (TABLED)**

**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))**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Ordinance No. 2024-2 (first reading)**

**Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe that Ordinance No. 2024-2 (AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND AMENDING AND RESTATING SECTION 165.03 (FACILITIES FEES) UNDER CHAPTER 165 (DIVISION OF RECREATION) OF THE HURON CODIFIED ORDINANCES) be placed on its first reading.**

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

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

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2024-2 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Steinwart explained that ordinance addresses updates to their parks and recreation facility fees. They are asking for an increase in the Nickel Plate parking fee from \$6 per vehicle to \$7 per vehicle, which will

be charged from Memorial Day through Labor Day. The parking fee has been \$6 since 2018. They offer seasonal passes for residents for \$25, which will remain the same. Seasonal passes for non-residents will increase from \$30 to \$40 for the seasonal pass. The operational costs have increased over the past 6 years, which include beach combing services, temporary restroom facilities, staffing, etc. Two years ago, they added outdoor shower towers and a foot washing station. With the new pickleball courts project completed at Fabens, individual group play through online reservations will be \$5 per court for 2 hours for residents, and \$10 per court for 2 hours for non-residents, Monday through Friday. It will be first come, first served on the weekends. Staff will work with groups or tournaments for longer periods of time. They took a lot of information from Erie Metroparks for the fees for pickleball, as it grows in popularity in the last 6 years. They are modeling these fees from what Erie Metroparks has learned over the last 6 years. The rental fee for exclusive rights to baseball fields for tournaments has been increased from \$1500 per day for outside organizations.

Mr. Claus clarified that the fees for tennis and pickleball are only if you want exclusive use of the court. The tennis courts and pickleball courts will be open unless it is reserved for a tournament. The tennis team has certain times, but you can still go out there and play if no one is there. Mr. Swaisgood added that there is an online calendar that would have the tennis and other reserved court information on the online calendar. Mr. Claus said that there will be a printed schedule out there so if someone shows up they can see that a court has been reserved ahead of time.

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

#### **Resolution No. 2-2024**

**Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be waived, and Resolution No. 2-2024 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL AND ENTER INTO PROJECT SUPPLEMENT 3 TO THE CONTINUING SERVICES AGREEMENT DATED FEBRUARY 1, 2021 BETWEEN THE CITY OF HURON AND OHM ADVISORS FOR THE PROVISION OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE CITY OF HURON AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED NINETY-TWO THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$92,700.00) FOR THE CONTRACT TERM JANUARY 1, 2024 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2024, AND EFFECTIVE AS OF JANUARY 1, 2024) be placed on its first reading.**

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

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

There being more than five votes in favor, the motion suspending the three-reading rule passed, and Resolution 2-2024 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Hamilton stated that this is a yearly contract with OHM Advisors for in-house engineering services. This agreement reflects a 3% increase over last year for these services, bringing the total to \$92,700. They understand that this is a large number, but Larry Fridrich from OHM has done a great job this year bringing in funding for the City, which well exceeds this amount, and they do bring a lot of value to the table. Mr.

Critelli sends his apologies for not being here. They are a good team and resource to have, and a good spend of money.

Mr. Artino said that Mr. Hamilton brought up a very good point that as far as OHM's value goes, them helping the City get grants means a lot to this city. There are a lot of projects that wouldn't have happened without those grants.

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. 2-2024. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Resolution No. 2-2024 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

**Ordinance No. 2024-3**

**Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be waived and Ordinance No. 2024-3 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2023-49, ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 12, 2023, TO PROVIDE FOR SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE GENERAL FUND AND OTHER FUNDING SOURCES) be placed on its first reading.**

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

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

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Ordinance No. 2024-3 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Swaisgood explained that Ordinance 2024-3 is an appropriations measures on the 2024 budget. There is a budget transfer from the Capital Improvement Fund to the Property Maintenance Fund in the amount of \$22,500. This is for the demolition of the 531 Berlin Road property, which was budgeted in the Capital Improvement Fund. As they try to keep all property maintenance expenses on the Property Maintenance Fund, they moved that budget into that fund, with net zero impact. There is also an increase in the Water Fund in the amount of \$1,300 for shelving and improvements in the water facility. The reason for the increase in that is that it is offset through the sale of scrap metal in the amount of \$1,300 that was done at the end of December. Although there is a net impact on total appropriations in the \$1,300, the case impact is zero.

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. 2024-3. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

**NAYS:               None (0)**

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Ordinance No. 2024-3 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

**Resolution No. 8-2024**

**Motion by Mr. Tapp that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 8-2024 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, STATE FIRE MARSHAL FOR EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT FOR THE HURON FIRE DEPARTMENT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FIFTEEN THOUSAND AND XX/100 DOLLARS (\$15,000.00); AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT SAID GRANT AWARD IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FIFTEEN THOUSAND AND XX/100 DOLLARS (\$15,000.00), SHOULD THE APPLICATION BE SUCCESSFUL) be placed on its first reading.**

There being more than five votes in favor, the motion passed waiving the three-reading rule and Resolution 8-2024 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

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

**NAYS:               None (0)**

There being more than five votes in favor, the motion to pass the three-reading rule passed, and Resolution 8-2024 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Lieutenant Evert said that these grant funds will go toward the purchase of 3 sets of bunker gear – helmet, gloves, boots and pants. There is no required match on the City's part, and it is very much needed. Their gear is getting to be out of date. If the grant is awarded that would lift \$15,000 from their budget.

Mayor Tapp said that this just shows that bunker gear is not inexpensive, but it is life-saving.

Mr. Artino added that the fire department averages 5-6 calls per day based on the information that was sent out. This includes both fire and squad calls.

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. 8-2024. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

**NAYS:               None (0)**

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Resolution No. 8-2024 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

**Resolution No. 11-2024**

**Motion by Mr. Artino that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 11-2024 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO AWARD THE BID AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH RMH CONCRETE & FOUNDATIONS FOR CONSTRUCTION SERVICES RELATING TO THE CLEVELAND ROAD E**

**NORTH WALK PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF FIFTY-TWO THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED NINE AND 50/100 (\$52,309.50)) be placed on its first reading.**

There being more than five votes in favor, the motion passed waiving the three-reading rule and Resolution 11-2024 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

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

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being more than five votes in favor, the motion to pass the three-reading rule passed, and Resolution 11-2024 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Hamilton said that when they started the Cleveland Road East Sidewalk Project, they had 3 crosswalks included, which they thought was too many. There was one section of sidewalk that could take it down to just one additional crossing. The owners of the property between Gateway and Anchorage and the homeowners' association were nice enough to work with the City and give them permanent easements to the sidewalk could be installed on the north side. They received 5 bids, and this is the lowest and best at \$52,309.50. The total project cost will be right around \$102,000 with design and inspection.

Mr. Dike asked if they can get a map emailed to them of that project – he is just curious because he has had individuals ask.

Mr. Hagy said that the stretch we are talking about right now goes over a bridge. Did that impact the cost and make it more expensive. Mr. Hamilton said that it doesn't, as there is enough support around the culvert and the bridge area that they can just put the base down and go over the top of it.

Mr. Claus asked about timing for the project. Mr. Hamilton answered that they do not have a timeframe for this one yet, but once the contract is awarded they will work on the schedule. He believes it will be in the spring, but until they have the schedule...

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. 11-2024. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Resolution No. 11-2024 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

#### **Resolution No. 12-2024**

**Motion by Mr. Artino that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 12-2024 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO AWARD THE BID AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH D.L. SMITH CONCRETE, LLC FOR CONSTRUCTION SERVICES RELATING TO THE 2023 PAVING PROGRAM IN**

**THE AMOUNT OF TWO MILLION ONE HUNDRED FORTY-EIGHT THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED FIFTY-FIVE AND 30/100 (\$2,148,655.30)) be placed on its first reading.**

There being more than five votes in favor, the motion passed waiving the three-reading rule and Resolution 12-2024 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

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

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being more than five votes in favor, the motion to pass the three-reading rule passed, and Resolution 12-2024 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Hamilton said that while we still call this the 2023 Repaving Program even though it is 2024. They ended up putting this project out to bid to have an in-depth patching and repair project because they couldn't use the original plan. They received 3 bids, and D.L. Smith was the lowest and best bid. The bids ranged all the way up to \$3.4 Million. They expect this project to start in late March/early April, and per the contract, they should be demobilized by mid-June, and if not, towards the end of June. This would award the project for \$2,148,655.30, which brings the total cost of this project with initial design, construction and construction services to just over \$2.4 Million.

Mr. Hagy asked, back when it was \$1.6 Million to do the other plan (asphalt). Mr. Hamilton clarified that that amount was only for one of the neighborhoods. He asked if they were also going to borrow for that. Mr. Hamilton answered that they would have. Mr. Hagy asked Mr. Swaisgood asked what the impact to the City's borrowing limit is. Mr. Swaisgood answered that, with the 2023 numbers, it will bring it down to about \$7-\$8 Million. He has Sudsina & Associates working on the updated capacity, as well. They will have to come back to Council in the next couple of months to ask for that debt to be issued, and he will have all of that information at that time.

Mr. Dike asked if Mr. Hamilton will be providing his cell phone number so that when all of the people in those neighborhoods start complaint, they can call him directly. They are getting concrete so that it doesn't burn their dogs' feet, because he remembers someone was concerned about that. Mr. Hagy said they might have some fans, too. Mr. Dike said that they are going to have a lot of people complaining. Mr. Hamilton said that he will be out on this project a lot, and OHM will have additional inspectors out there to make sure it is done correctly. There will be plenty of boots on the ground for that 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. 12-2024. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Resolution No. 8-2024 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

**Resolution No. 13-2024**

**Motion by Mr. Artino that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 13-2024 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH OHM ADVISORS FOR PROFESSIONAL CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION SERVICES RELATING TO THE 2023 PAVING PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-FOUR THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND XX/100 (\$224,900.00) ) be placed on its first reading.**

There being more than five votes in favor, the motion passed waiving the three-reading rule and Resolution 13-2024 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

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

There being more than five votes in favor, the motion to pass the three-reading rule passed, and Resolution 13-2024 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Hamilton stated that this is the construction inspection services portion of the previous agenda item. This is included in the \$2.4 Million total project cost. Construction services will basically keep an eye on things and make sure things are getting done, manage the costs, and manage the quantities. They will do all of the construction services for a total \$224,900. This will be the boots on the ground.

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. 13-2024. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Resolution No. 13-2024 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

**Ordinance No. 2024-4**

**Motion by Mr. Claus that the three-reading rule be waived and Ordinance No. 2024-4 (AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND AMENDING AND RESTATING SECTIONS 185.03(F)(1) AND 185.03(F)(4) UNDER SECTION 185.03 (IMPOSITION OF TAX) OF CHAPTER 185 (INCOME TAX); REPEALING AND AMENDING AND RESTATING SECTIONS 185.05(A) AND 185.05(G) UNDER SECTION 185.05 (ANNUAL RETURN; FILING) OF CHAPTER 185 (INCOME TAX); REPEALING AND AMENDING AND RESTATING SECTION 185.18(C) UNDER CHAPTER 185.18 (INTEREST AND PENALTIES) OF CHAPTER 185 (INCOME TAX); AMENDING CHAPTER 185 (INCOME TAX) TO ADD A NEW SECTION 185.03(G) UNDER SECTION 185.03 (IMPOSITION OF TAX) OF THE HURON CODIFIED ORDINANCES; AND AMENDING CHAPTER 185 (INCOME TAX) TO ADD A NEW SECTION 185.27 (ELECTION TO BE SUBJECT TO R.C. 718.80 TO 718.95) OF THE HURON CODIFIED ORDINANCES; 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: Claus, Tapp, Dike, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino (6)**

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Ordinance No. 2024-4 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

**Motion by Mr. Claus to place Ordinance No. 2024-4 as an emergency measure.**

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

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2024-4 was placed as an emergency measure.

Mr. Swaisgood explained that this ordinance is an amendment to the City's local income tax code. This is due to Governor DeWine passing of H.B. 33 and the State Budget back in 2023. This is an update to the Ohio Revised Code regarding local income taxes, and includes a lot of language, definitions, an extension deadline update on net profits for businesses, and late penalties on income taxes. When it's all said and done, there is no significant impact on the City local income tax. The only impact would be that the penalty for filing late has been capped at \$150. That's the only financial impact. In order to ensure compliance with the Ohio Revised Code.

Mr. Biddlecombe said that he notice that Section G had a lot to do with remote workers and asked Mr. Swaisgood to elaborate on that. Since Covid, there are a lot more remote workers, and he is sure that there are many people in Huron that might affect. Mr. Swaisgood said that he received this information today, and it is effective January 1, 2024, so he hasn't gotten through all of them. He would be more than happy to provide that information on what all of that means. When Covid started, a City of Columbus started a lawsuit, and there has been a lot going on to get to this point. He does know that if you are working from home, you are working there 100% of the time and the employer signs off even though the employer is in another city, you can file to not pay the income tax in the employer's city. This is more of a

RITA and employer issue. They have had a couple questions come up over the years, and they refer those people to RITA for handle that. There are more in tune with the code. They will provide that information. If you are working at home, you should work with your employer to make sure that your income tax withholding is only coming from the work jurisdiction. Mr. Biddlecombe said he just wanted to draw attention to it for the public that might not be familiar with the fact that that section now exists. That could potentially affect them.

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

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

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Ordinance No. 2024-4 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately, with an effective date of January 1, 2024.

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

The City Manager spoke on several topics:

**Oster's Mobile Home Park** – As of today, all individuals have been relocated offsite. We do have one individual currently in temporary housing as we finish the utility hookups at his new site, which are halfway done at this point. I do believe that he will be fully housed by the end of the month. We moved forward with the closing and purchase of the property, which occurred on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Many thanks to Mr. Schrader, who helped with that closing along with Hartung Title. We now own those 7 parcels that comprise the former Oster's Mobile Home Park. Over the next few days, we will continue to do some modest cleanup on site, and ultimately, come March and early April, we will undertake final grading and seeding of that site. I want to note that I envision engaging the Rye Beach neighborhood and constituents over the next several months as we secure feedback from them on future and preferred uses of those parcels. More details will come on that as we come up with an outreach schedule for the Rye Beach neighborhood.

**Infrastructure Updates** – As a reminder, we did issue an RFQ (Request for Qualifications) for design and bidding services for Route 6 Phase II, as a result of that process, staff has selected TransSystems of Cleveland to complete the design and prepare the bid documents. We will be scoping out the project and entering into negotiations for the cost of those services, and will ultimately bring a contract to Council for consideration in the next month or 2.

We approved a contract for the northside sidewalk piece between Gateway and Anchorage, but he wanted to provide an update on the larger eastside sidewalk project to Huron Green. We have to secure temporary right-of-way from 2 property owners needed for the construction component of the project. We are in the process of securing those 2 right-of-way acquisitions and once we do that, we can put the project out to bid.

We also put out an RFQ for the South Main Street Streetscape design and engineering, open in December and January. Through that process, staff has selected OHM Advisors as a preferred partner to design and bid that project. We will be working over the next couple of weeks to negotiate the terms of that contract and scope of work, and will bring that to Council in the next month or two.

Zoning Department – Demolition is mostly completed at the property at 531 Berlin Road. Final site grading and seeding is being completed. We will hopefully have that closed out in the next couple of weeks.

Parks and Recreation – This is a follow-up to an email sent to Council late last week. There are still some details forthcoming, but we have been informally told that the City will be receiving between \$200,000 and \$250,000 from the State of Ohio as part of the first \$350 Million in one-time strategic investment funding. This is coming from the House side of the legislature. There will be another \$350 Million announced from the Senate side of the legislature. These funds are dedicated for the Boat Basin & Amphitheater Redevelopment and Reconstruction. We are still eligible, potentially, for the other \$350 Million pot of funding, and he wants to note that both of these pots are completely separate from the State Capital Budget process, which they continue to aggressively work with our legislators to get funding for that. I know that is a very large investment that we have to undertake at some point, but I think it's nice to have our first \$200,000-\$250,000 in the bank, or soon to be in the bank, for that project.

Flock Cameras – I want to provide an update on the Police Department as relates to the Flock Safety Camera purchase approved by Council at a prior meeting. We have two of those cameras installed as of today, and the final three cameras will be installed by February 19<sup>th</sup>. I want to note that we have already been able to use Flock cameras from another community to help identify and apprehend a perpetrator that was involved in a string of burglaries in Huron and parts of Ottawa County. I think the Chief mentioned that as of yesterday, we were already up to 30,000 camera reads, just on those two cameras. I want to assure the public that these are not speed cameras, these are license plate readers to help us with criminal activity coming in and out of our City – great results already.

Finance Department – This is a follow-up to anyone that was here early for this meeting who may have caught the tail end of the Finance Committee meeting. At today's meeting, one of the items that was presented was the idea for increasing revenue to aid in the future stabilization of several funds and departments. I think we have highlighted a lot of these, being fire, police, stormwater, streets and parks & recreation. Obviously, there are multiple ways in which we can look to increase revenue, whether that be levies or things like income tax. This is a follow-up to some of the recommendations coming out of the budgetary process for 2024, both through the Finance Committee and this Council, looking for ways to stabilize those funds over the next 3-4 years. At that meeting, there was a presentation specifically on the idea of looking at and exploring, or starting the process, for a potential income tax increase. I want to be very clear that this is the beginning of an exploration and conversation with the public. Nothing is definitive, whatsoever. We are going to take the next 3-4 months to educate the public and solicit feedback to bring back to Council for consideration of a ballot measure, which Council would have to approve in June for the November election. Nothing is assured, and this is the beginning of an exploration. We did propose a very intriguing model in which the overwhelming majority of those funds would be borne by non-residents, really mitigating the impact on Huron residents, which we are very excited about.

We will come up with a calendar for public outreach, which will be predominantly driven by Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Swaisgood and myself. Our goal is to have several work sessions, not only these chambers, but we also want to go individuals out in the community. We want to be at HOA meetings, if possible; we want to be at communal spaces such as the library – and really have an exhaustive approach to engaging the community to potentially come up with a comprehensive plan to take the momentum in the City that we have experienced for the last 3-4 years and take it to the next level for the next 15-20 years. There will be more to come as that moves forward.

Projects Out to Bid – The South Main Street Watermain Replacement Project, which was advertised on December 14<sup>th</sup>, has bids due to the City this week on February 15<sup>th</sup>. The Huron Public Power Expansion Project, which went out to bid in early January, will close on February 16<sup>th</sup>.

Upcoming Meetings – There is a Records Commission meeting on Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9am in the Council Chambers; we have a City Council Work Session on Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:45pm in the Council Chambers – this will be to review the results and cost estimates for proposed quiet zones throughout the City, which we are looking forward to and which I know is very much a public interest; that will be followed by the regular City Council meeting at 6:30pm in the Council Chambers on Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>; we will round out the month with a Planning Commission meeting on Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 5pm in Council Chambers.

Final Reminder: Administrative offices will be closed on Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup> in observance of President's Day.

Mr. Biddlecombe said, as a Huron Heights resident, his neighbors come to him and ask about Two Rivers. Two Rivers touches their neighborhood. A while back, Council had voted to pass legislation to allow them to continue developing that neighborhood. He hasn't seen anything going on in there, so he was curious if there were any permits filed for any new construction, or is anything in the works with that? Mr. Lasko said there has been nothing filed, to his knowledge, but that doesn't mean that we haven't seen anything come into the Planning & Zoning Department. He hasn't seen construction himself, and he knows it was critical to timelines on the new PUD, but he would have to defer to Mr. Engle if we have seen anything in their office, yet. Mr. Engle added that he was waiting on the record plat to be filed, signed by them and which will have to be recorded. He just received those documents. Hopefully, in the next few weeks they can get rolling with the permitting. In terms of new housing construction, there has been no activity. Mayor Tapp said he was approached by a gentleman who said that Corinthian Homes is ready to move forward.

Mr. Biddlecombe asked about the flashing 25mph sign being moved from Laguna Drive. That has been a hot-button issue in the neighborhood, and he knows that he is going to hear about it once boating season starts up again. Is there a plan to move them back there in the spring? Mr. Lasko noted that the intent with those signs was that they would never remain in one place. For what it's worth, they have been on Laguna Drive for quite a while, which then triggers a sense of ownership, somewhat. We just recently moved them to Strowbridge based on a recommendation from the Police Department. I would defer to the Police Department and Service Department if we intend on moving them back to Laguna Drive,

come the beginning of the summer. Mr. Hamilton explained that the Police Department has been pulling reports off of these signs for close to a year. Because they were just up there as warning signs, we started recording the data. The data says that there really isn't a speeding issue on that road. They do get one or two speeders, but the majority of cars are under the speed limit. Therefore, they removed them from there and they are going to put them in a couple other places throughout the City. The intent is not to put them back up there unless they see an increased problem. Mr. Biddlecombe said that he just knows that he has at least a couple of residents complain that they wanted speed bumps if nothing was done back there. He knows he is going to hear about it.

Mr. Hagy asked Mr. Hamilton he knows that we are trying to get approval to go to 5 million gal/day at the Water Plant. Does that mean that we are not there – that we haven't been there yet – are we waiting for that approval? Mr. Hamilton answered that they are not there yet. Once they filed for the increase, they came back and looked at the carbon feed. While our carbon feed is enough, they want a redundant carbon feed put in place to go to 5.4 million gal/day. Right now, they are working with the EPA and Kleinfelder to work through that portion.

Mr. Hagy asked Chief Graham if the Flock cameras use facial recognition. Chief Graham answered that they do not.

#### **Mayor's Discussion**

Mayor Tapp said:

I don't know if it has been said yet, but welcome to Ms. Kilbury, she is on our staff now and as far as I know, she has a nice office and is very, very well. Not to beat a dead horse, but thanks, Matt for everything on the Oster's think. I am so glad this is ending. It was a lot work on everybody's part. A lot of people invested time and energy. I have heard great comments on how well the tennis and pickleball courts look (which I do neither) - what a nice job, Mr. Steinwart. We have a ton of stuff going on this year. I appreciate the folks that have shown up here. I see some faces I know, and some I don't. Thank you for coming. I think you are aware of everything Matt talked about in his Manager's Report, and how much we have going on and how much is involved - the street repaving, the sidewalks, ConAgra, new waterlines on Main Street – we've got all kinds of things coming up, which means a lot of work on the inside. I want to thank OHM, and to piggyback what Mr. Artino said, everything is increasing and he doesn't feel that the 3% is unreasonable. We did have a Finance Committee meeting and Mr. Swaisgood made his big presentation – there are a lot of things going on. Again, I appreciate everybody that some to these meetings. If there are any questions, and I have said this before, ask the questions and if I don't know, we will find out for you. I am not going to know every answer to every question, but I can find out for you. That is all I have.

#### **For the Good of the Order**

**William Biddlecombe** – Thanks to our staff for all of their hard work. I, too, would like to thank everyone who applied for the Charter Review Commission, and congratulations to those who were appointed tonight. Thank you for your service.

There was a School Board meeting last night and I will provide some takeaways from that. There was a presentation given by Baird on the financing options for a potential new facility. You should have all

received a copy of that from me earlier today. While I had thought that they were also going to give a presentation on financing if they were to go ahead with refurbishing the schools, this whole presentation was geared towards only new construction aspects – those options. Due to the potential costs of any of the options previously presented at the last meeting, and the schools' debt limitations, there will most likely be need for some sort of a combination of citizen debt financing options that were presented, to be passed on the November ballot. Anyone who is interested in more information can go to the school's website where today they have launched a page dedicated to updating the public on district facilities, and their next regular meeting is scheduled for February 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.

Huron Track & Field has an informational meeting coming up on February 15<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at McCormick Middle School, and I believe are still looking for a pole vault coach, so if anyone is interested in that, you can contact Mike Lemponen. The Junior High and High School Cheerleading tryouts are coming up on March 4<sup>th</sup>. Any of the girls in town who are interested in that can contact Janet Joffrey. The Knights of Columbus will be holding their annual fish fry on February 23<sup>rd</sup> from 5-7pm, and you can pre-order by going to their website. Home game coming up: Girls Basketball on Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. The Bowling team took part in Sectionals today and the other winter sports tournaments will be beginning soon. Please come out and support our local events, programs and student athletes, and Go Tigers!

**Sam Artino** – I would like to echo some of the same comments... thanks to the folks that applied for the Charter Review Commission, and all the folks that help with different committees and commissions for the City. You have heard me say this a million times, we can't do it without the input from the citizens. Thank you.

**Mark Claus** – I would also like to thank everyone who put in their applications for the Charter Review Commission. I see there are a couple of people here tonight. We really appreciate it; it's a very important thing for us. We ended up with 13 applications once we got down to it, so that was really good and well-appreciated that we had that many people interested. I think we've got a good group and we appreciate everybody's help in that regard. I also just wanted to make another comment, we have talked about it a lot, the somewhat completion of the Oster's vacation of the property and the closing of the property. We move into the next phase of working through ideas of what to do with that property. We truly had no ... that's a question that I get all the time and I'm sure pretty much every other Councilmember gets lots of questions of what we are going to do there. We truly had no plans ahead of time, and now that we're through the difficult part, we are going to move on to what might be a little bit more fun in working out the plans and working with all stakeholders in the City and giving a little emphasis to Rye Beach because it is directly adjacent and part of their neighborhood. That's something to look forward to going forward. That's all I have.

**Joe Dike** – Nothing at this time.

**Joel Hagy** - I wanted to say thank you to all of the citizen who volunteered to be on the Charter Review Commission. I know it takes a lot of time and it's not exciting, but it is really, really important. Thank you for volunteering. Mayor Tapp added that he should have said that, too.

Mr. Lasko said he had one more thing he had forgotten in the City Manager's discussion. Newly appointed Charter Review Commission members that are here and/or watching, just so they're not left hanging... probably through Ms. Welkener, we will send an email out to them. The biggest thing is to get a collective

opinion on when the initial meeting will be. I am guessing it will probably be in very early March. At that meeting, minimally, we will have our Law Director there, who will provide a tutorial of the things a Charter Review Commission will go through. After that, the schedule is left up to the Charter Review Commission to make themselves, in terms of how often they think they need to meet and should meet. We will make sure over the next day or two that we reach out with an introductory email to start getting that initial meeting set up for them. I just want to make sure that they knew what the next steps would be.

**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, Hagy (6)**

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being a majority in favor of the motion, the regular Council meeting of February 13, 2024 was adjourned at 7:26pm.

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

12 MAR 2024



Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council