

THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO
Proceedings of the Huron City Council
Regular Meeting Tuesday, May 14, 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 more than a majority 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, Parks & Recreation Operations Manager Doug Steinwart and Terri Welkener, Clerk of Council.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. Dike to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2024 regular Council meeting, as written.

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

YEAS: Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus Tapp (5)
ABSTAIN: Dike (1)
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 February 27, 2024 were adopted.

Motion by Mr. Dike to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2024 regular Council meeting, as written.

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

YEAS: Dike, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp (5)
ABSTAIN: Biddlecombe (1)
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 March 12, 2024 were adopted.

Audience Comments

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

Tom Harris – 105 Wheeler Drive – I would like to say good evening to the Council. Tonight you are going to see on your agenda Resolution 48-2024, which is a request for a license agreement to allow River Monster Tours LLC to utilize the Boat Basin's marina hut and the outer wall next to it to load and unload passengers. River Monster Tours is a family-owned business started by my brother John, my fiancé Jen, and myself to bring the beauty of the Huron River to anyone to experience. The idea here is simple. We have a fun paddle-style passenger vessel where we will provide 90-minute tours up the river. Passengers can pedal or simply enjoy the ride. My brother John is a licensed captain and has served as an active-duty member of the Coast Guard for several years. With that service, he brings a high level of experience and confidence. Our vessel has been fully inspected and licensed as a commercial vessel by the Coast Guard to conduct these tours, specifically in the Huron River. I sit for my Master Captain's test tomorrow morning, which is actually a big deal; I have been studying all day for it. Passengers will be required to sign waivers before boarding and those of proper age will be permitted to BYOB. All ID's will be checked and documented at all time. We, however, will never serve any alcohol aboard our boats. Our emphasis is on the tour and making the beauty of the river available for everybody to see and experience. We have put many days of planning and spent a lot of money to get to this point. I am asking you tonight to approve this agreement and add this awesome service to our community. If you have any other questions, I would be happy to address them during your consideration tonight.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Ordinance No. 2024-17

Motion by Mr. Dike that Ordinance No. 2024-17 (AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND PRESCRIBING THE MANNER OF SALE OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY THE CITY OF HURON, LOCATED ON SILVERN STREET, ERIE COUNTY PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 43-64002.000; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR THE SALE OF THAT PROPERTY TO MICHAEL JOHN NEW, III AND COLLEEN Q. NEW; 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: Dike, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp (6)

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2024-17 was placed upon first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Motion by Mr. Dike to place Ordinance No. 2024-17 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: Dike, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp (6)

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2024-17 was placed as an emergency measure.

Mr. Lasko acknowledged the News, who are here in the audience and thanked them for being here. As a little bit of background, the City currently owns 2 contiguous parcels on Silvern Street just north of the existing culvert. This legislation looks to sell the northern-most parcel of the 2 that the City owns adjacent to their home at 120 Silvern Street. The proposed legislation would sell the real estate for \$10, and the News would also assume all closing costs and legal fees associated with the title transfer. I first want to address the value of the sale. The News, who have lived there for several decades, have maintained the City's parcels at their expense, including significant investments in the revetment along the lagoon, as well. They felt the savings they have provided the City and our taxpayers more than justify the \$10 sales price. They decided to not sell the southern-most parcel because that includes the culvert itself, and would ultimately result in the City needing to get easements or access agreements to maintain that culvert. Selling the northern parcel will allow the News to build an addition on the property.

Mayor Tapp said that when this issue was brought up, he asked about the \$10 price, but he looked at the property and saw how nice the News have kept it up for years. It looks great.

Mr. Artino has known the News for a long time and had a chance to stop by and see the property in the past. They have done a great job of taking care of that property over the years. He thinks it's a great deal for them, as well as for the City.

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. 2024-17. 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 of adoption, Ordinance No. 2024-17 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect in 30 days.

Resolution No. 46-2024

Motion by Mr. Claus that the three-reading rule be waived, and Resolution No. 46-2024 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO, WITH THE HURON ROTARY CLUB TO HOLD THE HURON ROTARY FESTIVAL IN THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO ON JUNE 29, 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: Claus, Tapp, Dike, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino (6)

NAYS: None (0)

There being more than five votes in favor, the motion suspending the three-reading rule passed, and Resolution 46-2024 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Steinwart explained that this is the annual agreement with the Huron Rotary Club for the Huron Rotary Festival on June 29th. They use the amphitheater, the top sections, and the shelter area. They have requested permission for the sale of beer and wine, as they have done in the past. The City charges a 1-day special event facility fee of \$500. They are not requesting any street closures for the event. The City has had a good long-standing relationship with the Rotary. The money they make with this event is primarily put back into scholarship funds.

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. 46-2024. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

NAYS: None (0)

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Resolution No. 46-2024 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 48-2024

Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe that the three-reading rule be waived, and Resolution No. 48-2024 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A LICENSE AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO, WITH RIVER MONSTER TOURS LLC RELATIVE TO THEIR USE OF THE MARINA HUT AND DOCKAGE AT THE HURON BOAT BASIN FOR A FOUR-MONTH TERM IN THE AMOUNT OF TWO THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY AND XX/100 DOLLARS (\$2,280.00)) 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: Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Hagy (6)

NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion suspending the three-reading rule passed, and Resolution 48-2024 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Steinwart said that the City was approached by River Monster Tours LLC to provide temporary dockage and storage at the Huron Boat Basin along the Huron River. As Mr. Harris explained earlier, they offer guided tours mostly south on the Huron River. This is a one-time agreement for the term of May 24th through September 29th. There is no overnight dockage in this agreement, and all potential signage shall be approved by the City in advance. The cost to River Monster Tours is broken into 2 sections. The 4 months of 35' of wall dockage north of the entrance to the Boat Basin is \$1,680, and the 4 months of the marina hut rental is \$600 (\$150/month). The City has entered into agreements for the outside wall in the past. They looked up agreements they had with South Shore Marine in 2015 and 2017, and the Huron Yacht Club about a decade ago for 60' south of the entrance. They came up with a price based on their 20' dockage rate of \$48/foot. It's a little difficult because there is no overnight dockage. It will be day dockage to let people on and off the boat. They built terms into the agreement to avoid causing more stress/workload for City staff, recognizing there may be potential parking maintenance, and they would be responsible for moving trash, etc. The hours of operation are 10am through 9pm.

Mr. Hagy asked where the marina hut is located. Mr. Steinwart answered that it is north of the entrance to the marina. It is an 8'x8' structure that used to work out of before the marina building was built in 2001. They don't currently use it, but decided to keep it. With the high water events in the past few years, they have put some money into it to make it structurally safe and to improve its appearance.

Mr. Biddlecombe commented that he was out in Vermilion last year at Quaker Steak & Lube, and the Mystic Belle was parked at their municipal dock that does tours throughout the day. It seemed very popular, and he thinks it will be very popular here, too.

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. 48-2024. 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 of adoption, Resolution No. 48-2024 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Motion to Set Public Hearing

Motion by Mr. Hagy to set a Public Hearing on the City Tax Budget for Fiscal Year 2025 for Tuesday, June 25, 2024 at 6:30pm.

Mr. Swaisgood explained that this motion to set the Public Hearing on the City tax budget for FY 2025 is a statutory requirement under the City's Code. The Tax Budget must be submitted to City Council by June 1st, and State law requires that it be approved by Council and submitted to the County Auditor by July 15th.

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 a majority in favor, the motion passed, and Public Hearing was set for June 25, 2024 at 6:30pm.

Motion to Set Public Hearing

Motion by Mr. Artino to set a Public Hearing on Firelands Scientific's Petition to rescind Ordinance 1121.08 and update other sections of the Huron Codified Ordinances to align with Chapter 3780 of the Ohio Revised Code for Tuesday, June 25, 2024 at 6:30pm.

Mr. Schrader explained that he was approached about 6 weeks ago by Attorney Jesse Gannon for Firelands Scientific. They sent over proposed changes to our ordinances, one of which relates to a request to permit 1 recreational marijuana dispensary in the City. The others were more geared toward a combination of our medical marijuana sections and to introduce the recreational concept and make them apply dually to medical and recreational. He spent a lot of time with Mr. Gannon talking about it, and he told him that at this juncture, until the State gives us more guidance on combining medical and recreational, he doesn't think we should be doing that. They can hold that stuff in abeyance. If you look at the news, the recreational stuff is going to be approved within the next month or so. Firelands Scientific is asking the City to amend Section 1121.08 to permit 1 recreational dispensary, which would be theirs, and to also Section 1128.06 to start to blend in the dual concepts, but they are not going to go as far as Firelands Scientific wants them to. There was a Planning Commission last week where Firelands Scientific was present and answered questions. There had a great dialogue, and the Planning Commission is recommending that Council consider this. A public hearing is required because this requires a change in zoning regulations.

Mayor Tapp said this is a State law that is going to be coming into effect, and their hands are tied. Firelands Scientific has the right to sell recreational marijuana so long as they already have an established medical marijuana facility. Mr. Schrader added that his reading of Chapter 3780 seems to be designed specifically for people Firelands Scientific. The statute is very clear. It says that those that have a Certificate of Operation for medical marijuana now and want to operate recreationally on the same or contiguous properties, they are permitted to do so "without township or municipal prohibition or limitation." The City cannot tell them no because the State believe they made a large investment in their operations and they should be permitted the first right to proceed with recreational marijuana. There are other sections of the code, such as petition right, but the section pertaining those that have medical licensure and are going to operated recreationally on the same or contiguous properties is as close to being an absolute right to operate that he has ever seen in his career. He has never seen a statute say, "without municipal or township limitation or prohibition." The State legislature made it very clear that they are allowed.

Mr. Hagy said there are dry counties in our state where alcohol is prohibited. Why would we not be allowed, as a City, to prohibit THC. Mr. Schrader said a city can prohibit THC, but if there is an existing medical marijuana facility, the city cannot prohibit them from operating recreationally. If there is a company that wants to come to town and has a certificate, but don't have contiguous properties, Council has the right to say no. If Council votes that are not permitted, then those folks, much like the dry counties, have the right to petition the municipality, obtain sufficient signature, and send it to the ballot for public

vote. At the time Chapter 3780 was passed, there was a 57% pass rate in the State, and all precincts but one in Huron voted yes, which was only a 9-10 differential. Notwithstanding Firelands Scientific, who he believes has an absolute right to open. If they did try to stop them, they would end up in litigation. Those that follow have petition rights and Council votes against them.

Mr. Claus said the proposed new language would extend the current restriction to allow 1 recreational dispensary in the industrial district, with the intention of that one being Firelands Scientific, which has the right to do it anyway. Mr. Hagy added, because they have property here now, there is nothing Council can do. If they didn't already have property, then Council could reject them. Mr. Schrader said we could say no, but they can then go get a declaratory judgment and tell us that we are wrong. He doesn't know what their strategy is, but they can just start doing it regardless, and the City would have to stop them. Either way, the City would be in a position to spend money that he thinks might be better spent on other causes.

Mr. Artino said the Planning Commission had this same discussion with Mr. Schrader. Whether you are for it or against it, the way the State wrote the law makes it very difficult for Council to do anything. He thinks the big reason that the Planning Commission was all for this public hearing was because we really need to educate the citizens of how this happened and that our hands are kind of tied. We need a public hearing, and maybe more than just one, to educate the citizens about the facts. He agrees with Mr. Schrader, we don't want to be tied up in litigation. He asked when the City is going to start receiving something in return. Up until now, the State and County may have been benefitting from medical marijuana. What he was told is there is a formula, and based on that formula, the City could be receiving as much as \$500,000 a year.

Mr. Hagy asked if they currently pay City income tax. They do pay income tax, but we don't benefit from sales. The City has taken on this issue, and should benefit from it. Mr. Lasko believes the State can tack on an additional 10% on top of local sales tax. Of that 10%, a local municipality can get upwards of 3% of the 10%. Ultimately, it will be contingent on sales, but there is not a built-in local benefit, at least financially. He also agrees with Mr. Artino – even though there is very little the City can do, if nothing else, a public hearing is warranted for educational purposes for the public. Mr. Hagy asked if any of that 3% is dedicated or is it just going to the General Fund. Mr. Lasko answered that from everything he has read, it is not restricted. There have been some settlements/revenue streams, such as the opioid settlements, that have been restricted in their uses. Nothing they have read thus far shows that there are any restrictions.

Mayor Tapp asked if there is a timeframe for this money coming to the City. Mr. Lasko answered that they do not know when the funds will start arriving. Mr. Artino said there are still a lot of unknown questions and thinks the public hearing can be used to learn more and hopefully, in another month or two, we will know more from the State before Firelands Scientific starts their sales. Mr. Schrader indicated that Firelands Scientific intends to be present at the public hearing to help answer some of these questions and if legislation is considered, to be present at those meetings, as well.

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

There being more than a majority in favor, the motion passed, and the Public Hearing was set for June 25, 2024 at 6:30pm.

Motion to Set Public Hearing

Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe to set a Public Hearing on proposed revisions to Chapter 185 relating to local income tax for Tuesday, June 25, 2024 at 6:30pm.

Mr. Lasko explained that this is the next step in the continued exploration of a potential income tax increase. As he reiterated at the Finance Committee meeting immediately preceding this meeting, the City has hosted a series of 4 public meetings, thus far. They have been very active on social media and our website. We have our presentation posted and have an income tax calculator posted for public consumption. This is a follow-up to tonight, where the Finance Committee unanimously recommended to move a potential income tax increase to Council and to, ultimately, the public for consideration.

Mr. Claus asked what the timing is for Council's vote to put this on the ballot. Mr. Lasko answered that the first reading that same evening, and must be submitted to the Board of Elections in the beginning of August.

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

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

NAYS: None (0)

There being more than a majority in favor, the motion passed, and the Public Hearing was set for June 25, 2024 at 6:30pm.

City Manager's Discussion

The City Manager spoke on several topics:

North Side Sidewalk Project – Work commenced in April on the north side sidewalks between Gateway and Anchorage. As of now, the sidewalk has been poured and restoration work has been completed. We will continue to watch to make sure that restoration works comes in. We hope to close out that project near the end of this month.

2023 Paving Program – This is the repaving project in Chaska and Old Homestead. At this point, Chaska has been predominantly addressed, with the exception of some additional concrete and restoration work. As they are finishing up, they have started work in Old Homestead I and II. We still expect that completion date, as of now, to be June 21, 2024 (weather dependent).

Main Street Streetscape Design & Engineering – We had a kickoff meeting on May 9th with OHM Advisors to verify the scope and work on an estimate project schedule. Currently, we expect to be finished with the design and be ready to go out to bid in spring of 2025.

South Main Street Watermain Replacement Project – Construction work has started on the southern boundary of the City limits on Huron-Avery, which will then head northeastward. We have tried to make the public aware of several road closures needed to enable the new waterline installations. We are going to try to minimize those as much as possible. The main closure is going to be on Mudbrook, which is starting this week. We anticipate that to last, at most, 60 days. That will be from the entrance to River's Edge southward. Emergency vehicles, trash, school buses and local traffic access will be maintained. We do have a map of the detour, which is basically to head westward on Bogart, south on Rye Beach and then east on Scheid to get back to Route 13.

Zoning Code and Planning - On May 9th, we had a kickoff meeting with OHM Advisors to discuss the coastal greenspace improvement and connectivity plan. We expect to have that project completed based on a lot of public feedback at the end of 2024, or in the first quarter of 2025.

Parks & Recreation – He wanted to get on everyone's calendar the Anchor Memorial Public Art dedication. That is set for Friday, May 31st at 1:00pm at the Huron Boat Basin & Amphitheater. There will be additional details to follow.

Lake Front Market Event – Save the date for the Huron Lake Front Market Sunset Sip & Shop to be held on Friday, June 7th from 5-9pm and also on Saturday from 10am-8pm at Lake Front Park. More details will follow.

Fabens Tennis Courts Dedication – A huge thank you to the Parks & Recreation Department and Jen Kilbury, who is not here this evening, for organizing the ribbon cutting event last week for the Courts at Fabens Park. We had a great turnout and beautiful weather for the event. I want to reiterate a huge thank you to our project funders, which include the City of Huron, Huron Township and the Huron Joint Recreation District. Great job to the construction team, all of our subcontractors and Doug. It's great to get that project over the finish line. The tennis teams were there and were very, very happy. Great job everyone.

Police – Flock Cameras – We now have over 500,000 license plate reads since February. The LPR's continue to be an asset for the Police Department with investigations. Just last week, the Police Department was able to solve a hit-skip accident investigation with assistance from the Flock camera system. We are continuously seeing very positive results from those installations. It's a great safety measure for our community.

Finance – As I mentioned earlier, we have done a series of public meetings related to a potential income tax increase. We have another meeting schedule, although not public, with a local homeowners association. We continue to extend invitations to social clubs, religious groups, churches, HOAs. We are more than willing to sit down with every group, or any group, in the City over the next couple of weeks. We made a presentation to the Finance Committee this evening, who recommended that measure to Council. Thank you to everyone involved, and a reminder to the public that the income tax calculator is live. There is a link to that on our website and also on Facebook.

Water Department – I want to acknowledge a milestone that the Water Plant recorded its highest single month of water production, setting a new record of 85.3 million gallons. We are starting to see the benefits pay off on some of those expansion projects we have done. Great news for our customers and the City, as well.

We will be doing a Water Plant Open House, which will be held on Tuesday, June 18th, 2024 at 6:30pm. This will be on a first come/first served basis, maxing out at 20 residents. Depending on the response, we will hold additional open houses after that date. I know it may sound boring, but if anyone hasn't seen and done a tour of the Water Plan, it's actually pretty remarkable. I encourage everyone to sign up for one of those open houses.

Erik Engle – As a follow-up to my email to Council, Erik Engle, our Planning & Zoning Director, has notified me that he will be his position with the City effective June 3, 2024. Erik leaves to pursue a career with the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission. We thank Erik for his service to the City and wish him well on his new career path. We have advertised for that position and have already conducted several interviews at this point.

Zoning Inspector Position – We have received several applications for that position and have conducted several interviews. We hope to have an offer extended to a preferred candidate this week.

Troy Halstead – Troy Halstead recently received his CDL license on May 8, 2024 following the completion of a 5-week training course at Great Lakes Trucking School. A big congratulations to him on that accomplishment.

A.C.E. Award – Detective Brian Clayman received a nomination from the Erie County Children's Services A.C.E, which stands for Aiding Children's Excellence, award. The award is an effort to recognize those individuals who go above and beyond. This was a great opportunity to acknowledge those volunteers, community members, medical personnel, law enforcement, foster parents, court personnel, attorneys, educators, and other agencies who make a difference each and every day. There were 10 nominees from various law enforcement agencies in Erie County for their outstanding work protecting children in our community. At the appreciation banquet at Sawmill Creek, Detective Clayman was the recipient of the A.C.E. Award. The Police Department would like to recognize Detective Clayman for his professional and outstanding investigatory work related to the case in question. Detective Clayman represented the Huron Police Department and the City of Huron in its highest capacity.

John Dusza – We have hired a new Patrol Officer, John Dusza, as a full-time officer. He started May 12th with his field training. Officer Dusza has 3 years of full-time experience with the Sandusky Police Department, and 4 years with the Virginia Beach Police Department. Mr. Dusza is a Huron resident and has a bachelor's degree in criminology from the University of Toledo. He is also the grandson of former Huron City Manager, Ed Ascher. We will do a ceremonial swearing in at a later date.

Eric Ritter – Our full-time cadet, Mr. Eric Ritter, who is in the Owens Tech Police Academy, graduates tomorrow, May 15th. He will then begin his field training as a full-time officer on May 16th.

Agreement – The City has executed a Deed of Easement with Sunsport Properties granting the City an easement and right-of-way for the purposes of guaranteeing the maintenance of their stormwater management controls per the approved Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan. This agreement allows the City to step in in the event the property owners are not taking care of their stormwater management measures. This is very similar to what we recently did in the Nort Port residential neighborhood.

Upcoming Meetings – Charter Review Commission meeting on Thursday, May 16th at 5pm in the Council Chamber; Planning Commission on Wednesday, May 22nd at 5pm in the Council Chambers; there will be second Charter Review Commission meeting as they are finishing up their work this month on Thursday, May 23rd at 5pm in the Council Chamber; and another City Council meeting on Tuesday, May 28th at 6:30pm in the Council Chambers.

REMINDER TO COUNCIL AND THE PUBLIC: Administrative offices will be closed on May 27th in observance of Memorial Day.

Mr. Biddlecombe asked when Mudbrook Road will be closed. He has been getting a lot of calls about that because his neighborhood is south of there. Mr. Lasko thought the day was originally May 13th, which was yesterday. Mr. Hamilton reached out to the contractor today to get an updated schedule for that closure. They are still on Huron-Avery, but he still believes it will be sometime this week. They should get a definitive answer by tomorrow.

Mayor's Discussion

Mayor Tapp said:

Welcome to Mr. Harris doing business in town. Hopefully, it takes off and goes well. I would also like to wish Erik Engle the best in his new endeavors with the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission. That is a very nice award that Det. Clayman received. He did learn a little bit about the case and thank goodness that happened. Please let him know that we are very proud.

Summer is here and a lot of things are happening. Everybody gets busy with their personal lives, business lives, and Council lives. There is a lot of stuff going on, and continues to go on, and I want to thank the staff for everything they are doing.

For the Good of the Order

Joe Dike – I would like to say congratulations to Det. Brian Clayman. Welcome to Officer John Dusza, and congratulations to Eric Ritter. Thank you very much.

Sam Artino – I would just like to say congratulations to all of our employees for all the things that have been listed here tonight. I think it's just another representation of our city employees and our staff. Thanks again for your hard work and your dedication to this community.

Mark Claus – I would also like to thank Tom Harris, his brother and fiancé for starting this new business. I think it is going to be an exciting thing for the City, and it should be a fund activity. It's great that it will be right in the center of town at the Boat Basin. I think it will be a good draw for the community down there,

as well. I also want to publicly express my thanks to the crews working for DL Smith Paving over in Chaska and Old Homestead. Although there is a lot of disruption and there are blockages and roads closing in Chaska Beach, it is all stuff that must get done. Pretty much all the comments he has received from neighbors are that they have been cooperative, accommodating, nicely moving cones out of the way for people to get around corners, etc. In what could be a more disastrous event, I think it has been very positive. For how much disruption has occurred, that is saying a lot. I appreciate their efforts.

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

William Biddlecombe – Thanks, staff for all of your hard work. Congratulations to Mr. Halstead on your CDL, Det. Clayman on the A.C.E Award, congratulations to Mr. Ritter on his graduation, and welcome Officer Dusza. I would like to thank Jen, Doug and the rest of his team. The tennis courts look great. He enjoyed the ceremony and would like to thank the Huron Boosters, also, who provided the wind screens around the courts. The only disappointing thing was we didn't get a pickleball demonstration from Mr. Claus and Mr. Lasko.

The next meeting of the School Board is scheduled for Monday, May 20th at 6pm at the high school. The next meeting of the Scott Union Cemetery Board is July 29th at 5pm at the Huron Township Hall. There are no home games listed on the school's website anymore, so congratulations to all of the spring sports teams on your excellent seasons. There has been a lot of coverage in the paper and on Facebook. We've got some really good teams this spring. Walk your Way to Fitness is going on now on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 8am through September 15th at Fabens Park. Happy Memorial Day, everyone. Please come out and support our local events, programs and student athletes, and Go Tigers!

Executive Session

Motion by Mr. Claus to enter into two (2) executive sessions:

one for consideration of the employment and compensation of a public official; and

the second to consider confidential information related to the marketing plans, specific business strategy, production techniques, trade secrets or personal financial statements of an applicant for economic development assistance to protect the interests of the applicant or the possible investment or expenditure of public funds to be made in connection with the economic development project; and

to invite Mr. Lasko, Mr. Schrader and Mr. Hamilton to both executive sessions; and

to invite Mr. Swaisgood, as needed, to the first executive session; and

to invite Mr. Swaisgood to the second executive session.

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

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

There being a majority in favor of the motion, the motion passed and Council moved into executive session at 7:22pm.

Return to Regular Session

Council returned to regular session at 8:19pm.

Adjournment

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

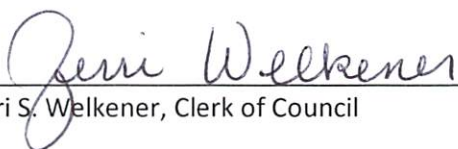
The Mayor asked if there were any questions on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor of the motion, the regular Council meeting of May 14, 2024 was adjourned at 8:19pm.

Adopted: 28 MAY 2024


Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council