

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

**Call to Order**

The Mayor called to order the regular Council meeting of March 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 Matt Lasko, Assistant Law Director Gary Ebert, 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**

**Motion by Mr. Dike to approve the minutes of the Council work session and regular meeting of February 25, 2025, 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:

<b>YEAS:</b>	<b>Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Hagy (7)</b>
<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	<b>Claus, Grieves</b>
<b>NAYS:</b>	<b>None (0)</b>

There being a majority in favor, the minutes of the Council work session and regular meeting of February 25, 2025 were approved, as written.

**Motion**

**Motion by Mr. Dike to approve the minutes of the Council meeting of March 11, 2025, 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:

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

There being a majority in favor, the minutes of the Council meeting of March 11, 2025 were approved, as written.

**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.

**Proclamation**

Mayor Tapp read and signed a Mayor's Proclamation declaring May 17-23, 2025, as National Safe Boating Week. A copy of the Proclamation is attached hereto as Exhibit "A."

**Old Business**

None.

**New Business****Resolution No. 23-2025**

**Motion by Mr. Grieves that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution 23-2025 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO GRANTING A LICENSE FOR THE HURON BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL PROGRAM, INC. TO UTILIZE ANDREW L. FABENS MEMORIAL PARK BASEBALL FIELDS AND CONCESSION STAND) 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. 23-2025 was placed upon its first reading. The Assistant Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Steinwart explained that this agreement is with the Huron Baseball and Softball Program for the 2025 season. This will allow them to utilize Fields 1-7 at Fabens Park and the concession stand from April 1, 2025 through July 25, 2025. Use of the concession stand is extended to October 1, 2025 to coincide with the City's Dawg Daze Softball and Fall Ball Tournaments. The estimated fees collected pursuant to this contract are estimated to be \$4,000. The exclusive right to use the fields is \$875. The participation fee of \$5 per you multiplied by the number participating in 2024 (280) would generate \$1,400. There is a health permit to run the concession stands in the amount of \$520 (from Erie County). They will also lease the shed for \$400 for the season, and they also lease the field groomer (Toro utility vehicle) for \$1,000.

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. 23-2025 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

**Resolution No. 24-2025**

**Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution 24-2025 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO, WITH THE GREATER SANDUSKY PARTNERSHIP RELATIVE TO THEIR LAKE FRONT MARKET EVENT TO BE HELD AT LAKE FRONT PARK ON SATURDAY, JUNE 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025) be placed on its first reading.**

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

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

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived, and Resolution No. 24-2025 was placed upon its first reading. The Assistant Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Steinwart stated that this is an agreement with the Greater Sandusky Partnership for the use of Lake Front Park for their annual Lake Front Market on June 7<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 3pm. This will include retail vending and food. GSP is requesting road closures at Wall/Williams and Center/Park on the day of the event. The facility rental fee is \$500/day. This was a 2-day event in prior years, but they are going back to the 1-day event this year. Therefore, the City will not have to provide overnight security. Although approval of a liquor license is included in this agreement, GSP has indicated that they may not pull a permit for the event. This event was exclusively the Huron Chamber of Commerce's event. Last year was the transition year with the event being a joint effort with GSP, and this is the first year GSP is in charge of the project. There have been no issues or complaints in the past. It is a nice event that brings people into town, using Main Street, and visiting a lot of the businesses on North Main.

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, Dike, Grieves, Hagy (7)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 24-2025 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

**Resolution No. 25-2025**

**Motion by Mr. Dike that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution 25-2025 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER, ON BEHALF OF THE HURON PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH MATHEWS FORD MARION FOR THE PURCHASE OF A 2024 FORD SUPER DUTY F-250 4WD XL VEHICLE IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FIFTY-ONE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED SEVENTY AND XX/100 DOLLARS (\$51,470.00)) 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: Dike, Grievies, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp (7)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived, and Resolution No. 25-2025 was placed upon its first reading. The Assistant Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Steinwart said that this is a request to purchase a 2024 Ford F-250 Super Duty Regular Cab XL for the Huron Parks & Recreation Department. This truck will replace the 2004 F-250 currently being used to tow their landscape trailer. The lowest and best price was from Mathews Ford Marion at \$51,470. The did look into a buyout for a track lease, but that would have been an additional \$3,000. That is the reason they are requesting outright purchase. This purchase is included in their 2025 capital equipment budget. If approved, they would use GovDeals to auction the 2004 F-250.

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: Dike, Grievies, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp (7)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 25-2025 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

#### **Resolution No. 26-2025**

**Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution 26-2025 (A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ERIE COUNTY TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL RELATING TO ENTERPRISE ZONE AGREEMENTS AND COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA AGREEMENTS) be placed on its first reading.**

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

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

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived, and Resolution No. 26-2025 was placed upon its first reading. The Assistant Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko said that he wanted to speak to the legislation first, and then, if Council will oblige him, he wanted to read some comments as relates to comments made a prior School Board meeting a couple of weeks ago.

He explained that the TIRC recommendations are reviewed by Council annually. As a condition of entities receiving tax abatements or parcels that are included in TIFs, they have to reviewed yearly by the Tax

Incentive Review Council, which is an advisory board of 7 members, to make sure that people are meeting the obligations in their tax abatement agreements, whether that's job creation, payroll, investment, etc. This year, they reviewed 10 tax abatements and 2 TIFs, being the Rye Beach TIF and the Sawmill Creek TIF. The letter submitted by the Auditor with the recommendations of the TIRC recommended continuation of all 10 abatements and continuation of both TIFs. These are the recommendations included in the legislation. I noted that the ConAgra TIF, although it has been included the last 3 years, should not have even been recommended or voted on, as the TIF does not yet exist. That will be coming to Council in May. That is why it was not voted on by the advisory TIRC board. If approved, the City has until the end of the month to submit our reporting to the Ohio Department of Development based on Council's final recommendations.

Mr. Lasko said he wanted to take a few moments to address some of the comments that were made a few weeks ago about the ConAgra TIF by certain members of the School Board. He refers to the School Board in general, although some members may have different opinions. To remind everyone, as part of that meeting, the Treasurer was directed by the Board to make a motion voting to terminate the TIF at the TIRC meeting in hopes of getting someone to second the motion and a majority to vote in favor of the termination. When he was made aware of this, he was a bit surprised since everyone in the economic development realm understands that the TIRC, albeit important, is purely an advisory body. There is a reason for this. With these TIFs, cities are the ones taking the risk. As the City did with Sawmill Creek, as they may do with Rye Beach, and as they are certainly going to do with ConAgra, the City is going to be issuing millions upon millions of dollars in bonds that get repaid by these TIFs. Ultimately, the decision should only be up to City Council if these TIFs are terminated. He is less concerned about the directive to the Treasurer, because again, the TIRC ultimately has no power, than the reasons presented at that meeting for the School Board desiring to terminate that TIF, which he believes were fraught with half-truths, misinformation and an example of Non-Political Swift Voting at its best.

It was suggested that Mucci Farms wasn't incentivized to come to Huron. In reality, while they were not given a tax abatement, they didn't have a \$5 million seawall that needed to be reconstructed, but Huron Public Power issued millions of dollars in bonds for transformers on their behalf. They are also receiving millions of dollars of incentives and reduced energy costs through Huron Public Power.

It was also suggested that Ardagh really didn't want the tax abatement that the City sort of pushed on them. Having been on multiple calls with the CFA and CEO out of their Chicago offices, that the City was truly at risk of losing Ardagh to another state when they decided to pull the tax abatement back and do a non-schools abatements. The schools actually remained whole on Ardagh, but they were seriously at risk when that abatement was pulled down to a City and Council abatement.

It was also suggested that the ConAgra project has drastically changed from when it was first introduced to the community in 2021. However, other than the developer going from NAI Harmon to K Hovnanian and Bo Knez, the project really remains the same. It was always around 100 units of residential housing. Candidly, that number has gone up from 80 to 94, to the benefit of the school district and to all taxing entities. There was always going to be a public greenspace perimeter, marina, interior loop road, modest amount of retail and hospitality, and the TIF funds were always going to be used to reconstruct the seawall. As a reminder, the original proposal from NAI Harmon had zero square feet of retail and hospitality. It was suggested that the Board may be more supportive of the ConAgra TIF if there was more

commercial and retail. If there were 15-20 minimum wage jobs of people selling sunglasses and coffee in those retail spaces, he doesn't think it would have been supported. This is a school board that did not give up \$1 for Ardagh, which has 324 jobs and a \$32 million payroll. Therefore, he doesn't think ConAgra would have been supported if it had a little bit more commercial and retail, in terms of jobs.

It was also suggested that the TIF being used to reconstruct the seawall is going to help fund a walkway around the perimeter, which is a playground for the rich. To suggest that is to suggest that something like Lake Front Park is a playground for the rich residents of Old Plat, and the that public access perimeter around the Chesapeake lofts in Sandusky is a playground for the rich condo owners of that building, when in reality, these are huge amenities that bring thousands of people a year to Huron and Sandusky, and enhance waterfront access, which will be the case at ConAgra.

It has also been suggested that the TIF money should be used throughout the City, and not on a seawall. That's not possible. Without a seawall, there is no development. With no development, there is no TIF money to deploy throughout Huron. They met with seven developers throughout these two RFP processes, and every single one of them requested reconstruction of the seawall, and the majority of them wanted not only reconstruction of the seawall, but also the roadways, utilities, streetlights, etc.

He has to ask himself why the Board takes issue specifically with the ConAgra TIF - not the Rye Beach TIF and not the Sawmill Creek TIF. The Rye Beach TIF dollars are utilized exclusively in our corporate parks and the majority of the money does not go to benefit the entire population of the City of Huron. The Sawmill Creek included at \$2 million subsidy to Cedar Fair, a Fortune 500 company, with the rest going into public infrastructure. Those TIFs were evidently fine in the eyes of the School Board, but not the ConAgra TIF, which will be utilized to erase a vacant, non-taxpaying (for 20 years) hole in the center of our City that has been the priority of not just this Council, but countless councils before this Council. It will create enhanced waterfront access – the logic escapes him.

He apologized for the long-winded speech, but it frustrates him when there is misinformation disseminated publicly, and when the City was not once invited to speak to any members of the School Board or Administration about this project and its status. There was not a single phone call or email.

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, Dike, Grieves (7)  
**NAYS:** None (0)

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 26-2025 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

**Ordinance No. 2025-7 (first reading)**

**Motion by Mr. Artino that Ordinance No. 2025-7 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF HURON TO REFLECT THE REZONING OF THE FOLLOWING PARCELS: VACANT LAND LOCATED ON THE WEST SIDE OF SHELTERED BROOK DR., ERIE COUNTY, OHIO PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 42-00119.001; AND CONDOMINIUM PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1219 MARINA DRIVE, ERIE COUNTY, OHIO PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 42-00119.002; AND CONDOMINIUM PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1147 SHELTERED**

**BROOK DR., ERIE COUNTY, OHIO PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 42-00119.018; AND CONDOMINIUM PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1135 SHELTERED BROOK DR., ERIE COUNTY, OHIO PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 42-00119.006; AND CONDOMINIUM PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1131 SHELTERED BROOK DR., ERIE COUNTY, OHIO PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 42-00119.019; AND CONDOMINIUM PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1129 SHELTERED BROOK DR., ERIE COUNTY, OHIO PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 42-00119.014; AND CONDOMINIUM PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1127 SHELTERED BROOK DR., ERIE COUNTY, OHIO PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 42-00119.003; AND CONDOMINIUM PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1125 SHELTERED BROOK DR., ERIE COUNTY, OHIO PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 42-00119.020; AND CONDOMINIUM PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1123 SHELTERED BROOK DR., ERIE COUNTY, OHIO PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 42-00119.012; AND CONDOMINIUM PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1121 SHELTERED BROOK DR., ERIE COUNTY, OHIO PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 42-00119.009; AND CONDOMINIUM PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1119 SHELTERED BROOK DR., ERIE COUNTY, OHIO PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 42-00119.017; AND CONDOMINIUM PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1130 SHELTERED BROOK DR., ERIE COUNTY, OHIO PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 42-00119.010; AND CONDOMINIUM PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1113 SHELTERED BROOK DR., ERIE COUNTY, OHIO PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 42-00119.011; AND CONDOMINIUM PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1111 SHELTERED BROOK DR., ERIE COUNTY, OHIO PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 42-00119.007; AND CONDOMINIUM PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1109 SHELTERED BROOK DR., ERIE COUNTY, OHIO PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 42-00119.015; AND CONDOMINIUM PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1107 SHELTERED BROOK DR., ERIE COUNTY, OHIO PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 42-00119.005; AND CONDOMINIUM PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1101 SHELTERED BROOK DR., ERIE COUNTY, OHIO PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 42-00119.013; AND CONDOMINIUM PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1108 SHELTERED BROOK DR., ERIE COUNTY, OHIO PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 42-00119.016; AND CONDOMINIUM PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1112 SHELTERED BROOK DR., ERIE COUNTY, OHIO PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 42-00119.004; AND CONDOMINIUM PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1124 SHELTERED BROOK DR., ERIE COUNTY, OHIO PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 42-00119.008, FROM THE CURRENT R-2 PUD (ONE- AND TWO-FAMILY RESIDENCE DISTRICT – PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT) TO R-1 PUD (ONE-FAMILY RESIDENCE DISTRICT); AND FURTHER AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF HURON TO REFLECT THE REZONING OF THE FOLLOWING PARCELS: VACANT LAND OWNED BY JAMES W. MURRAY AND MARK J. MURRAY LOCATED ON THE EAST SIDE OF SHELTERED BROOK DR., ERIE COUNTY, OHIO PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 42-00119.000; AND VACANT LAND OWNED BY JAMES W. MURRAY AND MARK J. MURRAY LOCATED ON THE EAST SIDE OF SHELTERED BROOK DR., ERIE COUNTY, OHIO PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 42-00118.000; AND VACANT LAND OWNED BY JAMES W. MURRAY AND MARK J. MURRAY LOCATED ON THE EAST SIDE OF SHELTERED BROOK DR., ERIE COUNTY, OHIO PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 42-00117.000; FROM THE CURRENT R-2 PUD (ONE- AND TWO-FAMILY RESIDENCE DISTRICT – PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT) TO R-1 (ONE-FAMILY RESIDENCE DISTRICT)) 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 a majority in favor, Ordinance No. 2025-7 was placed upon its first reading. Attorney Matt Waters read the Ordinance by its title only.

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

Later in the meeting, Mr. Biddlecombe requested an explanation for the rezoning of these parcels. Mr. Hamilton explained that in 2013 there was a court order that said when they didn't complete the PUD, the parcels were to revert back to R-1. During processes, they found the court order and realized that the City didn't complete the steps to register and change the Zoning Map. This is playing catch-up – they need the ordinance to go back to the County to update the Zoning Map to get us up to date.

**Ordinance No. 2025-8 (first reading)**

**Motion by Mr. Artino that Ordinance No. 2025-8 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND RESTATING SECTION 1129.09 (ALTERATION AND REMOVAL OF NONCONFORMING SIGNS) OF CHAPTER 1129 (SIGN REGULATIONS) OF THE HURON CODIFIED ORDINANCES; AMENDING AND RESTATING SECTION 1129.11 (ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES) OF CHAPTER 1129 (SIGN REGULATIONS) OF THE HURON CODIFIED ORDINANCES; AMENDING AND RESTATING SECTION 1129.08 (MAINTENANCE) OF CHAPTER 1129 (SIGN REGULATIONS) OF THE HURON CODIFIED ORDINANCES; AND AMENDING AND RESTATING SUBPARAGRAPH (n) OF SECTION 1129.06 (DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS) OF CHAPTER 1129 (SIGN 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, Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe (7)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being a majority in favor, Ordinance No. 2025-8 was placed upon its first reading. The Assistant Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Lasko said that while he is ultimately going to turn things over the Attorney Waters to walk through the highlights, he wanted to remind Council that this came out of a work session held a couple of weeks ago as relates to existing signage in the public right-of-way. They don't know the extent of the number of signs, but they know that they exist. They wanted to create legislation acknowledging their existence and writing in some conditions that allow the City to remove those signs or have them relocated.

Mr. Waters explained that this new Section 1129.09 defines a sign that exists before the date but does not meet the regulations as a legally nonconforming sign. Those signs would be allowed to stay unless they meet some of the qualifications listed in paragraph (b). The legal nonconforming designation will be lost if (1) the sign is structurally altered, enlarged, changed, relocated or replaced, (2) if it is determined by the City Manager that it is dangerous or in a defective condition, fails to comply with health or fire codes, or is a public nuisance, (3) the sign is damaged or deteriorated to an extent that is more than 50% of its replacement cost, (4) if the sign is considered abandoned in excess of 12 months, (5) if there is a change in the use of the building the sign is associated with, and (6) if it had any other building or zoning violations after the effective date of the ordinance. Subsection (b)(7) lists that it would lose its designation if it was in the right-of-way, but Council may want to consider taking that out because if it was in the right-of-way, there is a thought that it could remain unless one of the preceding 6 reasons listed above exists. The legally nonconforming status would remain with regular maintenance, as long as that maintenance does not exceed 50% of the value.

There were other changes made to other sections to make them consistent with this new section. If



paragraph (b)(7) of Section 1129.09 is deleted, the proposed changes to Section 1129.06(n) should also be deleted and the original language reinstated. The language that was proposed for removal, "or otherwise be placed in the City's right-of-way," should stay as originally written.

Mr. Hagy asked if someone currently has a sign in the right-of-way, does that mean that they had to get permission to put it there. Mr. Lasko answered no, his guess is that they were either: (1) installed prior to adoption of the Code, or (2) installed before the City had the personnel to investigate or review signs. Mr. Hagy asked if it is safe to say some did ask for permission and were granted permission. Mr. Lasko answered no, not that they know of.

#### **Motion**

**Motion by Mr. Claus to revise the language of this Ordinance No. 2025-8 to remove the restriction on signage in the right-of-way and associated subsections.**

Mayor Tapp 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: Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grievess, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino (7)**

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed.

Mr. Biddlecombe asked to jump back to Ordinance No. 2025-7 to get an explanation as to why the rezoning request was made. (*Refer back to Ordinance 2025-7 for explanation*).

#### **Motion**

**Motion by Mr. Tapp to appoint Chris Harlan to the Board of Zoning Appeals to complete the unexpired term of Lisa Brady ending on December 31, 2025.**

Mayor Tapp explained that Ms. Brady contacted Ms. Welkener and due to her busy schedule, she has decided to resign from the Board of Zoning Appeals. Mr. Harlan had previously put in an Application to serve on the BZA, and when he was contacted, he expressed his willingness to serve on the Board.

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, Grievess, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus (7)**

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being a majority in favor, Mr. Harlan was appointed to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

#### **Motion**

**Motion by Mr. Claus to accept the resignation of Matthew Lasko as City Manager, effective April 18, 2025 at 11:59pm.**

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, Biddlecombe, Artino, Hagy (7)**

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed.

**Resolution No. 27-2025**

**Motion by Mr. Claus that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution 27-2025 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF STUART HAMILTON AS CITY MANAGER ON AN INTERIM BASIS EFFECTIVE APRIL 19, 2025 AT 12:00AM, AND AUTHORIZING AN EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT MEMORIALIZING THE SAME) be placed on its first reading.**

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

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

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived, and Resolution No. 27-2025 was placed upon its first reading. The Assistant Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko explained that this Resolution appoints Mr. Hamilton through December 31, 2025 as Interim City Manager. This is at the prerogative of Council, which he thinks is good for both parties to make sure it is a good fit even though everyone is very familiar with Mr. Hamilton. This agreement calls for an interim rate of \$120,000/year and the remaining terms are very similar to what was in his employment contract. Having spoken to a lot of staff members and department heads, they are very supportive of the interim designation for Mr. Hamilton. He thinks Mr. Hamilton has earned the trust of this Council, this staff and this community. He applauds Council for moving quickly, but also thoughtfully. He thinks Mr. Hamilton will do a great job.

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, Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino (7)**

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being a five or more votes in favor, Resolution No. 27-2025 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

**City Manager's Discussion**

The City Manager spoke on several topics:

**East Side Sidewalk Project** – That bid went out on February 24<sup>th</sup>, and bids were received on March 20<sup>th</sup>. We received 3 bids for that project, and staff and OHM Advisors are currently reviewing those bids for completeness and accuracy. Hopefully, we will be bringing a recommendation to Council sometime in April.

**Route 13 Crosswalks** – This bid went out on February 24<sup>th</sup>, and bids were received on March 20<sup>th</sup>. We received 2 bids on that project, and staff and OHM Advisors are reviewing those bids for completeness and accuracy. Hopefully, we will be presenting a recommendation to Council in April, as well.

**Public Hearing on the Rezoning of River Road Property** – The Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing tomorrow, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm regarding the City's application for rezoning of the City-owned parcels from the current I-2 to R-1. A legal notice and mailed notifications were issues pursuant to code requirements. Hopefully, there will be a recommendation from the Planning Commission to City Council to follow.

**Firelands Scientific Temporary Greenhouse Structures** – Firelands Scientific previously submitted application for 4 temporary greenhouse structures, which were approved by the Planning Commission and Design Review Board. The application and plans are currently in zoning review and have been distributed to OHM Advisors and Erie County Soil & Water for SWPP evaluation and plan review deposit determination. Following approval by Zoning and approval of the SWPP, the application and plans will be submitted to the Building Department.

**Coastal Management Assistance Grant** – We will be working over the next few weeks to close out the CMAG grant relating to our Lakefront Parks Plan, which was adopted by Council on March 25<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to ODNR for their funding assistance, which helped cover 50% of the cost of that project.

**K-9 Donation** – The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2529 graciously donated \$5,000 to our K-9 Program. The Police Department and the City of Huron would like to thank the VFW and all Veterans for their service and their gracious donation.

**Sergeant John Orzech Graduation** – Sgt. John Orzech graduated from the Police Executive Leadership College on Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup> after 3 weeks of advanced training. This is a major accomplishment, and we want to congratulate Sgt. Orzech on that accomplishment and his continued dedication to the Huron Police Department.

**Annual Report** – Everyone on Council should have a copy of the Annual Report – it is a really comprehensive document. Believe it or not, we had to cut a lot out from that report. The big takeaway is, for such a small city that also has a pretty lean staff, that it is really remarkable the work that is done by all of our departments and all of our personnel. We try to highlight as much as we possible can. Thank you to all of our department heads who were instrumental in getting this information, and a huge thank you to Jen Kilbury, who really took the lead in pulling everything together and getting everything published. Great job department heads, staff and Jen Kilbury.

Upcoming Meetings - Planning Commission meeting on Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 5pm in Council Chambers; Huron Joint Recreation District meeting on Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm in Council Chambers; Public Hearing on the ConAgra TIF on Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm preceding the regular Council meeting, which starts at 6:30pm in Council Chambers; Board of Zoning Appeals on Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm in Council Chambers; Planning Commission on Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm in Council Chambers; second City Council meeting on Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30pm in Council Chambers; and Utilities Committee meeting on Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5pm in the main conference room.

Mr. Hagy asked how the Annual Report is distributed. Mr. Lasko answered that they mailed the Annual Report out to all addresses a few years back, but the mailing costs are pretty significant for something that size. The newsletters are mailed, but for the Annual Report, they put them online and they have 75 print copies. If anyone is going to a relevant meeting or speaking to a specific group, they can always send copies with them. The good news is that they can always order more, if needed. They do not mail these directly to mailboxes given the sheer cost involved. They will feature them on social media and on the website, and they have hard copies for anyone that wants them.

Mayor Tapp asked about the status of the USACE work on the pier. Mr. Steinwart answered that they are meeting on April 16<sup>th</sup> at the site with the Army Corps and the contractors. They have questions for us, and we have questions for them. Mayor Tapp said the last he had heard, they thought they could do the majority of the project in the water, as opposed to on the pier itself. He suggested that they keep all of those local businesses updated on what's going to happen. After the meeting, they will know more.

### Mayor's Discussion

Mayor Tapp said:

Congratulations to Sgt. Orzech – it's a great accomplishment – our gratitude to him for going through that. I want to thank Matt for explaining the issues with ConAgra, what's actually happening, what's going on. As always, if you have a question, call or show up at the meetings to get answers. I appreciate Mr. Lasko getting the correct information out there. (*referring to Mr. Lasko*) I am wishing you the very best – you know that. I've still got a month to get on your case, so I will do that. I appreciate everything you have done for the City and I truly do wish you the best.

Mr. Hamilton, I am pleased that we are having you fill in, take over and take charge. I think I expressed in several meetings that the smoother this goes, the happier it makes me and everybody else. I did talk to department heads and different departments, and I will tell you that before there was even a decision made by Council and before he spoke with Mr. Claus, it was brought up to him that they were hoping that Mr. Hamilton was going to jump in there. I had reservations because of the language barrier, but I figured we could work that out (*jokingly*). I am wishing you the very best and I know you work great with everybody and everybody is looking forward to this. Thank you, so much.

That's all I have.

### For the Good of the Order

**Sam Artino** – Thank you and congratulations to Sgt. Orzech and thank you to the VFW for their donation. Also, I would like to wish Mr. Lasko the best. I think we all knew that today would come, sometime. I that

with where you are going, you will still have an opportunity to help serve not only the County, but also the City of Huron. We appreciate you being on that board and keep us in mind every time you make a decision that affects us. Also, I would like to congratulate Mr. Hamilton, and thank you very much for accepting the role. I don't have to tell either one of you guys – you've got a great staff, you've got a great group of employees here – I don't think there's anything to worry about. Thank you.

**Mark Claus** – I also want to thank Matt for all his time – we are going to miss you. Obviously, we've got a couple more meetings so we can, as Monty says, keep up the harassment. I wish you good luck and I think one thing that capped off your tenure here is this great article that we recently had in the Cleveland Business View magazine. It really highlights what we've got going on here, and everybody should look that up – I'm sure it's on social media, posted on our website, etc., and Matt had a huge part in a lot of that, along with Council as a whole. A lot of that was under Matt's leadership to the staff, so I really appreciate that. Congratulations to Stu. We look forward to the year to come and we are happy that we had someone we could move in to have a very smooth transition, as Monty said. I don't think you can change your extension, though, because there are so many people that know that and that would be very problematic. Congratulations to Sgt. Orzech on his executive training – Terry, please pass that along to him. We really appreciate that your team is continuing to improve themselves. Great job on the Annual Report – to the entire staff and as Matt said, especially Jen Kilbury, who poured a lot into that.

**Joe Dike** – I would like to give my condolences to the family of Brad "Brother" Beach, who passed earlier this week. I recently hear that Bruce Palmer passed, so I also want to give my condolences to his family. Congratulations to Sgt. Orzech.

**Joel Hagy** – Best of luck, Matt, I truly appreciate everything you have taught me since you've been here – I really do. The very best of luck to you. I am very sorry that you are leaving us, but I wish you the best of luck. Stu, good luck and I'm glad it's you. I have learned a ton from you, as well, and I really appreciate your matter-of-fact, getting to the bottom line, when I have a question. You might want to have a contingency plan in case you get deported – I hear that's going around (*jokingly*).

#### **Motion**

**Motion by Mr. Hagy that Council direct the administration to research allowing ADUs in R-1 Districts, because they are not needed in R-2 and R-3, pulling best practices from Lakewood or other communities, and making recommendations specifically for Huron based on the feedback we had during the work session from Council, such as aesthetics, setbacks, restrictions, family-only, age restrictions, kids, things like that.**

Mayor Tapp 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:** Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Dike, Grieves (5)  
**NAYS:** Claus, Tapp (2)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed.

Mr. Hagy said a resident of Beachwood (westernmost entrance) complained about when it rains, the gravel from the east side water tower spills out into the road and gets into the lawns at the entrance to

Beachwood Cove. He is wondering if staff can take a look at that – he was not sure if the City owns the property or the County owns it. Is there something we can do, such as spray it. Mr. Lasko answered that although he knows everything costs money, he wonders if they could look at the Cleveland Road East Sidewalk Project to add a concrete apron back 10-20' since they will already have a contractor mobilized.

**Matt Grieves** – Nothing for the good of the order.

**William Biddlecombe** – My condolences go out the Beach family, as well. I would like to thank staff for all of your hard work. I will thank Matt in April – you've still got one more month left. Congratulations to Sgt. Orzech and thank you to the VFW. Good news, everybody, the next meeting of the Scott Cemetery Board is Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 5pm at Huron Township Hall. There is a Dine to Donate tonight at Domino's to support the Huron PTO. Some takeaways from last night's School Board meeting. They received two new safety grants. They did vote to reinstate busing for the high school, but only by request. There was more discussions on the modifications to the way the GPAs will be calculated in the future. There was also discussions on allocating the increased funds they are now receiving from the property tax collections. A couple of ideas for that were eliminating the "Pay to Play" and school fees. They voted to hire Jess Taylor as the District's new Woodlands Assistant Principal, and they also moved commencement for 2026 back to Sunday, the way it used to be. Some Boat Basin events coming up: Breakfast with the East Bunny will be held on Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> from 8am to noon, and that will also include the Michael Mage Experience at 10am. That will be followed with the egg hunt at the Boat Basin at 1pm. You can start signing up on April 2<sup>nd</sup> for the Summer Youth Camps and Parks & Rec is currently hiring Parks Maintenance and Boat Basin Dockhands for the summer season. Home games coming up: Softball on March 29<sup>th</sup>, Baseball on March 29<sup>th</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup>, Track on April 8<sup>th</sup>, Boys Tennis on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> and April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Please come out and support our local events, programs and 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, Dike, Grieves, Hagy (7)

**NAYS:** None (0)

There being a majority in favor of the motion, the regular Council meeting of March 25, 2025, was adjourned at 7:28pm.

  
Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council

Adopted: 08 APR 2025





## MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION

For over 100 million Americans, boating continues to be a popular recreational activity. From coast to coast, and everywhere in between, people are taking to the water and enjoying time together boating, sailing, paddling and fishing. During National Safe Boating Week, the U.S. Coast Guard and the National Safe Boating Council, along with federal, state, and local safe boating partners encourage all boaters to explore and enjoy America's beautiful waters responsibly.

Safe boating begins with preparation. The Coast Guard estimates that human error accounts for most boating accidents and that life jackets could prevent nearly 75 percent of boating fatalities. Through basic boating safety procedures – carrying lifesaving emergency distress and communications equipment, wearing life jackets, attending safe boating courses, participating in free boat safety checks, and staying sober when navigating – we can help ensure boaters on America's coastal, inland, and offshore waters stay safe throughout the season.

National Safe Boating Week is observed to bring attention to important life-saving tips for recreational boaters so that they can have a safer, more fun experience out on the water throughout the year.

**WHEREAS**, on average, 650 people die each year in boating-related accidents in the U.S.; 75 percent of these are fatalities caused by drowning; and

**WHEREAS**, the vast majority of these accidents are caused by human error or poor judgment and not by the boat, equipment or environmental factors; and

**WHEREAS**, a significant number of boaters who lose their lives by drowning each year would be alive today had they worn their life jackets.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Monty Tapp, on behalf of the City of Huron, do hereby support the goals of the Safe Boating Campaign and proclaim May 17-23, 2025 as National Safe Boating Week and the start of the year-round effort to promote safe boating.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET  
MY HAND AND AFFIXED THE GREAT SEAL OF THE CITY OF  
HURON, ERIE COUNTY, OHIO ON THIS 25<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF  
MARCH, 2025.



  
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MONTY TAPP, MAYOR