

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

Call to Order

The Mayor called to order the regular Council meeting of October 28, 2025 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 and Joel Hagy**. Council Members absent: **Joe Dike and Matt Grieves**.

Motion

Motion by Mr. Claus to excuse the absences of Mr. Dike and 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, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino (5)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and Mr. Dike's and Mr. Grieves' absences from the meeting were excused.

Staff in attendance: City Manager Stuart Hamilton, Law Director Todd Schrader, Police Chief Terry Graham, Parks & Recreation Director Doug Steinwart, Planning and Zoning Manager Christine Gibboney and Terri Welkener, Clerk of Council.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. Artino to approve the minutes of the Council meeting of August 12, 2025, as written.

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

YEAS: Artino, Claus, Hagy (3)
ABSTAIN: Biddlecombe, Tapp (2)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed.

Presentation

The Mayor acknowledged the presence of Erie County Commissioners Pat Shenigo and Steven Shoffner. Hank Soloweij was also present.

The Erie County Commissioners, Steve Shofner and Pat Shenigo, addressed Council regarding a proposed independent feasibility study for the regionalization of water and sewer services throughout Erie County. Commissioner Shofner explained that his goal was to ask the City of Huron to consider participating in the feasibility study, which would involve sharing information to create a snapshot of available services and explore future possibilities. He emphasized that he had been advocating for regionalization for seven years, noting that the lack of progress in over 30 years was one of his motivations for running for office.

Commissioner Shofner stated his belief that government entities shouldn't operate public utilities because financial decisions can be compromised by competing priorities. He advocated for creating a completely separate entity to oversee a regionalized system that would assume all current debt and operations. The commissioner acknowledged that his idea might not work, but maintained that a baseline study was necessary to have informed discussions about regionalization options.

Commissioner Shenigo added that Erie County has had a long relationship with Huron regarding water services, which has worked well for both parties. He noted that the regionalization study had been controversial with some in Sandusky but pointed out that successful regionalization had occurred in Ottawa County between Oak Harbor, Port Clinton, and others. He emphasized that the study would explore potential cost savings, particularly in plant operations, and would likely involve representation from all participating entities.

Councilmember Hagy questioned where the anticipated cost savings would come from, to which Commissioner Shenigo responded that operational efficiencies were the primary target, particularly through having a single operator of record and sharing expertise across systems. He clarified that sewer infrastructure presented more challenges than water and explained that the study would help identify specific opportunities.

Councilmember Hagy also inquired about the implication of "avoiding duplicating capital projects" mentioned in the Blue Ribbon report and whether this would affect Huron, which had recently doubled its water capacity. Commissioner Shenigo clarified that sewer capacity was more of an issue than water capacity in the region and explained the challenges with peak flows during rain events.

Regarding potential improved access to grants, the commissioners explained that regionalized efforts typically have better success in securing federal funding than individual municipalities.

The commissioners concluded by emphasizing they were not asking for financial commitment at this stage but rather support for the concept of exploring regionalization through an independent study.

Mayor's Proclamation

Mayor Tapp welcomed Associate Dean Stephanie Wallace from BGSU Firelands and read a proclamation honoring the 60th anniversary of the University. The proclamation recognized BGSU Firelands' founding in 1965 with a vision to expand access to higher education, foster innovation, and serve the Firelands region. It acknowledged the University's academic excellence, civic engagement, commitment to the public good, and its vital partnership in the economic, cultural, and social development of Huron. Mayor Tapp proclaimed November 15, 2025, as BGSU Firelands Sixtieth Anniversary Celebration Day in the City of Huron and signed the Proclamation. A copy of that Proclamation is attached hereto as Exhibit "A."

Audience Comments

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

No citizens came forward to address the Council.

Old Business**Ordinance No. 2025-27 (third and final reading)**

Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe that Ordinance No. 2025-27 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND RESTATING SECTION 385.01(a)(1) RULES; PERMIT AND FEES OF CHAPTER 385 SMALL BOAT MOORING HARBOR OF THE HURON CODIFIED ORDINANCES) 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: Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp, Hagy (5)

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, Ordinance No. 2025-27 was placed upon its third and final reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Steinwart explained that the ordinance would increase charges for transient dockage at the Huron Boat Basin from the current rate of \$1.75 per foot per night to \$2.00 per foot per night and also increase the flat fee for three hours or less from \$5 to \$10. He noted that the new rates would fall within the average going rate for transient dockage in the area, with potential additional revenue of approximately \$5,000 based on 2025 occupancy figures. These funds would go toward maintenance of the facility.

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: Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp, Hagy (5)

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, Ordinance No. 2025-27 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect in 30 days.

Ordinance No. 2025-28 (second reading)

Motion by Mr. Artino that that Ordinance No. 2025-28 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 557 (GRASS, WEEDS AND VEGETATION) OF THE HURON CODIFIED ORDINANCES) be placed on its second reading.

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

YEAS: **Artino, Claus, Tapp, Hagy, Biddlecombe (5)**
NAYS: **None (0)**

There being a majority in favor, Ordinance No. 2025-28 was placed upon its second reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Ms. Gibboney explained that the ordinance proposed three major changes to the grass and weeds chapter for property maintenance:

- Reducing noticing to one notice per calendar year for the same offense, eliminating the need to repeat the certified notice process for subsequent violations within the same year
- Adding new language that protects the city and contractor when property owners ask contractors to leave after they've been dispatched, ensuring the minimum charge can still be recouped from the property owner
- Increasing the percentage added to incurred costs from 125% to 150%, and for repeat offenders, increasing it to 200% as a deterrent

Councilmember Artino commented that the changes were necessary due to repeat offenders who don't respond to current penalties, noting that staff had researched what neighboring municipalities do in similar situations.

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

New Business

Resolution No. 75-2025

Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 75-2025 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FIFTY-THREE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED SIXTY AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$53,760.00) FOR ROCK SALT PURCHASED THROUGH AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN MORTON SALT, INC. AND THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ERIE COUNTY FOR THE PURPOSE OF FURNISHING BULK DEICING ROCK SALT TO THE CITY OF HURON AND VARIOUS OTHER POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS THROUGHOUT ERIE COUNTY DURING THE 2026 CALENDAR YEAR) 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(5)**
NAYS: **None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived, and Resolution No. 75-2025 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Hamilton explained this was the yearly rock salt legislation. While the city budgets around \$55,000 for rock salt annually, they typically use less than half that amount. The cost increased 4.5% over the previous year. Mr. Hamilton noted that the city would top up their bins at the current cheaper price before

starting to use the more expensive salt next year. He added that working with the county for rock salt purchases helps drive down costs for the city.

In response to Councilmember Hagy's question, Mr. Hamilton clarified that the city is allocated 1,000 tons but isn't committed to purchasing that amount. They typically draw down the bins and schedule deliveries to top them back up as needed, with salt remaining usable from year to year unless soaked.

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 (5)**
NAYS: **None (0)**

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 75-2025 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 76-2025

Motion by Mr. Claus that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 76-2025 (A RESOLUTION GIVING CONSENT OF THE CITY FOR THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO REMOVE SNOW AND ICE AND USE SNOW AND ICE CONTROL MATERIAL ON STATE HIGHWAYS INSIDE THE CITY CORPORATE LIMITS AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL; AND GIVING CONSENT OF THE CITY FOR THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO PERFORM CERTAIN MAINTENANCE AND/OR REPAIR ON STATE HIGHWAYS INSIDE THE CITY CORPORATION AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR CERTAIN MAINTENANCE AND/OR REPAIR.) 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, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino (5)**
NAYS: **None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived, and Resolution No. 76-2025 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Hamilton explained this was the yearly consent legislation, with the first piece having been approved at the previous meeting for mowing, and this piece covering snow and ice removal and general maintenance. While there is no direct financial burden in the legislation itself, the city does pay ODOT annually for maintenance and work they do within city limits.

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: **Claus, Tapp, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino (5)**
NAYS: **None (0)**

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 76-2025 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Ordinance No. 2025-30 (first reading)

Motion by Mr. Artino that that Ordinance No. 2025-28 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1133.02 (DETERMINATION OF REQUIRED OFF-STREET PARKING SPACES) OF CHAPTER 1132 (OFF-STREET PARKING AND LOADING REGULATIONS) 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, Hagy, Biddlecombe (5)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, Ordinance No. 2025-30 was placed upon its second reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Ms. Gibboney explained that this was a small but impactful change discovered during review of a residential home addition. The current language in section 1133.02 doesn't specify whether it applies to residential or commercial properties, making it appear to apply to all buildings. Legal counsel confirmed this interpretation. Since it wasn't reasonable to require homeowners to build garages when adding rooms if they lacked required parking spaces, the amendment clarifies that the parking requirements apply specifically to commercial and business-related buildings or land uses. She noted that the subsections already indicated this intent by focusing on business and commercial applications.

Councilmember Hagy expressed appreciation for the explanation, stating that the current wording was confusing, and confirmed that the intent was to ensure businesses account for parking needs when expanding to prevent street parking issues.

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

Motion

Motion by Mr. Claus to appoint Mr. Steve Baron to the upcoming open position on the Building & Zoning Appeals board that will be vacated when Mr. Harris becomes a councilmember in the upcoming election.

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, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino (5)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and Steve Baron was appointed to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

City Manager's Discussion

The Interim City Manager spoke on several topics:

- An opening remains on the Utilities Board and interested persons should contact Terri Welkener.
- The Eastside sidewalks project was delayed when ODOT determined that the already-approved plans needed to be modified. All ADA ramps will need to be reconfigured to meet new ODOT rules, but the project remains fully funded by grant money and should still be completed this year.
- The transient rental dock replacement project is progressing with preliminary design drawings reviewed by staff.
- The Dancing Water Park aqueduct pond has been stocked with fish for next season.
- Six new high-visibility life ring cabinets have been installed along the Huron Pier to increase safety.
- A new sculpture has been installed at the boat ramp.
- The 2026 budget season has begun with several department meetings scheduled.
- The finance department is working on implementing a new point-of-sale system that will provide mobile credit card processing capabilities to various city facilities.
- The city will begin passing the 3% credit card processing fee to customers rather than absorbing it, with a \$2 minimum transaction fee, which should save the city approximately \$12,000-\$15,000 annually.
- A water main break on Ashland Avenue was repaired on October 20 with the boil advisory lifted the following day.
- Staff completed dredging of the sludge lagoon.
- Security measures are being enhanced at the water plant following minor breaches, including additional cameras, fence repairs, and increased police patrols.
- The Ohio EPA conducted a site survey last week with good results and no violations.
- The Westside Water Tower project has begun with a kickoff meeting held on site.
- Resurfacing will begin on the south end of McKinley Avenue this week.
- Old Plum Brook concrete repairs have been completed.
- A pedestrian crossing at Jim Campbell Boulevard by the high school has been submitted to ODOT for potential 90/10 funding, with hopes of constructing a multi-use crossing in spring or early summer 2026.

- Crack sealing will begin soon on Rye Beach, Cleveland Road West, and portions of Woodbrook, with Bogart Road to follow if materials remain.
- The long-awaited transformer is scheduled for delivery on November 7.
- The 15kV construction and installation work bid packet is currently out for bid, with bids due November 17.
- Several upcoming meetings were announced, including finance budget meetings, HDRD meeting, Utilities meeting, BZA meeting, Planning Commission meeting, and future Council meetings.

Councilmember Biddlecombe thanked Mr. Hamilton for continuing to pursue the crossing at Jim Campbell Boulevard, noting it's an important safety project.

Councilmember Hagy inquired about the security breaches at the water plant and whether critical infrastructure security funding might be available. Mr. Hamilton explained that while there might be funding through homeland security rather than EPA, the immediate challenge involved fence repairs where creek bank erosion had created access points, complicated by wetland regulations. They will probably turn toward Homeland Security for some funds for security improvements.

Mayor's Discussion

Mayor Tapp provided updates on several matters:

- The Fire Chief Search Committee will meet the following night at 5:00 PM.
- He thanked the County Commissioners for their presentation and Steve Baron for volunteering for the Board of Zoning Appeals.
- He reported that the Trunk or Treat event held that evening was well-attended.
- He thanked Fish Huron, Latanick, and GIMCO for the fish sculpture installed at the boat ramp.
- He noted the water tower project was moving quickly and thanked Ardagh for their partnership.
- He expressed appreciation to Christine Gibboney and legal staff for their work on updating ordinances.

For the Good of the Order

Sam Artino – I would like to thank the Commissioners for coming in tonight. I would also like to congratulate Bowling Green on their 60th anniversary – it's a great organization.

Mark Claus – I would also like to reiterate Mr. Tapp's and Mr. Hagy's comments. It's great for the Commissioners to be here to answer our questions. We really appreciate that. I also want to thank Mr. Baron for stepping up for BZA. We really appreciate all of the committees and boards, but BZA is definitely one that is super-important and can sometimes be a little more sticky than others. I know you will do a really good job – it's right up your alley, I believe, and we really appreciate it.

Joel Hagy – I want to thank the Commissioners for coming. We ask other elected officials to come and talk to us from time to time to answer questions. It's pretty cool that they accepted our invitation and stood up here to take our questions. I think there are other so-called public servants/elected officials that

could probably learn a thing or two from them. Thank you to Representative Swearingen for coming, as well. This is Senator Gavarone, if she is watching. That's all I have.

William Biddlecombe – Thanks, staff, for all of your hard work. Thank you to the Commissioners, thank you Mr. Baran. Congratulations to BGSU Firelands – I am a graduate from there, so that was nice that we were able to do that for them. There were no real takeaways from the last School Board meeting; it was rather quick and then they went into executive session. Their next meeting is on November 10th at McCormick School. I would like to congratulate the Girls' Volleyball team on their District Championship and good luck to them tomorrow. Congratulations to the Girls' Cross-Country Team on their Regional Championship. Congratulations to the Huron Football Team on a good season even though we actually missed the playoffs for the first time in a long time. Those guys played hard the entire season – it was a good season, regardless. Trick-or-Treat is this Friday from 5pm-7pm so please be cautious when you are driving through town during that time. Please come out and support our local events, programs, student athletes and GO TIGERS!

Executive Session

None.

Adjournment

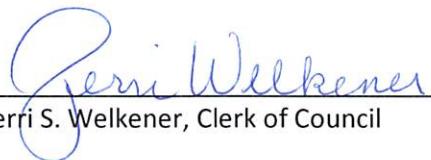
Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe to adjourn the regular meeting of Council.

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 (5)**
NAYS: **None (0)**

There being a majority in favor of the motion, the regular Council meeting of October 28, 2025, was adjourned at 7:38pm.

Adopted: 23 DEC 2025



Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council



MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION HONORING THE 60th ANNIVERSARY OF BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY (BGSU) FIRELANDS

WHEREAS, sixty years ago, in 1965, BGSU Firelands was founded with a vision to expand access to higher education, foster innovation, and serve as a beacon of knowledge, discovery, and opportunity for the people of the Firelands region; and

WHEREAS, for six decades, BGSU Firelands has upheld a proud tradition of academic excellence, civic engagement, and commitment to the public good, preparing generations of students to lead, to serve, and to make meaningful contributions to our community and beyond; and

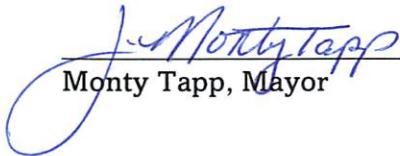
WHEREAS, the university's distinguished faculty, staff, and alumni have advanced research, creativity, and progress across countless fields, from science and technology to the arts, business, and public service; and

WHEREAS, BGSU Firelands has been a vital partner in the economic, cultural, and social development of Huron, strengthening our city through collaboration, innovation, and inclusion; and

WHEREAS, the 60th anniversary of BGSU Firelands offers an opportunity for students, alumni, faculty, and citizens alike to celebrate its legacy of excellence and to look forward to a bright and transformative future.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Monty Tapp, Mayor of the City of Huron, do hereby proclaim November 15th in the year 2025 as BGSU Firelands 60th Anniversary Celebration Day in the City of Huron. I call upon all residents to join me in recognizing BGSU Firelands for six decades of exceptional service to education and to our community, and in celebrating the university's continued pursuit of knowledge, inclusion, and innovation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the City of Huron, Ohio on this 28th day of October, 2025.



Monty Tapp, Mayor