

THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO
Proceedings of the Huron City Council
Regular Meeting Tuesday, September 9, 2025 at 6:30pm

Call to Order

The Mayor called to order the regular Council meeting of September 9, 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, Attorney Matt Waters (Acting Law Director), Police Chief Terry Graham, Parks & Recreation Director Doug Steinwart, Water Superintendent Jack Evans and Terri Welkener, Clerk of Council.

Presentation from State Representative DJ Swearingen

Mayor Tapp thanks Representative Swearingen for accepting Council's invitation to attend this Council meeting.

State Representative DJ Swearingen thanked council for the invitation to provide an update on activities in the General Assembly. He discussed the following key issues:

- The state budget passed in June with mixed results
- The upcoming capital budget season, encouraging the city to bring forward any capital project ideas
- Property tax issues, which remain a major concern across the state
- School funding concerns and the need for a systemic approach to education
- The status of various legislative initiatives affecting local governments
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During the question and answer session, Councilmember Hagy expressed concerns about home rule and state legislation that seems to override local control. He cited specific examples:

1. Municipal broadband restrictions
2. Senate Bill 56 regarding recreational marijuana tax revenue
3. House Bill 161 regarding short-term rentals
- 4.

Rep. Swearingen acknowledged these concerns and explained his position on each issue. He confirmed that he has advocated for local control, especially regarding short-term rental regulation, recognizing the unique needs of lakefront communities like Huron. He noted his efforts to ensure that municipalities retain marijuana tax revenue for their local services rather than seeing it redistributed to communities that opted out of allowing dispensaries.

Council members also discussed school funding issues, with Councilmember Dyke asking about state support for local school systems. Rep. Swearingen acknowledged disappointment with the lack of

progress on school funding reform in the recent budget. Councilmember Ortega raised concerns about private school vouchers and whether public funding for private schools included appropriate accountability measures.

The council thanked Representative Swearingen for his time and commitment to representing their community's interests in Columbus.

Presentation by Huron Public Library

Jennifer Buch, Director of the Huron Public Library for the past three years, provided an update on library activities and achievements:

- The summer learning program had strong participation with 315 children reading 3,999 hours/books, 25 teens reading 235 hours/books, and 50 adults reading 530 books
- Collaboration with Parks and Recreation for community events
- A new storybook trail opened in June at the BGSU Arboretum in partnership with the Rotary Club and BGSU Firelands
- The Huron Beacon podcast, which recently won the Innovation Award from the Ohio Library Council
- Melissa Harrington, head of youth services, served as grand marshal of the Riverfest parade
- Recent Battle of the Books tournament where Huron teams placed second and third
- Building improvements including a new HVAC system
- Plans for updating the adult and AV areas in the future

The Director emphasized the library's role as a community space, particularly noting how junior high students use the library as a safe place after school.

Audience Comments

None.

Old Business

Ordinance No. 2025-19 (third and final reading)

Mr. Dike recused himself and left the meeting at 7:10pm.

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 third and final reading.

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

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

RECUSE: **Dike (1)**
NAYS: **None (0)**

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

Mr. Hamilton explained that this was the third and final reading of an application received on May 19, 2025, from OJD Holdings LLC to rezone their property on River Road from I-2 (General Industrial District) to B-3 (General Business District). The ordinance had previously gone through a public hearing on August 12, 2025, and there had been no changes since the second reading.

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: **Artino, Claus, Tapp, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe (6)**
RECUSE: **Dike (1)**
NAYS: **None (0)**

There being a majority in favor, Ordinance No. 2025-19 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect in 30 days.

Mr. Dike returned to the meeting at 7:12pm.

New Business

Ordinance No. 2025-24 (first reading)

Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe that that Ordinance No. 2025-24 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 373 (BICYCLES AND MOTORCYCLES) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF HURON, OHIO TO ESTABLISH A NEW SECTION 373.12 (IMPOUNDING)) 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 a majority in favor, Ordinance No. 2025-24 was placed upon its first reading. The Acting Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Hamilton explained that this ordinance would implement an impounding option for e-bikes, scooters, and low-speed mobility devices when minors violate traffic rules. The ordinance would allow the police department to confiscate devices from minors under 18 who are caught speeding, being disrespectful on sidewalks, not stopping at stop signs, or violating other rules of the road.

The intent is to improve safety by giving police a tool to address repeat offenders, with parents required to collect the devices from the police department. This provides an opportunity for direct communication

with parents about their children's behavior. Mr. Hamilton also noted that the School Resource Officer is developing an education program to teach students proper rules of the road.

Councilmember Grieves commended staff for putting this together, noting that some kids' dangerous behavior would alarm their parents if they witnessed it. There was a brief discussion about multiple offenses and enforcement mechanisms.

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

Ordinance No. 2025-25

Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be waived and Ordinance No. 2025-25 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2024-58, ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 18, 2024, TO PROVIDE FOR SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE GENERAL FUND AND OTHER FUNDING SOURCES) 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, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Hagy (7)**
NAYS: **None (0)**

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2025-25 was placed upon its first reading. The Acting Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Phillips explained that this appropriation measure was for budgetary housekeeping related to a truck purchase for the parks department. Due to an issue with Wells Fargo, the transaction had to be processed twice, although the city was refunded for the duplicate charge. The ordinance increases the appropriation to account for this situation.

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

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

Resolution No. 59-2025

Motion by Mr. Dike that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 59-2025 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE QUOTE AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH GRIFFIN PAVEMENT STRIPING FOR CONSTRUCTION SERVICES RELATING TO REMOVAL OF BIKE LANE MARKINGS AND REPAINTING A NEW CONFIGURATION ON US 6 IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SIX THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED SIXTY-NINE AND 50/100 DOLLARS (\$126,869.50), PLUS A TEN PERCENT (10%) CONTINGENCY IN THE AMOUNT OF TWELVE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED EIGHTY-SIX AND 95/100 DOLLARS (\$12,686.95), FOR AN AGGREGATE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED ONE

HUNDRED THIRTY-NINE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY-SIX AND 45/100 DOLLARS (\$139,556.45)) 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 five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived, and Resolution No. 59-2025 was placed upon its first reading. The Acting Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Hamilton presented this resolution authorizing an agreement with Griffin Pavement Striping for improvements to the bike lanes along US 6. The project includes:

- Removing existing paint from bike lanes from Berlin Road to Williams
- Crack sealing the bike lanes
- Reconfiguring green paint with shorter, more targeted applications at intersections
- Using more durable paint for bike lane markings
- Installing high-visibility reflective paint across bridge decks

He noted that SealMaster from Sandusky is donating labor for the green painting and providing the green paint at cost, which represents a significant contribution to the project. The total cost is \$139,556.45, which includes a 10% contingency, plus approximately \$21,000 for the paint provided by Seal Master.

Council members discussed previous issues with poor application of paint and the need for proper oversight of the new project. Councilmember Martino also asked about contractor registration and bonding requirements, which Mr. Hamilton confirmed are in place.

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, Resolution No. 59-2025 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 60-2025

Motion by Mr. Grieves that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 60-2025 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE QUOTE AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH SMITH PAVING & EXCAVATING INC. FOR CONSTRUCTION SERVICES RELATING TO ASPHALT PAVEMENT REPAIRS TO BE COMPLETED ON MCKINLEY AVENUE IN THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO IN THE AMOUNT OF TWENTY-SIX THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND 50/100 DOLLARS (\$26,800.50)) 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. 60-2025 was placed upon its first reading. The Clerk read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Hamilton explained that this resolution would authorize Smith Paving to perform asphalt road repairs on McKinley Avenue, where the second half of the road has a foot-deep rut in the center and is essentially collapsing. The repairs involve digging out the road, repairing the base (which is "floating in sand"), and installing a 4-inch blacktop repair. The total cost is \$26,800.50.

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. 60-2025 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 61-2025

Motion by Mr. Dike that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 61-2025 (AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE PARTICIPATION IN THE SECONDARY MANUFACTURERS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS PURSUANT TO THE ONEOHIO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING 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 five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived, and Resolution No. 61-2025 was placed upon its first reading. The Acting Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Motion

Motion by Mr. Dike to place Resolution No. 61-2025 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: **Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp (7)**
NAYS: **None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion passed and Resolution No. 61-2025 was placed as an emergency measure.

Mr. Hamilton explained that this resolution allows the city to sign on to another settlement agreement with OneOhio related to opioid litigation. While there is no payment schedule yet and the amount the city might receive is unknown, he expected it would follow the same restrictions as previous agreements. The emergency clause was included to meet timing requirements.

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, Resolution No. 61-2025 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 Interim City Manager spoke on several topics:

1. The city still has an opening on the Utilities Committee.
2. Route 13 crosswalk installations are delayed due to ADA compliance issues and hardware availability but should be completed by year-end.
3. A joint Planning Commission and Council session on sign code updates is scheduled for Thursday at 5:00 PM.
4. The Sandusky Bay Pathways Steering Committee had its first meeting, working toward connecting over 100 miles of bike lanes across the region.
5. The petition for ownership of 513 Berlin Road was approved by Erie County Court.
6. The transient rental dock replacement project at the Boat Basin will replace and upgrade B and H piers (approximately 26 docks) using approximately \$500,000 in grant funding.
7. The clock tower is now fully functional on all four faces.
8. The fish sculpture at the boat ramp should be installed by the end of September.
9. The city will be transitioning back to having a full-time Fire Chief and will hold a work session before the next council meeting to discuss the hiring process.
10. Hydrant flushing is nearly complete for the year.
11. A cybersecurity assessment was conducted at the water plant in coordination with Ohio EPA.

12. Several street repair projects are underway or planned, including McKinley Avenue, Oakhurst Court, and Nickel Plate Drive.
13. Union negotiations have concluded with all three unions agreeing to the same terms: 3% wage increase in 2026, 3.25% in 2027, and new health care plan terms.
14. The city declined participation in a regional water and sewer study proposed by Erie County Commissioners due to lack of information but will attend a meeting with Sandusky and Erie County officials next week to continue discussions.

Mr. Biddlecombe asked about the possibility of adding a crosswalk at the termination of the walk bridge at Jim Campbell Blvd. This has been an issue for many years. He asked if something can be done before the US 6 Phase II project to create a safer crossing area there. Mr. Hamilton answered that they are aware of the need for a crossing at that location. These crossings are not inexpensive. They have tried over the years to add it on to other projects with no success. This would have to be a high visibility crossing because it is on the corner. The problem is that if they put a crossing in now and then they get funding for the multi-use pathway going down Jim Campbell, it would have to be torn out because ADA defines it must be designed differently. They are trying to find that balance. There is a great need there, they just must figure out how to not have to do it twice. Mr. Claus asked if they do only the striping and signage for now. Mr. Hamilton answered that to do any crossing, it must be ADA compliant. They would have to do everything the same other than the lights. He would not be comfortable putting in a crossing at that location without the lights. Mr. Biddlecombe asked to add the crossing to the next Safety Committee agenda. The Clerk noted the request.

Mayor's Discussion

Mayor Tapp said:

Mayor Tapp thanked Representative Swearingen and Library Director Buch for their presentations. He also expressed appreciation to SealMaster for their donation to the bike lane project and welcomed Michael Leonardi as a new water plant operator. He commended the fire department's three captains for their excellent service in lieu of a fire chief, noting they maintained high-quality service during this arrangement.

For the Good of the Order

Matt Grieves – Nothing for the good of the order.

Joel Hagy – Nothing for the good of the order.

Joe Dike – I want to commend everyone on their work, especially with Huron Township, on the sidewalk on the east side of town from Beachwood to Huron Green. I have seen a lot of people walking on that sidewalk over the last couple of weeks. It is awesome to see that.

Motion

Motion to move into executive session to discuss employee of an employee and to invite the Law Director Matt Waters.

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.

Mark Claus – I just want to say thank you to Representative Swearingen for coming and addressing Council. We appreciate him coming in, and also the Library Director. It's good to get an update and see what's going on with them.

Sam Artino – I echo Mr. Claus, that's all I have.

William Biddlecombe – Thanks, staff for your hard work. Thank you, Representative Swearingen and Ms. Buch for coming in. We have Boys Soccer on September 10th and 20th, Girls Soccer on September 11th, 18th and 20th, Volleyball on September 11, 18th and 20th, Girls Tennis on September 11th, 18th and 23rd, Girls Golf on September 10th, and Football – on Friday we are home against Ridgedale, and on September 19th we are aware at Tiffin-Columbian. Please come out and support our local events, programs, student athletes and GO TIGERS!

Executive Session

See above motion by Mr. Dike. Mayor Tapp stated that there may or may not be action following the executive session. Council moved into Executive Session at 8:02pm.

Return to Regular Session

Council returned to regular session at 8:23pm.

Adjournment

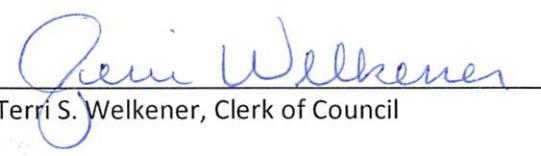
Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe to adjourn the regular meeting of Council.

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 September 9, 2025, was adjourned at 8:40pm.

Adopted: 09 DEC 2025


Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council