

THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO
Proceedings of the Huron City Council
Regular Meeting Tuesday, August 26, 2025 at 6:30pm

Call to Order

The Mayor called to order the regular Council meeting of August 26, 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, Matt Grieves and Joel Hagy**. Council member absent: **Joe Dike**.

Motion by Mr. Claus to excuse the absence of Mr. Dike. 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: **Claus, Tapp, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino (6)**
NAYS: **None (0)**

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

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

Oath of Office

The Interim City Manager administered the Oath of Office to Logan Demuth as Patrol Officer for the Huron Police Department.

(Applause). Photographs were taken with various staff and family members.

Mr. Biddlecombe arrived at the meeting at 6:34pm.

Approval of Minutes

None.

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.

Old Business

Ordinance No. 2025-18 (third and final reading)

Motion by Mr. Grieves that Ordinance No. 2025-18 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE THREE (UTILITIES)

UNDER PART NINE (STREETS, UTILITIES & PUBLIC SERVICES CODE) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF HURON, OHIO TO ESTABLISH A NEW CHAPTER 925 (HURON PUBLIC POWER REGULATIONS AND RATES)) be placed on its third and final reading.

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

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

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2025-18 was placed upon its third and final reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Hamilton said they understand any rate increase for Huron Public Power's customers is painful, and they don't take it lightly. They do only enough to keep the utility functioning and providing the good service and rates as they currently do. In 2024, they scheduled a production study for Huron Public Power. The results came back too aggressive for their liking, so they went back to review the numbers internally to drive the increase down as far as they could. This increase covers only the additional cost of the debt they are bringing on for the third transformer. Bringing in this second source of power provides redundancy and safety to the system. The rate increase will be a slight across the distribution table. There will be an additional rate added for a capital rider, which is 0.0005/kWh. They are removing the \$650,000 cap they had when no one paid any more than that. The rate structure is so defined that the cap cannot stay in place. They also added a \$15/month meter charge for all of the customers for the maintenance of those meters.

There has been one change made to the legislation since its second reading. The effective will now be October 1 instead of September 1. Originally, they planned to pass this ordinance as an emergency. However, because this involved a rate change, it cannot be passed as an emergency measure. That 30 days will take us to October 1st. This is creating a new section in the Huron Codified Ordinances under Utilities. Like the water rates, which are codified, the electric rates will now be codified. This will keep all City utilities functioning in the same way so there is not confusion.

Mr. Hagy asked how the rates will be modified in the future. Mr. Hamilton answered that the process will require new legislation amending the Codified Ordinances, similar to what they do with changes to water rates. Mr. Hagy asked if the rates will be reviewed annually to make sure they cover HPP's costs. Mr. Hamilton answered that they will monitor these rates on a consistent basis. These are projections based on our current customer base and current consumption. As they move down Sawmill Parkway, they will take any chance they can to lower the rates. They are not here to make money. There are here to keep the utility healthy and functioning as they keep trying to expand.

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

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

There being a majority in favor, Ordinance No. 2025-18 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect on October 1, 2025.

Ordinance No. 2025-19 (second reading)

Motion by Mr. Artino that Ordinance No. 2025-19 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF HURON TO REFLECT THE REZONING OF APPROXIMATELY 15.49 +/- ACRES OF VACANT LAND OWNED BY OJD HOLDINGS LLC LOCATED ON BOTH SIDES OF RIVER ROAD, ERIE COUNTY, OHIO PERMANENT PARCEL NUMBERS 42-01720.000, 42-01720.001 & 42-01719.000, FROM THE CURRENT I-2 (GENERAL INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT) TO B-3 (GENERAL BUSINESS 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: Artino, Claus, Tapp, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe (6)

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2025-19 was placed upon its second reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Ms. Hamilton stated that on May 19, 2025, the Planning & Zoning Department received an application to rezone approximately 15 acres on River Rd. owned by OJD Holdings LLC from I-2 General Industrial to B-3 General Business. This application was seen and heard by the Planning Commission on June 18, 2025 and was approved and passed on to Council for their consideration.

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

Ordinance No. 2025-21 (second and final reading)

Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be waived and Ordinance No. 2025-21 (AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE RATE TO BE PAID BY RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY OWNERS FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 2026 THROUGH DECEMBER 2026 FOR RESIDENTIAL SOLID WASTE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL; AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE TO CERTIFY THE COSTS OF SAME TO THE ERIE COUNTY AUDITOR FOR PLACEMENT ON THE TAX DUPLICATE FOR COLLECTION WITH OTHER CITY TAXES IN 2026; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY) be placed on its second 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: Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp, Grieves (6)

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2025-21 was placed upon its second and final reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Motion

Motion by Mr. Hagy to place Ordinance No. 2025-21 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: **Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp, Grieves (6)**
NAYS: **None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2025-21 was placed on its second and final reading.

Mr. Phillips explained that there wasn't enough time to do three readings before the County's due date of September 8th. They wanted to get in at least 2 readings to give the public more time to address the rate increase. This rate increase is necessary as the Republic Services contract has a built in 5% increase each year.

Mr. Hagy asked if the City is locked into an agreement with Republic. Mr. Phillips answered yes, they are currently in a 5-year contract. This is the last year, but there are 2 years of optional renewals after this. The rate increase is 5% every year that Republic passes on to the City. Historically, the City hasn't increased their rate that much; however, this year is a little more than that to catch them back up to allow the fund to operate without subsidy from the General Fund.

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

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

There being a majority in favor, Ordinance No. 2025-21 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

New Business**Resolution No. 51-2025**

Motion by Mr. Artino that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 51-2025 (A RESOLUTION CERTIFYING MOWING CHARGES TO THE ERIE COUNTY AUDITOR FOR COLLECTION) be placed on its first reading.

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

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

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived, and Resolution No. 51-2025 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Phillips explained that certifying these mowing charges to the Erie County Auditor is an annual event. The City pays to mow certain properties cited for tall grass, and if not repaid, these costs are certified to the Auditor to collection with real property taxes. There was less mowing done by the City this year, and the hope is to reduce that amount more in 2026. There will be additional charges to certify after year-end due to the September due date for certification. The amount is \$964.59 for 5 properties.

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, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe (6)

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 51-2025 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 52-2025

Motion by Mayor Tapp that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 52-2025 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH TACTICAL ASSAULT SPECIALISTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF 15 REPLACEMENT RIFLES AND RELATED EQUIPMENT FOR THE HURON POLICE DEPARTMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF THIRTY THOUSAND TWENTY AND XX/100 DOLLARS (\$30,020.00)) 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: Tapp, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus (6)

NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived, and Resolution No. 52-2025 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Chief Graham explained that this legislation authorizes the purchase of new patrol rifles for each officer in the cruiser. The current inventory of patrol rifles is almost 25 years old and some of the officers have purchased their own rifles to have newer versions. The 2025 police department budget include the allocation of \$30,000 toward the purchase of new patrol rifles. He has received 3 quotes and Tactical Assault Specialists had the lowest quote for new rifles, sights, slights and slings. After a trade-in credit of current patrol rifles and many confiscated weapons in the amount of \$12,710, the purchase price nets at \$30,020.

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

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 52-2025 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 53-2025

Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 53-2025 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH MAINTENANCE SYSTEMS OF NORTHERN OHIO FOR ROADWAY CRACK SEALING SERVICES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FORTY-FIVE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED EIGHTY AND XX/100 DOLLARS (\$45,680.00)) be placed on its first reading.

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

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

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived, and Resolution No. 53-2025 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Hamilton stated this legislation authorizes additional crack sealing service. City crews are currently out with the crack sealing machine (they purchase the material and rent the machine), and do what they can each year. City crews are not equipped to do the larger thoroughfares in town. They have budgeted enough money to bring Maintenance Systems in to do the larger crack sealing projects. This project will include Cleveland Road West, some of Mudbrook Road, and if there is any material left, they will start moving down Bogart Road. They have the industrial machines and can get through the project fast and handle safety issues better than City crews. Some funds were taken from the striping budget to reallocate to crack sealing. Last year was tough on our roads.

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

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

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 53-2025 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 54-2025

Motion by Mr. Grieves that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 54-2025 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM CITY MANAGER TO PAY THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED SIXTY-EIGHT THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED THIRTEEN AND 66/100 DOLLARS (\$68,813.66) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2024 THROUGH 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: **Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp (6)**
NAYS: **None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived, and Resolution No. 54-2025 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Hagy asked why the numbers vary each year. Mr. Hamilton explained that ODOT has done a lot of work on Route 2 in Erie County over the last several years and we are seeing that cost passed on to the City. They have used the same calculation since 2005. They take all of the lane miles in Erie County and then divide it by the lane miles within each jurisdiction to determine what each jurisdiction pays. While it is a steady calculation, the amount of work determines how high the cost will be each year. They have done a lot of work on both eastbound and westbound Route 2, as well as a lot of work in the ditches, on the culverts, etc. They do a good job looking out for the condition of the road, but we have to pay our share of the cost. The cost isn't always going to go up, it will vary from year to year. Once they have caught up on maintenance on Route 2 in Erie County, we may very well see a reduction.

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

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

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 54-2025 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 55-2025

Motion by Mr. Claus that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 55-2025 (A RESOLUTION CERTIFYING DELIQUENT WATER CHARGES TO THE ERIE COUNTY AUDITOR FOR COLLECTION) 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, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino (6)**
NAYS: **None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived, and Resolution No. 55-2025 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Phillips stated that this certification relates to 5 parcels with outstanding water usage balances. These are all properties that have not transferred ownership and have balances more than 60 days past due. As they work through shutoffs this week, some of these may come in to pay the balance. If so, they will be removed from the list. This list will be certified to the Auditor by September.

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, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino (6)**
NAYS: **None (0)**

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 55-2025 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 56-2025

Motion by Mr. Artino Tapp that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 56-2025 (A RESOLUTION ORDERING THE REPAIR OF THE PUBLIC SIDEWALKS ABUTTING CERTAIN PREMISES IN THE CITY OF HURON 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: **Artino, Claus, Tapp, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe (6)**
NAYS: **None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived, and Resolution No. 56-2025 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Motion

Motion by Mr. Artino to place Resolution No. 56-2025 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: **Artino, Claus, Tapp, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe (6)**
NAYS: **None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion passed and Resolution No. 56-2025 was placed as an emergency measure.

Mr. Hamilton said that this is the next step in our Tree and Sidewalk Program. Initial inspections for this district were done in May of this year, completed in June and reinspected in August. We will send out certified mails tomorrow if this passes and if the work is not completed within 60 days, the City will perform the work on their behalf. After that, they can either pay the City back within 30 days or have the costs certified to the County Auditor for repayment over 4 years. Total is \$9,961 for this district. There is a charge to assess added by the County Auditor and an interest charge.

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, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 56-2025 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 57-2025

Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 57-2025 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION (OPWC), SCIP AND LTIP PROGRAM YEAR 40, FY 2027 GRANT AND/OR LOAN RELATING TO THE US 6 PHASE 2 PROJECT IN THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$600,000.00); AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT SAID GRANT AND/OR LOAN AWARD IN AN AGGREGATE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$600,000.00), SHOULD THE APPLICATION BE SUCCESSFUL) be placed on its first reading.

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

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

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived, and Resolution No. 57-2025 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Hamilton said that he would be covered both Resolutions 57-2025 and 58-2025 with his summary. These are OPWC grant loan applications for the South Main Street Streetscape Project and the US 6 Phase II project, each in the amount of \$600,000. Of the \$600,000, \$425,000 would be grant funds and the remainder would be \$175,000 low-interest loan funds. They don't score very highly on these two projects, but they will submit them regardless. A lot of the other projects submitted will score higher, but if they don't put them in they won't have a chance to receive funds – there is always a chance. This legislation will allow submission of the application and subsequent acceptance of the funds if awarded. These projects are both budgeted without consideration for grant funds the City may get.

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, Grieves, Hagy (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 57-2025 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 58-2025

Motion by Mr. Artino that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 58-2025 (A RESOLUTION

AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION (OPWC), SCIP AND LTIP PROGRAM YEAR 40, FY 2027 GRANT AND/OR LOAN RELATING TO THE SOUTH MAIN STREET STREETSCAPE PROJECT IN THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$600,000.00); AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT SAID GRANT AND/OR LOAN AWARD IN AN AGGREGATE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$600,000.00), SHOULD THE APPLICATION BE SUCCESSFUL) be placed on its first reading.

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

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

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived, and Resolution No. 58-2025 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

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, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 58-2025 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Ordinance No. 2025-23

Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe that that the three-reading rule be waived and Ordinance No. 2025-23 (AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING THE FILING OF A PETITION WITH THE ERIE COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT REQUESTING THAT VACANT LAND LOCATED AT 531 BERLIN ROAD, HURON, OHIO, BEING ALL OF ERIE COUNTY, OHIO PERMANENT PARCEL NUMBER 42-01067.000, BE FORFEITED TO THE CITY OF HURON PURSUANT TO SECTION 5723.01(A)(3) OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE; RATIFYING THE CITY OF HURON'S ACCEPTANCE OF SAME; 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: Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp, Grieves, Hagy (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived, and Ordinance No. 2025-23 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe to place Ordinance No. 2025-23 as an emergency measure.

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

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

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2025-23 was placed as an emergency measure.

Mr. Hamilton explained that this property on Berlin Road was declared a nuisance and eventually the City moved to demolish the property. They paid for that property to be demolished and assessed the cost to the property owner. They also have delinquent water and mowing charges assessed to this property. The Sheriff put this property up for auction twice, with no bids at starting bid of \$25,000. The property is then forfeited to the State of Ohio unless a local jurisdiction petitions to take possession of the property. If it is forfeited to the State of Ohio, it usually stays there for a very long time and the City would still be stuck mowing it and taking care of it with no reimbursement from the State. Mr. Hamilton said he does not like asking for forgiveness for legislative items, but there was a very short turnaround for this petition. The City petitioned the County to take possession of the property, which will give them control of the property to get it sold in a timely fashion. This legislation requests ratification of something they have already done. They will take possession of the property and look to sell it in spring of next year. They don't know if they will recover all of the money owed on the property, but something is better to nothing and they don't end up with a blighted parcel in the City.

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

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

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Ordinance No. 2025-23 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

City Manager's Discussion

The Interim City Manager spoke on several topics:

Utilities Committee – The Utilities Committee still has an opening – it is the most exciting committee. This is a very important committee. It drives all of our utilities and a lot of our decision-making and recommendations to Council. If you know anyone or if you yourself would like to volunteer, please reach out to Terri Welkener at 419-433-5000 ext. 1102.

Electric Trail Connector – This is extending the Erie Electric Trail to tie up with the multi-use pathways that will run up Rye Beach Road and all the way through to Sandusky. We issued a PO on this project for OHM Advisors to help us get through the conceptual portion of this project. We are also going to figure out where we can actually connect up to the other connector. The PO was issued for \$12,550. This will give us enough to actually start detailed design work on this project as we keep trying to find more funding.

Planning & Zoning – Code enforcement continues looking at our outdated codified ordinances. We struggle on a daily basis to tie stuff together for enforcement due to vagueness. They are working diligently on a lot of this stuff. We are looking at Chapter 557, which is updating our grass and weed ordinances. We are looking at updating Chapter 1133 – Off-Street Parking Regulations – we have a lot of confusion in that one between business and residential districts. We are looking at Chapter 901 – Excavations to try to tidy up working in the right-of-way. As discussed at the last meeting, we are working through the sign code, which is Chapter 1127, to try to clarify that. We have had a couple of meetings with the contractor helping us walk through that. Once we get through that we are going to set up a Planning Commission meeting. We would like to invite Council to that meeting for anyone who is interested to save having multiple work sessions on the sign code. As we firm up that date, just know that an invite will be coming to that Planning Commission meeting.

Parks & Recreation – Fall Ball is underway. This program is mostly full; however, there continues to be a couple open spots. This program will run through mid-September, weather permitting. Registration is online via the City's website. If anyone is interested, please sign up.

Safety Services – Officer Jacob Eck recently graduated from EHOVE Police Academy on August 19th and he recently started his field training. His ceremonial swearing in should be scheduled for September 23rd. He has been assigned to Squad 3, which is the night shift on the front half of the week. If you see Officer Eck around, you can't miss him, he is a really young guy who is trying to grow a moustache. Please welcome him – we are happy to have him with us.

Jaden Carey – Our intern is finally done and she is headed to BGSU to complete the senior year of her Criminology program. This intern program was a great success. I talked to Jaden on a regular basis and the amount she learned from our Chief and our Police Department is amazing. We have a small department in a small city, and she left with her brain boggling on the stuff she learned. I want to say thank you to Jaden, as well, because that went two ways. Our department learned a lot from an intern being there. It helps them to refresh their memory on things they have to teach her that they learned a long time ago and is second nature to them. Then you to Chief, as well, for bringing this program to fruition. This makes your department shine – she will go back to BGSU and she will tell them what a gold start department you are. Thank you for pushing this one through.

Finance – Real Estate Taxes – We received the second half settlement on August 18th of our property taxes. It was approximately \$15,400 higher than budget, and 11% higher than in 2024. This is primarily due to the Erie County reevaluation.

Finance – 2026 Budget – The 2026 Budget is still underway. We have been through the first round of meetings with the departments. Isaac has been working hard getting all of the numbers into our budgeting software. Once the numbers are all in and we finish looking at capital and capital assets, we will sit down and have a good look at where we are at, how much we need to take away that we said they can have, and then we will move on to the Finance Committee. Please know that we are working diligently on this.

Finance Committee Opening – We have an opening on the Finance Committee. This is a very important committee. Budget time is coming up and there is a lot of detailed information to be reviewed. It takes a

little bit of a time commitment at this time of year. This is typically a quarterly meeting, but during budget season, the meetings are weekly. Anyone is money-oriented and is interested in joining the committee should reach out to Terri Welkener at 419-433-5000, ext. 1102.

Water Department – Water staff continue with hydrant flushing and are moving out toward Rye Beach Road. For any questions or concerns, please contact Water Superintendent Jack Evans at 419-433-9502. Staff met earlier this month to start conducting the 3-year review of the water rates. This will be an internal process. We started putting the numbers together to figure out how we want to look at it moving forward. We will report back via the Finance Committee to Council as we move through this. Preventative maintenance was carried out on the Rye Beach water tower with an internal cleaning, touch-up painting inside and installation of an OEPA approved boot for the roof vent.

Huron Public Power – We finally managed to get the concrete pad poured for the transformer. The weather actually let us pour it, and the 30-day cure period has begun. Once that has cured and has been tested, we can schedule delivery of the third transformer.

Union Negotiations – We opened up the contracts for the health care and wages negotiations. We have talked to all three unions and they are now talking to their membership. We are hopeful that we have agreement on that. I am thankful to the unions and the membership for working with the City. It has been a good process.

Water Plant Operator – I would like to welcome Adam Coles, the new swing shift plant operator, to the City. He has just accepted this position and he will join the team mid-September. He is coming from Harborview Marina so he has a skill set that definitely will help in the plant. He does not have water experience, but this is more of a mechanical position and we feel that he is well-suited.

Second Water Plant Operator – We had a second swing shift position in the budget this year. We held off while watching the budget to be sure we have enough room and that it is not going to put too much pressure on the Water budget. The last swing shift operator we lost was the third in three years. That tells you that there is something not right with that position. That schedule that person has to do is basically day shift but constantly filling for every single shift if someone else misses work. You can understand why people move on. We have decided to move ahead with the second swing shift position to ease that scheduling restriction and get us caught up on maintenance. Because that day shift person ends up 50% of the time on rotation, then the maintenance starts to fall behind. We believe that the cost for this position will be partially offset by savings in overtime because now the on rotation staff won't be coming extra shifts, triggering that overtime. We will keep an eye on it. With that being said, we have an open position for a Water Plant Operator. This will be a swing shift position. It is currently posted internally. If no one applies for it internally, it will go public on Monday and if you are interested, please apply via the City's website.

Upcoming Meetings – HJRD on Tuesday, September 2nd at 6:30pm in the Council Chambers; Utilities Committee on Wednesday, September 3rd at 5:00pm in Council Chambers; BZA on Monday, September 8th at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers; City Council on Tuesday, September 9th at 6:30pm in Council Chambers; Planning Commission on Wednesday, September 15th at 5:00pm in Council Chambers; Council Work Session on Tuesday, September 23rd at 5:30pm in Council Chambers; Council Meeting on Tuesday,

September 23rd at 6:30pm in Council Chambers. REMINDER – Administrative offices will be closed on Monday, September 1st in observance of Labor Day.

Mr. Hagy asked if the water rates would be run by the Utilities Committee. Mr. Hamilton said he missed that step and yes, the Utilities Committee will be the first ones to review the rates before they get to the Finance Committee.

Mayor's Discussion

Mayor Tapp said:

I want to welcome Officer Demuth and Jacob Eck. I had the pleasure of speaking with Jaden Carey several times throughout her internship. What a great person she is... intelligent, smart, it is overwhelming how much information she has and how well she worked with the Department. Kudos to the Chief and the Department because she spoke very highly (and wrote a paper) and it was accolades and praises for the Department. The best of luck to her. This is her final year. The internship program that Chief Graham implemented is a great asset to the City. Thanks, Chief.

To reiterate what Mr. Hamilton said, we are looking for people for the Utilities and Finance Committees, as well as for the BZA. If anybody out there listening has any suggestions, let us know – get a hold of Ms. Welkener.

Welcome Adam Coles to the Water Plant. Stu and I discussed that the water plant is very busy and that swing shift is crazy and I understand why people leave. I spoke with Jack Evans also, and he has been called in several times to do some coverage and help out. It's an important position and with the water plant the way it is and all the new stuff that's in there... I am happy that we've got some people in mind for that.

Thank you to staff for all their hard work. Thank you to our Councilmembers for everything they do.

For the Good of the Order

Sam Artino – I, too would like to welcome Officer Demuth to our organization. I think he made a decision to join a great organization.

Mark Claus – I want to welcome Officer Demuth – he is another great addition to the Department. Thank you, Chief for all of your hard work with the Department. I am looking forward to some new young blood there.

Matt Grieves – Nothing.

Joel Hagy – I just have one thing. We talked about this in the hallway, but if you could have SSEG put together a quick Cliff Notes on the 3 pieces of legislation that we have issues with – what they are trying to do, how it affects home rules, and whether it passed, or not. Mr. Hamilton answered that SSEG is already working on that. They have other legislation being added to it – there are a couple of new bills trying to restrict how much property tax can be charged – they are trying to restrict it to only 1.25% of the total value of the home. There are other things that will be on our list for when Representative Swearingen shows up. Mr. Hagy said he is just looking for a quick, Reader's Digest, version.

William Biddlecombe – Thanks, staff for all of your hard work. Welcome to Officer Demuth and Mr. Coles. Some home games coming up – Boys Soccer on September 6th; Girls Soccer on September 6th and 8th; Volleyball on August 28th; Girls Tennis on August 28th and September 3rd, 8th and 9th; Girls Golf on August 22nd and September 2nd; Boys Golf on August 27th; and Football's next home game is September 5th. Please come out and support our local events, programs, student athletes and GO TIGERS!

Executive Session

None.

Adjournment

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

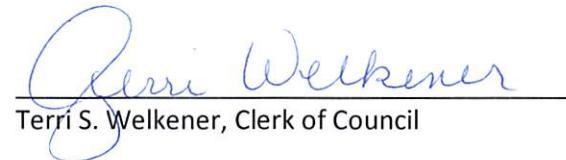
The Mayor asked if there were any questions on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

NAYS: **None (0)**

There being a majority in favor of the motion, the regular Council meeting of August 26, 2025, was adjourned at 7:28pm.

Adopted: 11-25-2025


Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council