

THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO
Proceedings of the Huron City Council
Regular Meeting Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at 6:30pm

Call to Order Public Hearing

The Mayor called the Public Hearing on the Application of Tracy & Richard Ranchoff requesting amendment of the Turtle Bay Subdivision PUD Plat to reflect setback changes on Lot No. 126 (PPN: 42-00401.057) to order at 6:32pm.

Roll Call for Public Hearing

The Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll for the Public Hearing. The following members of Council answered present: **William Biddlecombe, Sam Artino, Mark Claus, Monty Tapp, Matt Grieves and Joel Hagy**. Council member absent: **Joe Dike**.

Swear in Witnesses

The Assistant Law Director swore in members of Council, Planning & Zoning Manager Christine Gibboney and Mr. Lasko.

Witness Testimony

Mr. Lasko said that he will defer to Ms. Gibboney to give a little background on the request that has been made of the City. Because this is potential amendment of a PUD, it is subject to a public hearing.

Ms. Gibboney testified as follows:

We have an amendment before you for Turtle Bay, which is an R-3 PUD. The Ranchoffs are seeking a fairly simple amendment to one particular empty lot (216) in the development. This is a corner lot, so it already has issues. It has a 25' setback on two fronts. They are seeking to reduce the rear yard setback from 25' to 10'. It is an unusually shaped lot, as well. *(Council was shown 2 slides, copies of which are attached hereto and incorporated herein.)* The yellow portion is the odd-shaped lot we are talking about. This shows the two front setbacks on the lot and the strange indent on the lot itself, as well. The application came to us with approval by the HOA by vote approving the amendment, the property owner abutting this parcel also sent in a letter of support, and the Planning Commission, at their public hearing held on December 18, 2024, vetted this, reviewed it and made a recommendation for Council approval. The Application is now before you for your approval. The diagram depicts where they would like that 10' setback. We are looking for a motion from Council to approve, amend or deny the application, and then legislative action at a future meeting.

Mr. Claus asked if the red arrows indicating the notch-out is part of the parking for the Turtle Condos. Ms. Gibbons answered that she believes it is a storage or garage building. The arrows show how they inset that lot by that, so it already has a strange angle to it. Mr. Claus said the "back" is kind of a "side" if you are on the other street because it is a corner, which Ms. Gibboney said was correct.

Mr. Artino said his only concern anytime we do this kind of stuff is fire safety. Is there access, and those kinds of things? Ms. Gibboney answered that on this one, there is, because they had checked out the neighboring property – they are roughly 14' away from the property line. Mr. Tapp said he remembers that they had some amendment at some point. Mr. Claus said there would then be 24' between the

houses. Mr. Tapp asked Mr. Ebert to confirm that this is something Council is allowed to do this. Mr. Hagy asked if that is a residence where the red arrows are. Ms. Gibboney answered that she believes that is some type of garage structure for the Turtle Bay Condos. Residents in the audience from Turtle Bay confirmed that that property belongs to the Turtle Bay condos, and that if anybody would have an issue with the requested change, it would be that neighbor that sent in the letter of support, because it is more than 20' from their neighbor. They live right across the street and you can see all of those houses only have 10' on each side. For some reason, the abutting neighbor has 12'. All they are asking to move that lot line next to the Ransoms to each have their 10'. We don't understand why it is like that.

Mayor Tapp asked if there are any questions or comments. There being none, the Mayor said that he would entertain a motion.

Motion

Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe to approve the amendment as presented.

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, Grieves, Hagy (6)

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed.

Adjourn Public Hearing

Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe to adjourn the public hearing.

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, Grieves, Hagy (6)

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed, and the Public Hearing was adjourned.

Call to Order Regular Meeting

The Mayor called to order the regular Council meeting of January 28, 2025 to order at 6:39pm. 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, Matt Grieves and Joel Hagy.** Member absent: **Joe Dike.**

Motion by Mr. Claus to excuse Mr. Dike's absence from the meeting. The Mayor asked if there were any questions on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and Mr. Dike's absence was excused.

Staff in attendance: City Manager Matt Lasko, Assistant Law Director Gary Ebert, Attorney Matt Waters, Service Director Stuart Hamilton, Police Chief Terry Graham, Parks & Recreation Operations Manager Doug Steinwart, Water Superintendent Jack Evans and Terri Welkener, Clerk of Council.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe to approve the minutes of the Council work session of August 27, 2024, as written.

The Mayor asked if there were any questions. 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, Hagy (5)
ABSTAIN: Hagy (1)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe to approve the minutes of the Council work session of September 24, 2024, as written.

The Mayor asked if there were any questions. 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, Grieves, Hagy (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe to approve the minutes of the Council work session of October 8, 2024, as written.

The Mayor asked if there were any questions. 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, Grieves, Hagy (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe to approve the minutes of the Council meeting of December 18, 2024, as written.

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

YEAS: Biddlecombe, Claus, Tapp, Hagy (4)
ABSTAIN: Grieves, Artino (2)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe to approve the minutes of the Council work session of January 14, 2025, as written.

The Mayor asked if there were any questions. 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, Grieves, Hagy (5)
ABSTAIN: Tapp (1)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe to approve the minutes of the Council meeting of January 14, 2025, as written.

The Mayor asked if there were any questions. 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, Grieves, Hagy (5)
ABSTAIN: Tapp (1)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority 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.

Presentation

Presentation by Sue Daugherty (Director) and Amy Bowman-Moore (Fundraising & Resource Coordinator) of Serving Our Seniors to report on their efforts to stimulate the construction of affordable housing for the benefit of older citizens was cancelled.

Old Business**Ordinance No. 2024-56 (third and final reading)**

Motion by Mr. Grieves that Ordinance No. 2024-56 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1131 (LANDSCAPE REQUIREMENTS) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF HURON, OHIO TO ESTABLISH A NEW SECTION 1131.11 (OUTDOOR LIGHTING REGULATIONS) be placed on its third and final reading.

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

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

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed, and Ordinance No. 2024-56 was placed upon its third and final reading. The Assistant Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Attorney Waters said that we are on the third and final reading of proposed new Section 1131.11. This relates to outdoor lighting fixtures. The purpose of this section is to regulate the selection, installation, configuration and placement of outdoor lighting fixtures. It is not meant to be a proactive regulation, but it is to respond to any complaints from the public. The terms of the statute read that no one shall unreasonably shine, glare, reflect or project light onto the property of another. There are specific terms that apply to new and existing lighting fixtures. For new lighting fixtures, they all have to be fully shielded, which means all light from the fixture has to project downward from the horizontal (nothing going up). For all lighting fixtures, whether they be new or existing, they shall not be directed at the property of another, and if it's not fully shielded, it should be turned off between 9pm and sunrise. The use of flashing, rotating or moving outdoor lighting fixtures is prohibited. There are some exceptions, most notably that apply to holiday lighting fixtures such as Christmas lights (those with lower lumen values). This matches the criminal mischief code.

Mr. Hagy asked if this is for residential only, which Attorney Waters confirmed, and commercial is covered under a separate code.

Mayor Tapp asked about lighting for security purposes – we run into a gray area there, don't we? Attorney Waters answered that there is a section that deals with that. If the lighting isn't for security purposes, it would generally have to be after 9pm, but if it is for security they would have to be on motion sensor to turn them on and off.

The Mayor asked if there were further questions. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on final adoption of Ordinance No. 2024-56. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Ordinance No. 2024-56 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect in 30 days.

New Business

Ordinance No. 2025-3 (first reading)

Motion by Mr. Artino that Ordinance No. 2025-3 (AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND REPLACING SECTION 1369.04 (FEES) OF CHAPTER 1369 (TRANSIENT RENTAL PROPERTY) 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: Artino, Claus, Tapp, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed, and Ordinance No. 2025-3 was placed upon its first reading. The Assistant Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Lasko stated that they reevaluate the transient rental registration fee, which has been \$400 since the inception of the program. The recommendation is to keep it at \$400, but what they noticed in reviewing it for this year is while all of the rest of our zoning codes with fees attached have the fee amount is in the codified ordinance. When they did the transient rental code back in 2020, they did not include the specific fee as a reference point in our codified ordinances. They are just putting the \$400 fee into the actual transient rental code, as they do for the rest of the zoning permits and fees. Our zoning permits don't have a fee schedule in one area – their building fees do, but the zoning fees are in the code themselves – so, they are just codifying the \$400.

Mayor Tapp said it's \$400 per year, plus \$50 for additional inspections. Mr. Lasko answered yes, this has been the same since inception. They are not changing the fees, they are just codifying them.

Mr. Hagy said he remembers discussing that – that they didn't want to get locked in and wanted the ability to change it as they needed to, year by year. Mr. Lasko answered that we can still do that by changing it in the transient rental code. Right now, for anyone looking for what our fees are, there is no place to go look for what the fee is. They are trying to make it a little more user-friendly, and this still gives them the ability to request a change. Mr. Hagy said if he is looking for fees, he is not going to go look up the ordinance of the law that created it; he is going to go look at a separate sheet of fees. Mr. Lasko answered that they ultimately want to get there with zoning. They do not have a consolidated fee schedule for zoning, although he thinks they should – they have it for building. He thinks they will eventually have a fee schedule, but they just don't have it yet. This is an interim fix until a fee schedule is created.

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

Resolution No. 14-2025

Motion by Mr. Grieves that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution 14-2025 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH FIRELANDS ELECTRIC, INC. FOR THE INSTALLATION OF TWO (2) SECTIONALIZERS AND RELATED CONDUIT, ONE ON RYE BEACH ROAD AND ONE ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF SAWMILL PARKWAY, RELATING TO THE HURON PUBLIC POWER EXPANSION PROJECT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FIFTY-FIVE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED SIXTY AND XX/100 DOLLARS (\$55,960.00)) 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. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion passed, and Resolution No. 14-2025 was placed upon its first reading. The Assistant Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Hamilton explained that HPP is trying to do an expansion. By getting to the end of Sawmill Parkway, one of the businesses reached out to us to become our first new customer since 2018. This is the cost to take the electric from the mouth of Sawmill Parkway where the expansion project is stopping and take it to that business so that we can supply them and being them on as a new customer. The customer will refund the City \$36,800 of those costs, and the rest of it is what the City expects to make out of distribution costs from that customer within the first year. Mayor Tapp asked if the customer is LabelAid. Mr. Hamilton answered it is PRI Plus. Mayor Tapp commented that once they are online, it will be easier to continue on down the road.

Mr. Hagy asked if this is conduit only. Mr. Hamilton answered that this is conduit, the power lines and the sectionalizers. It is a pretty short distance, only 1 block.

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

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

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 14-2025 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 15-2025

Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 15-2025 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE BID AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH PEPCO FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF THE 15 KV SWITCHGEAR PORTION OF THE SUBSTATION EXPANSION PROJECT FOR THE HURON PUBLIC POWER SUBSTATION AT 1156 RYE BEACH ROAD, IN THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED SEVEN HUNDRED TEN THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED EIGHTY AND XX/100 DOLLARS (\$710,780.00)) 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. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion passed, and Resolution No. 15-2025 was placed upon its first reading. The Assistant Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Hamilton stated that the transformer itself was ordered last year, and they expect that to come in at the end of April/beginning of May. This bid was to buy the switchgear that controls the transformer and connects it to the distribution network. This is hardware only and there will be a third bid coming, which will be the installation of this switchgear. They expect the total project to be around \$2.5 million fully installed and operational. HPP is a self-funded enterprise fund, so it has to pay for its own debt. They have a Utilities Committee meeting next week, and will be discussion a rate increase for Huron Public Power to pay for the additional debt and to continue to support the expansion of HPP for the customers. Mayor Tapp asked if the rate increase still keeps us competitive. Mr. Hamilton answered that HPP will still be 40%+ below the competition.

Mayor asked if we can possibly connect the very large company on Sawmill Parkway with the addition of this new transformer. Mr. Hamilton answered that bringing on that company as a customer would require yet another transformer. If they get to that point, it will be well worth it.

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

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

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 15-2025 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 16-2025

Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution 16-2025 (A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO SUPPORTING THE OHIO COMMISSION FOR THE UNITED STATES SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL (AMERICA250-OH)) 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, Grieves, Hagy (6)

NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion passed, and Resolution No. 16-2025 was placed upon its first reading. The Assistant Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Steinwart explained that this legislation is a request for the City of Huron to register with the State of Ohio for the US Semiquincentennial, often referred to as the America250-OH. This was formed in March of 2022 by Governor DeWine's office. By registering for this America250-OH, it will allow our community and the City to apply for grant money for an event in celebration of the 250th anniversary on July 4, 2026. There is no financial impact relating to this legislation. He thanked the Huron Public Library for bringing this to their attention, and Mr. Lasko and Mrs. Kilbury for their work and support on this.

The Mayor asked if there were further questions. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on final adoption of Resolution No. 16-2025. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Resolution No. 16-2025 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Amended Resolution No. 11-2025

Motion by Mr. Artino that the three-reading rule be waived and Amended Resolution No. 11-2025 (AN AMENDED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER, ON BEHALF OF THE HURON POLICE DEPARTMENT, TO ENTER INTO A THREE (3)-YEAR AGREEMENT WITH STATEWIDE EMERGENCY PRODUCTS, LLC DBA STATEWIDE MUNICIPAL LEASING FOR THE LEASE-PURCHASE OF TWO (2) POLICE CRUISERS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED ONE HUNDRED FORTY THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED SIXTEEN AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$140,316.00)) 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. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion passed, and Amended Resolution No. 11-2025 was placed upon its first reading. The Assistant Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Chief Graham said that amended resolution is before Council because of a typographical error. The original resolution made reference to two (2) Chevy Tahoes – we are purchasing two (2) Ford Interceptor SUVs. This resolution corrects this error.

Mayor Tapp asked where Statewide Emergency Products sources these vehicles. Chief Graham answered that Statewide is a distributor for both Ford and Chevy. They can get their vehicles from them, and then also put them together and stripe them – it's a one-stop shop.

The Mayor asked if there were further questions. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on final adoption of Amended Resolution No. 11-2025. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Amended Resolution No. 11-2025 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Motion

Motion by Mr. Claus to set a Public Hearing on the Application of John Farschman, et al., for placement of farmland (PPN: 42-00449.000) in an agricultural district (O.R.C. Section 929.02) for Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at 6:30pm immediately preceding the regular Council meeting.

Mr. Lasko stated that they have had another one of these in the last 2-3 years. It requires an act of Council for them to be placed in the agricultural district.

The Clerk added that Mr. Farschman stopped. He filed the Application with the Auditor, and he is then required to serve a copy on the City. He owns property that is located partly in the Township and partly in the City. If you have farmland in a City, then you have to go through Council for a CAUV district designation. This application asked for CAUV designation for the 14.8 acres located in the City of Huron. She will then sign off that this was approved by Council to the Auditor for final approval. Mr. Lasko said he believe this property is on Berlin Road.

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, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino (6)

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed, and a Public Hearing on the Application of John Farschman, et al., for placement of farmland (PPN: 42-00449.000) in an agricultural district (O.R.C. Section 929.02) for Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at 6:30pm immediately preceding the regular Council meeting.

City Manager's Discussion

The City Manager spoke on several topics:

ConAgra – Following Council's action at the last Council meeting, we have sent the Purchase Agreement for ConAgra to the development team for signature. As soon as we get that back, we will send the Purchase Agreement to Hartung Title, which will officially commence the due diligence process for the developers.

Long John Silver's – Following up on a question from Mr. Biddlecombe at the last meeting, those plans and permits are in review. The Building Department held a demolition meeting onsite on January 23rd. The demolition permit has been issued and we expect that to commence shortly, so long as Ohio Edison removes the power from the site. We will start seeing activity there, hopefully very shortly. Mr. Biddlecombe confirmed that they are already there.

Police Department Flock Cameras – We haven't had a flock camera update in a while. I wanted to share that through February 2024, we have been averaging around 450,000 plate reads per month, which equates to about 5 million since the installation of those 5 cameras. There are another 3 that are in the budget for 2025, which will bring our total to 8 cameras. The program continues to be a tremendous success and asset for the Police Department, and has really increased the solvability rate for hit-skip accidents and thefts throughout the City and to the benefit of other communities for vehicles that are passing through the City.

Police Department K-9 Program – We continue to see significant support from the community. We recently received several generous donations, most recently a \$9,000 donation which we are very appreciative of. This has been a great program since it was restarted 1-2 years ago.

Huron Public Power – As Mr. Hamilton mentioned in his presentation, we are putting the final touches on our rate study. This is something we like to do every couple of years, not just with water but now with Huron Public Power. We will go to the Utilities Committee meeting on February 5th for them to look at the recommendations of that rate study prior to bringing those recommendations to Council.

Personnel Update – We want to congratulate Water Plant Operator Kyle Capodice, who received his Water Supply I license from the Ohio EPA on January 23rd of this year. Congratulations, Mr. Capodice.

City Manager Approvals and Agreements – I executed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Erie County Soil & Water Conservation District to set forth the terms and conditions of a cooperative working agreement for implementation of the Construction Site Runoff Control Program for the 2025 calendar year. There is no charge to the City associated with that agreement.

Upcoming Meetings – Huron Joint Port Authority meeting on Wednesday, January 29th at 6pm at the Huron Township Hall; Huron Joint Recreation District meeting on Tuesday, February 4th at 6:30pm in Council Chambers; the Utilities Committee meeting on Wednesday, February 5th at 5pm in the main conference room; Board of Zoning Appeals meeting on Monday, February 10th at 5:30pm in Council Chambers; City Council Work Session on Tuesday, February 11th at 5:30pm in Council Chambers, immediately followed by the regular Council meeting at 6:30pm; Planning Commission meeting on Wednesday, February 19th at 5pm in Council Chambers; Records Commission meeting on Tuesday, February 20th at 9am in the main conference room; and City Council meeting on Tuesday, February 25th at 6:30pm in Council Chambers.

City Offices Closed – Reminder to the public that City administrative offices will be closed on Monday, February 17th in observance of President's Day.

Mr. Hagy asked about an email that was sent out after Sue Daugherty from Service Our Seniors talking about certain cities having ordinances against mother-in-law suites, and we are one of them – has staff had a chance to verify that and if we are going to do something about that. Mr. Lasko answered that mother-in-law suites are not currently permitted in our zoning code. They have asked the SSEG team to start looking at, minimally, what other cities have done to permit it. At some point in the next couple of

months, they can hold a work session to explore what some of the options might look like to allow that, and whether this is something Council wants to consider. He will check in the SSEG on the status.

Mr. Hagy asked what the current output at the Water Plant is. Mr. Hamilton answered that they are still hung up with the EPA at this point. They sent back some clarifying questions with the last submittal, which have been answered. They are waiting on the EPA on the 2 items that had to be addressed. They believe they have addressed them. The current output is 3.4 million gallons/day, but they will go up past 5 million gallons/day once they have EPA approval.

Mayor Tapp asked where we are with the water tower. Mr. Hamilton answered that the plan packet has been submitted to the EPA and is currently under review. They have carried out all of the surveys, and the plats and easements have been drawn up by SSEG. Those are all with Ardagh for review. They are in a holding pattern on both sides of that right now. They have received \$5 million in grant funds for this project. Mayor Tapp asked if there is a timeline for those funds to be used. Mr. Hamilton answered that the funds have to be committed by June 30, 2025 of this year. That means they must get it out to bid and issue a purchase order to lock those funds in. So long as they have the funds committed, then they have until the end of 2026 to expend the funds. Mr. Hagy asked if we get any consideration if it is the EPA that is preventing us from getting this out to bid. Mr. Hamilton answered, no, but has a feeling that they may allow another extension. They did the current extension on the last day of last year, when those funds were supposed to run out. Most people who received this grant funding are in the same boat as us. They were a last-minute thing and he thinks they may just incrementally bump it by 6 months at a time. There is nothing on the City's end that is holding this up.

Mayor's Discussion

Mayor Claus said:

I want to give our condolences to the family of James Berlin. He passed away this last week. Both of his sons were part of the Huron Fire Department – my prayers and condolences to the family. Congratulations to Kyle Capodice on his certification. We held a work session earlier today to try to figure out budgetary issues. We are going to follow through with that, hopefully sooner than later, and we will keep people updated on that. I think the Council, staff and administration have a lot of work to do this year and we have a lot of projects that are in the works that are going on. I have a problem with patience with how long it takes to get stuff done – that's why he always holds people to timeframes. It's just the way it is and while he would like stuff to go faster, but it's a process. We had some really cold weather, and I am ready for warm weather.

Naming of Newly Acquired Park on Berlin Rd.

Mr. Lasko said that he wanted to follow up on an email he circulated to Council. As everyone is aware, the City purchased real estate on Berlin Road, which has been converted into a park located partly in the City and partly in the Township. One of things they ultimately need to get to is signage for the facility like they do for the rest of their green spaces. Because where the entrance is and where the signage would be located is in the Township, they had to request a variance for the size of the sign that would go there. That variance for an unlit sign was granted and have the cost of the sign in the 2025 budget. They now need a

recommendation from Council for a formal name for the site. They conducted a city-wide survey and they received over 100 responses from the community. There were really 3 that stood out through that vote, which was "Dancing Waters Park" or "Dancing Waters Pond," which was an ode to what the prior family used to call the pond onsite. "Ross Park," which was the name of the former owner, was another option. "Berlin Road Park" was another option. They also had a conversation at the Joint Recreation District, and they had three options that bubbled to the top, as well, although only one of those related to the top 3 from the community. The top 3 from the HJRD were "Berlin Road Park," "Fishing Hole" and "Old Man's Pond" as sort of a play on Old Woman's Creek. At this point, they want to have a brief discussion with Council to see if there was a majority that would want to go with one of the names so that they could move forward with sign ordering and installation this spring.

Mr. Steinwart said they took the top 10 from the survey and vetted it through the HJRD. They were asked to give their top 3 to recommend to Council. There was some discussion about all of our parks in general, and they discussed how the names for Nickel Plate and Faben's Park came to be. Some people didn't realize Faben's Park was donated by Andrew L. Fabens, and the naming of the park was included in the agreement when the property was gifted to the City. That led to questions from HJRD whether the property was gifted or paid for by the City, to give some context to how they came up with their top 3. Mr. Hagy asked if HJRD gave any indication of why "Dancing Waters" and "Ross Park" didn't make it into their top 3. Mr. Steinwart answered that they sent out the email beforehand and didn't give any context before they voted, and then they had some dialog afterwards. At that time, they explained that some of the family members called it "Dancing Waters," but some of the questions included if the City purchased the property versus a gift from the family, similar to Fabens Park.

Mayor Tapp said he knew Charlie Ross and the family. He remembers when he dug the pond. They had called that "Dancing Waters" and when Charlie passed, they spoke to his brother, Mike, and he was on the same thing. He doesn't know if the HJRD knew that that was what the family was requesting at the time, so that was probably on them. He was surprised when he didn't see that as one of their top 3. It kind of had the most votes out of the ones that were coming. He can speak that that is what Charlie wanted, that's what his brother wanted – I believe he had a sister, too. Dancing Waters is what they wanted. That's what he feels he would probably go with. They were a family here forever.

Mr. Artino said Mr. Ross went through all of that work to dig all of that and put that in – he did it himself, and if the family is looking for that, either "Dancing Water Park" or "Ross Park," that would be his suggestion.

Mr. Hagy said he is more in line with the HJRD and their recommendation of "Berlin Road Park."

Mr. Biddlecombe said he fielded a lot of the social media stuff on this, and he knows that "Dancing Waters" was a very popular thing. His only concern, while he is not against that name, is that the history behind it is going to be lost on the majority of the public so they are not necessarily going to know the reasoning behind it. Also, when people are trying to locate different parks, "Berlin Road Park" is pretty specific – it tells you where it is.

Mayor Tapp said when he spoke with Mike Ross, and this was after Charlie had passed away, they were hoping at some point that the City puts a bench in there with some kind of plaque explaining some of that history. He thinks it is a tribute to the family, and they have been around forever.

Mr. Artino said our own HJRD group wasn't sure where the name Fabens Park came from. Once again, we would have to educate the community, whatever name they give it. I think we owe the family something.

Mr. Claus agreed with choosing "Dancing Waters Park," as well.

Motion

Motion by Mr. Hagy to name the park on Berlin Road, "Berlin Road Park."

The Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Hagy, Biddlecombe, Grieves (3)

NAYS: Artino, Claus, Tapp (3)

There being no majority in favor, the motion failed.

Motion

Motion by Mr. Artino to name the park on Berlin Road, "Dancing Water Park."

The Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Artino, Claus, Tapp, Biddlecombe (3)

NAYS: Grieves, Hagy (2)

With a majority in favor, the motion passed.

Mr. Lasko said they will put their heads together about how to have some kind of education at the facility as to how that name came to be. Mayor Tapp suggested that someone could reach out to the sister. Mr. Lasko said unfortunately, they lost the second sibling, as well, they could possibly track down the third family member by going to the brokerage that represented the family.

For the Good of the Order

Sam Artino – My condolences to the Berlin family, and I would also like to recognize our City staff working out in this cold, and for all of the great work our dedicated team is doing.

Mark Claus – My condolences to the Berlin family. As Monty said, he was a volunteer fireman going way back, and his sons were in the Department, as well. Thanks to all of staff that work outside, Streets and Parks & Rec, having to brave this weather and keep us going. There is going to be more to come, I am sure, before we are through the winter. I appreciate everybody's hard work.

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

Matt Grieves – Thanks to the Streets Department for getting the road cleared and the Water Department for keeping that going.

William Biddlecombe – Thank you, staff, for all of your hard work. My condolences to the Berlin family. Congratulations to Kyle in the Water Department. Congratulations to Officer Blair, who was voted by his peers as “Office of the Year” in the Huron Police Department. I saw that on Huron’s social media page. Congratulations to him. There is a Dine-to-Donate tonight at the Huron Domino’s to support the Huron PTO. The next School Board meeting is on Monday, February 24th at the High School.

Home games coming up:

Girls Basketball – January 28, February 1 and 8;
Boys Basketball – January 28 and 31, February 7;
Bowling – January 28 and 30.

Please come out and support our local events, program, student athletes, and GO TIGERS!

Executive Session

None.

Adjournment

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

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

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

There being a majority in favor of the motion, the regular Council meeting of January 28, 2025, was adjourned at 7:24pm.


Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council

Adopted: 11 FEB 2025