

**THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO**  
**Proceedings of the Huron City Council**  
**Regular Meeting Tuesday, May 27, 2025 at 6:30pm**

**Call to Order**

The Mayor called to order the regular Council meeting of May 27, 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: Interim City Manager Stuart Hamilton, Law Director Todd Schrader, 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 regular Council meeting of May 13, 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, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp (6)</b>
<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	<b>Grieves (1)</b>
<b>NAYS:</b>	<b>None (0)</b>

There being a majority in favor, the minutes of the regular Council meeting of May 13, 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.

Mike Riggie – 225 Williams St., Apt. K – I wish there was a law to say to all kids on scooters to slow down on sidewalks. I nearly got hit at the Main Street railroad tracks yesterday.

Mayor Tapp said that Chief Graham and staff are looking into that matter.

**Old Business****Ordinance No. 2025-12 (second reading)**

**Motion by Mr. Grieves that Ordinance No. 2025-12 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF HURON TO REFLECT THE REZONING OF APPROXIMATELY 41.88 +/- ACRES OF VACANT LAND OWNED BY THE CITY OF HURON LOCATED ON THE EAST SIDE OF RIVER ROAD, ERIE COUNTY, OHIO PERMANENT PARCEL NUMBERS 42-01718.000 & 42-01721.000, FROM THE CURRENT I-2 (GENERAL INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT) TO R-1 (ONE-FAMILY RESIDENCE DISTRICT)) 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: Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp, Dike (7)**

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2025-12 was placed upon its second reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Hamilton stated that this is the second reading on this legislation, and there have been no changes made since its first reading. On February 26<sup>th</sup>, the City of Huron submitted an application to rezone approximately 42 acres on the east side of River Road from I-2 General Industrial to R-1 Single-Family. The rezoning application has passed through the Planning Commission, as well as a Public Hearing held on May 13<sup>th</sup>. If this legislation is passed, they will update the City's zoning map to reflect those zoning changes.

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

**New Business****Ordinance No. 2025-13**

**Motion by Mr. Dike that the three-reading rule be waived and Ordinance No. 2025-13 (AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING FUND 423 – CONAGRA TIF FUND; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY) be placed on its first reading.**

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

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

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being a five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived and Ordinance No. 2025-13 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

**Motion by Mr. Dike to place Ordinance No. 2025-13 as an emergency measure.**

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

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

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2025-13 was placed as an emergency measure.

Mr. Hamilton explained that, with the passage of the ConAgra TIF at the last meeting, this is the next step. This will create the actual fund to account for the funds receipted from that TIF. The Ohio Revised Code states that for every different revenue source, you must have a different fund to account for it. You must account for all revenues and expenses from that fund. This will allow them to apply to the State to create this new fund for this TIF.

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

There being a majority in favor, Ordinance No. 2025-13 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

**Ordinance No. 2025-14**

**Motion by Mr. Grieves that the three-reading rule be waived and Ordinance No. 2025-14 (AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A REAL ESTATE AND PURCHASE AGREEMENT TO PURCHASE APPROXIMATELY 2.6226 ACRES OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED ADJACENT TO ROUTE 2, IN HURON, OHIO, IN THE AMOUNT OF TEN AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$10.00), AND ACCEPT EASEMENTS ACROSS OTHER PORTIONS OF SAID PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1608 SAWMILL PARKWAY IN HURON, ERIE COUNTY, OHIO AND COMPRISED OF PORTIONS OF PERMANENT PARCEL NUMBERS 42-01021.002; 42-02021.000; and 42-02095.000; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY) be placed on its first reading.**

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

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

There being a five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived and Ordinance No. 2025-14 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

**Motion by Mr. Grieves to place Ordinance No. 2025-14 as an emergency measure.**

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

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

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2025-14 was placed as an emergency measure.

Mr. Hamilton started by saying Ardagh has been an amazing partner during this process. Without this land, they wouldn't have had a home for the 2.0 MG water tower. Not only is Ardagh willing to sell the property to the City for \$10, but they have also partnered with the City relating to easements and access easements. This new parcel will allow them to position the water tower right on the water main, which will cut down costs related to extension of the main. This also positions this water tower in a place where it is local to all the City's large customers; it gives them water security with that extra water in the air. He can't thank Ardagh enough for their partnership on this project.

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, Ordinance No. 2025-14 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

**Amended Resolution No. 31-2025**

**Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe that the three-reading rule be waived and Amended Resolution 31-2025 (AN AMENDED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER'S EXECUTION OF A FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE LICENSE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO AND RIVER MONSTER TOURS LLC AUTHORIZED BY RESOLUTION NO. 31-2025 ADOPTED ON APRIL 8, 2025, AS FOLLOWS: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A LICENSE AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO, WITH RIVER MONSTER TOURS LLC RELATIVE TO THEIR USE OF THE MARINA HUT AND DOCKAGE AT THE HURON BOAT BASIN FOR A FIVE-MONTH TERM, AS WELL AS OFFSEASON USE OF THE MARINA HUT, IN THE AMOUNT OF THREE THOUSAND TEN AND XX/100 DOLLARS (\$3,010.00)) 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:               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 Amended Resolution No. 31-2025 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Steinwart explained that this is a simple amendment requested by River Monster Tours LLC for the right to include water taxi services in the License Agreement previously approved by Council. This amendment will allow River Monster Tours to use the licensed property to load and unload the water taxi under the same conditions provided for the tours.

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, Amended Resolution No. 31-2025 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

**Resolution No. 42-2025**

**Motion by Mr. Grieves that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution 42-2025 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO AWARD THE BID AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH LANDMARK STRUCTURES FOR CONSTRUCTION SERVICES RELATING TO THE 2.0 MG ELEVATED WATER TANK PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF EIGHT MILLION FOUR HUNDRED THIRTEEN THOUSAND AND XX/100 DOLLARS (\$8,413,000.00)) 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. 42-2025 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Evans stated that this relates to awarding the bid for the 2.0 MG elevated water tower. They advertised for bids beginning on April 28<sup>th</sup>. They received three bids, with the highest being approximately \$9.9 million, the second coming in at approximately \$8.8 million, and the lowest and best bid coming in at \$8.4 million. This project will be funded by a \$5 million grant, with the remaining balance funded through WSRLA for zero or low interest, and they will find out the terms on that funding soon.

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. 42-2025 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

**Motion**

**Motion by Mr. Hagy to set a public hearing on the proposed 2026 Municipal Tax Budget for Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at 6:30pm, immediately preceding the regular Council 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: Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves (7)**

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being a majority in favor, a Public Hearing on the 2026 Municipal Tax Budget was set for Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at 6:30pm, immediately preceding the regular Council meeting.

**City Manager's Discussion**

The Interim City Manager spoke on several topics:

ConAgra Redevelopment – A public hearing was held at the Planning Commission meeting on May 21<sup>st</sup>. The Commission then discussed the site layout presented by the developer and voted to approve it as presented. The developer will now put together the rest of the submittals for the Planning Commission and should hopefully be back at the next month's meeting.

Ohio State House and Senate Bills - There is a lot going on in Columbus. Staff and the SSEG team are doing a great job trying to keep on top of everything that's going on.

S.B. 104, relating to transient rentals, would erode home rule authority on a jurisdiction's ability to limit the number of transient rentals.

H.B. 160, relating to recreational marijuana, would make alterations to the newly enacted recreational marijuana program. Most importantly, we must find out if the 3.6% local tax will still stay in that legislation, or if it will be removed.

H.B. 113, relating to annexation, would create limitations on a jurisdiction's ability to annex property and parcels. It basically gives the county commissioners and county entities the final say regarding an annexation with the township. The county commissions would have the final say as to whether the annexation would be in the best interest of the county. It puts another hurdle in annexation procedures.

Nickel Plate Beach – Nickel Plate Beach officially opened on May 24<sup>th</sup>, and all amenities are not available.

Safety Services – All of the swim buoys are in place and the mooring lanes have been installed. There is a K-9 fundraiser scheduled for June 5<sup>th</sup> at the Pied Piper – free hot dogs all around. Go out and hang out with Jax... and then give Jax some money because he likes money!

Finance – A public hearing has been set for the 2026 tax budget. This is more a procedural thing. An email has been sent out to Council with the actual tax budget. We will do this public hearing and then register

that tax budget with the County. This is a formality for the County to see that we still need the money we receive to carry on our business.

Ohio EPA Audit – The Ohio EPA audited the water plan Asset Management Plan and the revolving loan finances associated with that. They came through with flying colors and kudos from the auditors. They said that the plant has an extremely good Asset Management Plan, and the finances are run impeccably. There were a lot of things they would like other plants to start implementing. Kudos to Jack Evans and his staff.

Streets Department – The light pole finally went back up at Berlin (the one that was taken one who wanted to go ice skating with his car). That's back up and functional, and most of that was paid for by insurance proceeds.

Electric Aggregation Program – A reminder that due to the current market conditions, our aggregation program expiring in July will not be renewed. We will keep an eye on the market and when it is in a position where we can save the residents money, we will reenter it and restart an aggregation program. I advise our residents to go to sights like Energy Choice Ohio Apples to Apples. You can shop your own aggregation there and try to save yourself a little bit of money. Even those sites are not showing a whole lot of savings right now. We need to wait for everything to settle down.

Huron State of the Community – There will be a presentation on Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> between 5-7pm at BGSU Firelands. It will be a cross-jurisdictional night, and will include the City of Huron, Huron Township and the Schools. They are trying to talk me into speaking. There will be a lot of people there and it will be worth going to see. Admission is free with proof of registration. You can go to [www.greatersandusky.com/events](http://www.greatersandusky.com/events) to register.

Upcoming Meetings – Utilities Committee on Wednesday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 5pm in Council Chambers; BZA on Monday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm in Council Chambers; Council Work Session on Tuesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm in Council Chambers; Council Meeting on Tuesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in Council Chambers; Planning Commission on Wednesday, June 18<sup>th</sup> at 5pm Council Chambers; and the second Council meeting on Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in Council Chambers.

Mr. Hagy asked if we know when S.B. 104, H.B. 160 and H.B. 113 are being acted upon. Mr. Schrader answered that they are currently at various committees and Amelia Leonard is constantly watching them. She gets notifications when there is any action at all.

Mayor Tapp asked how much traction they have with S.B. 104, which he believes they did last year, as well. Mr. Schrader answered that if it passes, there is very serious home rule issues and he would expect the Ohio Municipal League and others like it to file lawsuits. There are very serious home rule issues involved, especially since many municipalities are already regulating them.

Regarding H.B. 160, Mr. Schrader asked if the City has received any revenue at all relating to marijuana sales. Mr. Hamilton answered that they have not received any funds. The law says that the City is supposed to receive a certain percentage of that, and nothing has come in. Mr. Schrader said he would send an email to his Listserv and ask if any municipality has received anything yet. The other changes made in this proposed bill were anticipated, such as the distinction between medical and recreational marijuana.

When Firelands Scientific came before Council not too long ago, they gave us the heads up that they saw the State Legislature wanting to combine those, now that it's legal, into one statute. He doesn't think that we are threatened by that and thinks we welcome that. It would be helpful to everybody. However, the tax issue has not yet been resolved.

Mr. Claus asked about the final approval of the additional capacity for the water plant. Mr. Evans answered that that is still pending. This has been in process since the end of 2022. The ball is in the City's court right now – the EPA sent over a few more questions they are finally, and they do need Kleinfelder's approval as engineer. They must be the ones to submit the answers; they are pushing Kleinfelder to get them to respond as soon as possible. It has been a long, drawn-out process. It shouldn't be this complicated.

### **Mayor's Discussion**

Mayor Tapp said:

I want to thank Ardagh for being a good partner in working with us with everything. From what I understand, they are very good partners.

The Huron Yacht puts on a Memorial Day presentation every year, which several of us attended yesterday. They do a great job – Mr. Hagy, Mr. Claus, Mr. Biddlecome and I were there. I want to thank Mr. Hagy for donating a flag to the Huron Yacht Club that was flown in Afghanistan.

(Addressing Mr. Riggle) We have had some other complaints relating to electric scooters and electric bikes, and we are working with the Police Chief and legal to try to figure out something. Council members have been receiving complaints, as well. We do take this seriously. Thank you for speaking up.

### **For the Good of the Order**

**Sam Artino** – I have nothing, thank you.

**Mark Claus** – The Memorial Day events this past weekend and yesterday were well-attended. The Huron Yacht Club always does a great job. I also attended the ceremony at Scott Cemetery run by the Boy Scouts. There are always quite a few people out there. I didn't attend the one at the high school, but I didn't attend that one. It is great that our community supports the memory of our veterans.

**Joe Dike** – Nothing, thank you.

**Matt Grieves** – I had a pretty cool conversation last week with a gentleman from Oster's Mobile Home Park, who was relocated – Eddie Wilson. He asked him to share his story and say thank you to everyone who was involved in that situation. He mentioned Matt Lasko about 20 times. He was in tears while talking about how there is no chance, he could have possibly enhanced his living conditions to where he is now. It was tough and he was scared when it first happened, but he is ecstatic with where he is now and the help that Council and the City provided to him. He wanted to make sure everyone was told, thank you.

**Joel Hagy** – Mr. Hagy said that he would like to make a motion.



**Motion**

**Motion by Mr. Hagy that this body formally invite Representative Swearingen and Senator Gavarone to our next meeting so that we can explain to them what issues we have with S.B. 104, H.B. 160 and H.B. 113.**

Ms. Welkener advised Mr. Hagy that she will take care of sending the invitations to Representative Swearingen and Senator Gavarone if the motion passes.

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, Grieves (7)**

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed.

**William Biddlecombe** – I would like to thank staff for their hard work. I would like to thank all the police and fire personnel who assisted with the Huron Yacht Club Memorial Day ceremony.

Takeaways from the last School Board meeting: They honored all this year's retiring teachers and approved all of the 100 seniors that are graduating as part of the class of 2025. They tabled the second resolution necessary to go on the November ballot this year. They hired Venice Solutions Group for investigative services. They will have a student safety work session in July. The next meeting will be on June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm.

I would like to congratulate the boys' and girls' track teams. They both won the SBC this year, and good luck to all the State-bound athletes.

I had a resident reach out to me on Facebook. They are desiring to see American flags put on the light posts over the Huron River bridge, like what we currently have on Main Street. I told her that I would mention it at tonight's meeting – I think that would be a good idea, as well, since it's the main route through town for a lot of visitors. When I was in Indiana, I noticed that all the small towns I drove through had banners, as well, with veterans from their town. I thought that was a nice touch. I would like to ask staff to investigate the feasibility of doing something like that, whether it be the flags and/or the banners. I am sure that if it came to fundraising local businesses, civic groups and residents would be willing to donate to that, as well.

The only other thing I have is that June 7<sup>th</sup> is the Huron Lake Front Market event. The upcoming Boat Basin events include Master TC and the Visitors at 7pm on June 7<sup>th</sup>. Please come out and support our local events, programs, student athletes and GO TIGERS!

**Executive Session**

**Motion by Mr. Claus to enter into executive session to consider the appointment, employment and compensation of a public employee, and to invite Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Schrader.**

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 motion passed and Council moved into executive session at 6:59pm.

**Return to Regular Session**

Council returned to regular session at 7:06pm.

**New Business (Continued)**

**Resolution No. 41-2025**

**Motion by Mr. Claus that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution 41-2025 (A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF ISAAC PHILLIPS AS FINANCE DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF HURON, EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 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:** 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. 41-2025 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Hamilton stated that they carried out a robust interview process for the Finance Director position, which included multiple interviews. Mr. Phillips to the top. He comes to us with a lot of drive. He has a lot of ambition and financial/analytical skills, which we need here. He has government experience, and he met the girls in the Finance Office and didn't run away.... We are excited to have Isaac join us. He is going to be an integral part of this team. He is going to be a good leader and manage our budget well. We are excited that he is going to join us.

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 majority in favor, Resolution No. 41-2025 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

**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 May 27, 2025, was adjourned at 7:08pm.

  
Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council

Adopted: 10 JUN 2025