

THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO
Proceedings of the Huron City Council
Work Session of Tuesday, September 23, 2025 at 5:30pm

Call to Order

The Mayor called the Huron City Council work session to order at 5:30pm.

Roll Call

The Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll for the meeting. The following members of Council answered present: **William Biddlecombe, Sam Artino, Mark Claus, Monty Tapp, Joe Dike, Matt Grieves and Joel Hagy.**

Old Business

None.

New Business

Council Consideration of the Hiring of a Fire Chief for the Huron Fire Department

City Manager Hamilton provided an overview of the process for hiring a new Fire Chief for the Huron Fire Department. He explained that the city has been operating without a traditional Fire Chief structure for some time, with three captains having stepped up to fill the void. These captains have done an excellent job and saved the city significant money, but they are now looking to move on to other careers.

Mr. Hamilton emphasized the critical importance of selecting the right Fire Chief, noting that a poor selection could cause damage that would take years to fix. He stated the city needs a "working chief" rather than an administrative "white shirt chief" - someone who remembers how to do the job on a daily basis and is hands-on with equipment and operations.

The City Manager outlined the proposed selection process, which would involve an advisory board to assist with interviews and candidate evaluation. The position is already budgeted for in the upcoming budget. The process would include:

- Developing and approving a job description
- Posting the position
- Having the advisory board review all resumes without pre-screening
- The advisory board conducting interviews and scoring candidates
- The advisory board recommending at least two candidates to the City Manager
- The City Manager making the final selection

For the advisory board, staff recommended the following individuals:

- Mayor Monty Tapp (ex-firefighter with experience)
- John Zimmerman (long-time firefighter with experience seeing chiefs come and go)
- Tim Lamb (respected in the community with management experience)

- Danny Antonelli (township/city lifer who's been involved with firefighters for many years through the dependent fund)
- Mario (Sandusky Fire Chief who would provide an independent professional perspective)

One of the current Fire Captains commented on the suggested advisory board, noting Denny Antonelli's experience on several fire department committees including the dependent fund. He also praised Mario, the Sandusky Fire Chief, as someone who came up through the ranks and would provide valuable input on what qualities to look for in a new chief.

Several council members expressed support for the proposed advisory committee and emphasized the importance of finding the right person for the position. Mayor Tapp commended the three Captains for their exceptional service, stating that no other department could have managed with just three captains as they had.

The Captains shared that one of their concerns was avoiding hiring a chief who might be a retiree just looking to live on the lake without being a true working chief. They stressed the importance of finding someone who could maintain connections with the firefighters, city hall, and the township.

Mr. Hamilton indicated the position would be posted widely through various channels including fire chief networks. While local candidates would be preferred, applications from further away would be considered if the candidates had strong reasons for coming to Huron. He clarified there is no residency requirement, as the State of Ohio had made such requirements unconstitutional, though out-of-state applicants would need to obtain Ohio certifications.

Regarding timing, Mr. Hamilton stated they would not set a specific closing date but would keep the position open until filled, reviewing applications on a rolling basis to avoid losing good candidates to other opportunities.

Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe to adjourn the work session.

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 a favor, the motion passed, and the work session was adjourned at 5:51pm.

09 DEC 2025

Adopted: _____


 Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council