

THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO
Proceedings of the Huron City Council
Regular Meeting Tuesday, November 25, 2025 at 6:30pm

Call to Order

The Mayor called to order the regular Council meeting of November 25, 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, Joe Dike, Matt Grieves and Joel Hagy.**

Staff in attendance: City Manager Stuart Hamilton, Law Director Todd A. Schrader, Police Chief Terry Graham, Parks & Recreation Director Doug Steinwart, Water Superintendent Jack Evans, and Terri Welkener, Clerk of Council.

Approval of Minutes

Motion

Motion by Mr. Dike to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2025 regular meeting of Council, 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: Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and the minutes of the August 26, 2025 regular meeting of Council were adopted.

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 addressed the Council during this portion of the meeting.

Old Business

Ordinance No. 2025-30 (third and final reading)

Motion by Mr. Artino that that Ordinance No. 2025-30 (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 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: Artino, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe (7)

NAYS: None (0)

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

Mr. Hamilton explained that this legislation was primarily a clarification. The current ordinance did not specify that the parking regulations applied only to commercial and industrial buildings, not residential properties. As written, the existing language could be interpreted to require homeowners to add additional parking spaces when doing renovations to their homes, which was not the intent of the planning commission. The amendment explicitly states that the regulations apply to business-related commercial buildings.

Councilmember Dikeo asked for a specific example of where this would make a difference. Mr. Hamilton explained that under the current language, if someone added an addition to their house, they might be required to add parking spaces. The amendment clarifies that if a resident already has the required two off-street parking spaces, they wouldn't need to add more when renovating.

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

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, Ordinance No. 2025-30 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. 2025-31 (first reading)

Motion by Mr. Tapp that Ordinance No. 2025-31 (AN ORDINANCE MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2026) 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: Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus (7)

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2025-31 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Phillips provided an overview of the proposed 2026 municipal budget. He noted that:

- The total appropriations amount to \$53,900,000, a \$1,100,000 reduction from the 2025 budget
- The reduction does not represent a reduction in services but reflects efforts to save where possible
- The budget provides an incremental approach to the long-term goal of balancing the budget
- Two funds that struggle to achieve five-year balance are fire and storm water due to rising costs with stagnant revenue
- Finance Committee recommended increasing the storm water management fee from \$5 per quarter to \$5 per month
- The committee also recommended placing a fire levy on the upcoming ballot for an additional 1.5 millage, which would cost property owners \$52.50 per \$100,000 of assessed value annually
- A public hearing on the budget is scheduled for December 23rd at the regular council meeting

The Mayor asked if there were any more questions. There were none. No action was taken as this was a first reading.

Resolution No. 67-2025

Motion by Mr. Artino that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 67-2025 (A RESOLUTION ORDERING THE PLANTING, MAINTAINING, TRIMMING, REMOVING, PRESERVATION AND/OR REPLACEMENT OF TREES IN AND ALONG STREETS, ALLEYS AND PUBLIC GROUNDS ABUTTING CERTAIN PREMISES IN THE CITY OF HURON) be placed on its first reading.

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

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

NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived and Resolution No. 67-2025 was placed on its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Hamilton explained that this resolution addresses tree maintenance in District 2 and District 3 (Oklahoma and Old Plat areas). The city has completed initial investigations and sent courtesy letters to property owners regarding trees that need trimming. This resolution is the final step before action is taken, authorizing the city to send certified letters giving property owners 30 days to address the issues. If no action is taken by the property owners, the city will rectify the problems and either bill the owners or add the charges to their property taxes.

Mayor Tapp asked if property owners would be able to do the work themselves, and Mr. Hamilton confirmed they could, as long as they were not attempting to take down large trees without proper insurance and equipment.

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

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

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 67-2025 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 81-2025

Motion by Mr. Grieves that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 81-2025 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A LEGAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH GROSSMAN & KELLY, LLP TO PROSECUTE ON A CONTINENCY BASIS CIVIL LEGAL CLAIMS FOR NEGLIGENCE RESULTING IN INJURIES AND PROPERTY DAMAGE IN MDL 2873 (PFAS)) 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, Dike (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived, and Resolution No. 81-2025 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Schrader presented the resolution authorizing a legal services contract with Grossman & Kelly, LLP regarding PFAS chemical claims.

Mr. Schrader explained that this resolution stems from a federal case involving four manufacturers of PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), also known as "forever chemicals." The manufacturers have already settled a suit in federal court, creating a \$13 billion settlement fund. Unlike typical class actions, municipalities must actively submit a claim to participate.

The law firm will test the city's public water system for PFAS chemicals, and if detected, will represent the city in pursuing a claim from the settlement fund. Mr. Schrader noted that the city negotiated the engagement letter to ensure there would be no cost to the city unless funds are recovered.

Water Superintendent Evans added that PFAS are rubber chemicals found in groundwater systems, particularly near army bases and in firefighting materials. He stated that Huron tested for these chemicals in 2023 and did not detect them in the source water. However, other Lake Erie water plants have detected these chemicals, so it's prudent for Huron to pursue this testing and potential compensation.

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, Dike (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 81-2025 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 83-2025

Motion by Mr. Grieves that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 83-2025 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO AWARD THE BID TO AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH BONDED CHEMICALS INC. FOR THE PURCHASE OF WATER TREATMENT CHEMICALS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED EIGHTY-FIVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FOURTEEN AND 80/100 DOLLARS (\$85,514.80)) 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, Dike (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived, and Resolution No. 83-2025 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Evans explained that the city goes out to bid for chemicals jointly with Erie County and Sandusky each year. Overall, chemical costs increased by 11% this year, with four chemicals decreasing slightly (1-5%) and two chemicals increasing (15% and 30%). The larger increase was due to a vendor error where they received the bid packet but did not place a bid. Bonded Chemicals will provide sodium permanganate (an oxidizer), carbon for taste and odor control, and fluoride for oral health.

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, Dike (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 83-2025 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 84-2025

Motion by Mr. Grieves that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 84-2025 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO AWARD THE BID TO AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH APPLIED SPECIALTIES FOR THE PURCHASE OF WATER TREATMENT CHEMICALS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FOUR THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED FORTY AND XX/100 DOLLARS (\$134,640.00)) 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, Dike (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived, and Resolution No. 84-2025 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Evans explained that Applied Specialties would provide aluminum chlorhydrate (ACH), which is the coagulant used in the water treatment process.

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, Dike (7)

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 84-2025 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 85-2025

Motion by Mr. Grieves that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 85-2025 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO AWARD THE BID TO AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH BRENNTAG GREAT LAKES FOR THE PURCHASE OF WATER TREATMENT CHEMICALS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED TWENTY-TWO THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED SEVENTY AND XX/100 DOLLARS (\$22,770.00)) 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, Dike (7)

NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived, and Resolution No. 85-2025 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Evans noted that this contract would provide caustic soda, which is used for pH adjustment in the water treatment process.

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, Dike (7)

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 85-2025 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 86-2025

Motion by Mr. Grieves that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 86-2025 (A

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO AWARD THE BID TO AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH JCI JONES CHEMICALS INC. FOR THE PURCHASE OF WATER TREATMENT CHEMICALS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED THIRTY-ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FORTY-FOUR AND 80/100 DOLLARS (\$31,544.80)) 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, Dike (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived, and Resolution No. 86-2025 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Evans stated that this contract would provide chlorine, which is used for disinfection in the water treatment process.

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, Dike (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 86-2025 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 acknowledge compliance with Section 7 of Ordinance No. 2022-50, with no changes.

Mr. Schrader explained that Ordinance 2022-50 allows the City Manager to take routine, perfunctory actions without seeking Council approval for every minor matter. The ordinance requires an annual review by Council to ensure the arrangement is working as intended. Section 7 specifically requires this review at the first meeting of each December, though the review was occurring slightly early.

City Manager Hamilton added that the ordinance was designed to make staff more efficient and responsive to residents. He noted that the City Manager is still bound by purchasing guidelines and that significant matters, such as real estate transactions, still come before Council.

Because Section 7 of the statute specifically states that action should be taken at the first meeting in December, it was decided that another motion would be made at the December 9, 2025 meeting to affirm compliance.

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

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

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed.

City Manager's Discussion

The City Manager spoke on several topics:

- There is an opening on the Utilities Committee; interested residents should contact Terri Welkener
- The Route 6 Phase 2 project received federal authorization to proceed and will go out to bid in December, with bids due on January 15, 2026
- The lighthouse is lit again after coordinated work between Ryba (contractor), U.S. Army Corps, Coast Guard, and city staff
- Winter Fest is scheduled for December 6 from 1:00 PM to 6:30 PM with numerous activities
- The 2026 budget is balanced with three key recommendations: operational efficiencies, a fire levy on the May ballot, and increasing the stormwater fee
- Credit card terminals are being changed, and beginning January 1, the transaction costs (3%) will be passed on to residents; Nickel Plate Beach will now accept credit cards
- The Water Department is getting quotes for fence replacement; work is delayed due to wetlands designation requiring Army Corps approval
- Crack sealing continues on Cleveland Road West and will move to Mudbrook and Bogart
- The Streets Department has completed six trips around the city for leaf pickup
- There is an opening for a Technology Manager
- GSP presented the boat basin project to state legislators, and it was well-received
- Bids for the substation installation closed on November 24 with a wide range from mid-\$300,000s to \$2 million

Hamilton also announced upcoming meetings:

- Council organizational meeting: December 1 at 5:00 PM (will not be livestreamed)
- HDRD meeting: December 1 at 6:30 PM
- BZA meeting: December 8 (likely canceled)
- City Council meeting: December 9 at 6:30 PM
- Planning Commission: December 17 at 5:00 PM

- Public hearing on the proposed 2026 budget: December 23 at 6:30 PM
- Regular Council meeting: December 23 at 6:30 PM

City offices will be closed November 27-28 for Thanksgiving.

Mayor's Discussion

Mayor Tapp thanked Councilmember Grieves for his four years of service on the Council. He also expressed appreciation to the Finance Committee and Finance Director Phillips for the smooth budget process. He encouraged citizens to volunteer for city committees and thanked Officer Joe England for his service to the city and in the Marine Corps, as he will be retiring on December 1. The Mayor concluded by wishing everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

For the Good of the Order

Sam Artino – Mr. Artino congratulated Officer England and thanked Mr. Grieves for his service and dedication to the community.

Matt Grieves – Mr. Grieves thanked everyone and reflected on his four years of service. He praised the dedication of Council members and staff, noting that they care deeply about the city. He encouraged citizens to attend meetings and directly contact city officials rather than using social media to address concerns.

Joel Hagy – Mr. Hagy had nothing for the good of the order.

Joe Dike – Mr. Dike congratulated Officer England on his retirement and thanked Councilmember Greaves for his service.

Mark Claus – Mr. Claus thanked Grieves for his service and welcomed him to the Utilities Committee (kidding). He also congratulated Officer England and wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

William Biddlecombe – Mr. Biddlecombe congratulated Mr. Grieves, Officer England, thanked the staff, and announced that the next school board meeting is December 15 at 6:00 PM. He also mentioned the Domino's dine-to-donate event for Huron PTO and Winter Fest on December 6. He wished the community a Happy Thanksgiving and encouraged them to please come out and support our local events, programs, student athletes and GO TIGERS!

Executive Session

Motion

Motion by Mr. Dike to enter into executive session to consider the compensation of a public employee or official, and to invite Mr. Schrader and Mr. Phillips.

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, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp (7)

NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion passed and Council moved into executive session at 7:10pm.

Return to Regular Session

Council returned to regular session at 7:27pm.

Adjournment

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

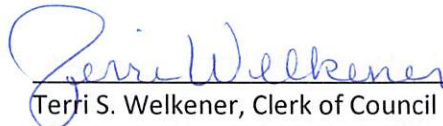
The Mayor asked if there were any questions on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor of the motion, the regular Council meeting of November 25, 2025, was adjourned at 7:27pm.

Adopted: 23 DEC 2025


Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council