

THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO
Proceedings of the Huron City Council
Regular Meeting Tuesday, June 10, 2025 at 6:30pm

Call to Order

The Mayor called to order the regular Council meeting of June 10, 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 Jen Kilbury, Acting Clerk of Council.

Approval of Minutes

Motion

Motion by Mr. Dike to approve the minutes of the regular Council meeting of May 27, 2025, as written.

The Mayor asked if there were any questions on the motion. Mr. Biddlecombe stated that there is an error in the minutes for the City Manager's Discussion, the date for GSP meeting at BGSU Firelands is on June 11th, not April 11th. The Mayor stated that the vote will be for the minutes as corrected.

The Mayor asked if there were any further questions. 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 majority in favor, the minutes of the regular Council meeting of May 27, 2025 were approved, as written.

Presentation

Larry Fletcher of Shores & Islands Ohio spoke with Council regarding lodging tax revenue.

Mr. Fletcher said:

I will set the table a little bit, first, for those who may not know much about our organization or funding. We are the destination marketing organization for Erie and Ottawa Counties to promote the region as Shores & Islands Ohio. We are in our 19th year of promoting this 2-county region as Shores & Islands Ohio. We are administered by boards – boards of the Erie County Visitors and Convention Bureau and the Ottawa County Visitor's Bureau. Because of how we are funded, primarily through County lodging tax, those two Visitor's Bureau Boards still exist. Each of those boards keeps money back for County-specific

initiatives and then then sends an allocation to a third board, which is the Shores & Islands Ohio Board through our partnership with Ottawa County. I have a lot of bosses (35 board members that are within those 3 boards – some are on multiple boards). Lodging tax is how most all commissioned visitor's bureaus in Ohio are funded, and the amount of lodging tax is set at up to 3% for a county lodging tax, except for situations where some counties initiate legislation at the State to increase their tax. Erie County did this back in 2016. The county lodging tax that was at 2% was changed to 4%, with 1% toward the construction of the outdoor Sports Force Park facility, and through State legislation, another 1% was added for the indoor Sports Force facility. Both of those facilities are doing everything that they promised they would do in extending the season, driving overnight stays, and new businesses, restaurants and hotels. That process (back in 2016) involved the Erie County Visitors and Convention Bureau with the County coming to the Bureau and saying they would like to consider funding some major sports facilities. It was the Erie County Visitors Bureau (back in 2012) that funded a feasibility study to look at the benefits of this then growing trends of these sports facilities. This is the spirit of collaboration we always worked under with the Board of County Commissioners of Erie County, as with Ottawa County.

Over the past few years, it has been a little bit different with Erie County with some things happening and we don't know about them, and that's what this whole lodging tax amendment issues is about. Back in early April, we became aware of a proposed amendment to the State Budget Bill that would allow county commissions in certain counties that fit a definition of population of less than 100,000 and annual lodging tax receipts of over \$500,000, which applies to Erie, Ottawa, Tuscarawas, Athens, Hocking, and about 7 others. We found out this was an initiative that was put into place by the Erie County Commissioners working the County Treasurer and a legislative firm they hired to assist them to get this language into the State Budget. It did not get into the House version of the budget, but when it moved over to the Senate side, Senator Gavarone (who I truly believe didn't really understand the implications of this) went ahead and inserted that language into the Senate version of the Budget Bill. At that time, that language read that a county with a population below 100,000 and total lodging tax receipts over \$500,000 to redirect up to 2/3 of the revenue its general lodging from the County Convention and Visitors Bureau to public safety services, economic development and public infrastructure improvements in an area of the County impacted by tourism. We have not been consulted about this, and found out about it through our legislative folks at the Ohio CDV, the Hotel Association and some of the legislative firms working for some of our local attractions. That's not 2/3 of the 4%, but it is 2/3 of the 2% that comes to us. In our case, that is about \$4,000,000 – that is what we receive for our budget. We would lose 2/3 of \$4,000,000 and that would dramatically change our ability to promote the region. In some cases, other counties that are just above that \$500,000 threshold, it would put them out of business. We are not aware of any other commissioners that are in those impacted counties would engage this, but it is still very concerning.

Once we found out about this, there was an effort to make sure the business community in the region knew about it, and we wanted to reach out of our state legislator and our local elected officials. There is a lot more backstory to this, but the summary version is that a letter was generated and that mentioned the economic impact of our organization back to the region and it mentioned a lot of hard data on how we operated and how we budget \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000 from the budget to go back to the communities that we serve in the form of destination development grants and other grants. It talked about how, based on research, annual direct visitor spending in Erie County is \$1.6 billion/year, so our lodging tax allocation to help drive \$1.6 billion of impact is 0.25% of that amount. While we can't take credit for all \$1.6 billion, but the fact of the matter is that's a very small percentage for a very big return. It all has to do with just how much tourism we have in this county. There was data provided by our friends

at the Greater Sandusky Partnership where they looked back at the City of Sandusky and how much more money must operate with through some of the admission taxes, which is driven by tourism. We have data on municipal collections. Huron has a municipal lodging tax collection, as do most municipalities in the 2-county region. I would submit that those collections benefit from our marketing efforts because it drives visitation – more people in your lodging and more dollars into your coffers. In 2024, the City of Huron collected about \$173,000 of municipal collections, and Huron Township collected \$2.3 million (primarily due to Kalahari). The CEO of Kalahari, Todd Nelson, was one of the people who signed our letter that included all of these facts and figures. The CEO of Six Flags, Rick Zimmerman, signed our letter because even though Cedar Point probably doesn't really need us (they have their own marketing budget and have their own ad agency), they see the value in how we can add and supplement their efforts. They also see the value of the regional partnership that we have created. Several of our hoteliers from around the region and small business owners also signed our letter because our work touches all parts of the region. Most of the small businesses in this 2-county region do not have their own marketing budgets, don't have ad agencies, etc. We are that ad agency; we are the marketing firm for all of the small businesses. That's the other reason why we have more than 1,091 signatures on a petition that lays out some of the facts and figures about this. These are people from throughout this region. There were dozens, if not hundreds, of calls made to Senator Gavarone's office and Representative Swearingen, the House Speaker's office, the President of the Senate's office, and to other legislators, as well to our County Commissioners and the County Treasurer, letting them know that they aren't happy with the way things are playing out.

We think the message was heard, and the language was changed. Over this past week, it has gone through several iterations. As it reads now, the 2/3 has been removed – Senator Gavarone pulled that language out. It still authorizes additional purposes for which a Convention and Visitors Bureau in a county with a population of less than 100,000 having \$500,000 or more in lodging tax collections may spend to fund public safety services, economic development projects or infrastructure projects that impact tourism. It would still put those three uses of lodging tax into the Ohio Revised Code, but it does take out that "up to 2/3." We still think this is potentially challenging because, if this passes as it is currently stated, while better than the 2/3 option, it still opens a door for the County to come to us and request money for these other things without any barriers to that. It could set us up for being that organization that says no all the time, or sometimes, because we want to make sure we preserve dollars for our other programs. Also, on a statewide level, the bigger bureaus are in opposition to this because of the slippery that it could create in opening the door for alternate uses of lodging tax funds. We are still watching this and would prefer that the language comes out completely. What we would really like is to have that spirit of transparency in having our County Commissioners and people who represent the municipalities in our region come and talk to us about other uses for the lodging tax funds that might make sense for them, while allowing us to continue operating with our grant programs and such that help benefit the community.

There was an article in the paper over the weekend. There was an article that included our statement and my quote. Some of the things that Commissioners contend in their article don't have the context that really paints the whole picture. I have that context for any questions that come. At some point in time, we would likely have another statement we will put in the paper that will paint the rest of the story behind some of these things. All we are asking is to go back to a system of transparency and honest conversation about how we can work together to continue driving the tourism economy. For this Council, my request tonight would be that you consider supporting our efforts through a letter to our Commissioner, the Treasurer, Senator Gavarone, Representative Swearingen, Representative Dieter (who has a little portion

of Vermilion) and President McCauley and House Speaker Huffman, who are both instrumental these discussions continue and eventually come before the Governor.

Mr. Dike asked about the Erie County Commissioners started this a number of years ago. How did that happen and was it all three of them... or was it 1 individual that spearheaded that? Mr. Fletcher answered that he is not sure how far back they were thinking about this, but they became aware of it in early April of this year, when they learned that they were seeking somebody on the House side that would introduce this. When that didn't happen, they then went to Senator Gavarone. Mr. Dike asked if Sen. Gavarone and Rep. Swearingen had been invited to a Council meeting. Mr. Hamilton answered that they did send a letter, but Sen. Gavarone said she was busy for this meeting and asked if there were any other meetings she could attend. Rep. Swearingen let us know today that he was busy and he asked for other meeting dates. Mr. Dike asked if there is an estimated timeframe in which this will be voted on. Mr. Fletcher answered that there is somewhat of a deadline this Friday because some of these things could move out of the Senate's discussions to the next step at the end of this week. By the end of next week, this will move out of Joint House/Senate Conference Committee and then move into the chambers for their votes and approval and then move on to the Governor. By statute, it is supposed to be ready to roll by the end of July. This is an amendment to the budget language, so it is several sentences dropped into a 6,000-page document. Mr. Dike said he is just a simple council member that has been here since 2015, but he has never had the pleasure of meeting any of our County Commissioners. He is not going to stand behind him in this, but he does appreciate Mr. Fletcher coming here and sees the value in what they are doing. He appreciates that and will be in support of their efforts.

Mayor Tapp thanked Mr. Fletcher for coming and asked if the new wording would require the County Commissioners to come to them to request that money. Mr. Fletcher answered, that is right. The original language would have diverted the funds before they even saw it (the 2/3). The way it has been modified, the money comes to them just as it always has, but it can be used for other things. Monty Tapp asked if they can say no. Mr. Fletcher answered that the way the process works now... they have their Destination Development Grant Program, part of which included a grant received by the City for the fish cleaning station. That went through a process with the grant committee. Those are grants, up to \$50,000. For example, the County Commissioners came to them a couple of years ago and asked if they would consider supporting the Sandusky State Theater - we are looking forward to the doors getting open there. They did evaluate that through a capital improvement grant program they have because it was a request for more than \$50,000 (ended up being \$250,000), and our board did end up supporting that effort. The theater is an important regional asset. That board is made up of individuals who represent large and small businesses from across the region. That is the way it has always worked. What could happen with the current language is there could be more requests than they would be able to budget money to satisfy all of that. The language sets the stage for a lot of discussion.

Mayor Tapp said that he understands that the Commissioners want to change the rules and regulations. There is another entity that would be affected, namely GSP. Are they trying to do something, too? Mr. Fletcher answered that GSP is working closely with them on this. He has a seat on the GSP Board and Eric Wobser is on their board, going back to when GSP was still over ECEDC (he was on the ECEDC Board). They work collaboratively with GSP and are getting ready to launch a Live and Work campaign. They are going to promoting more of not just the visit, but an outstanding place to live and work in. There is nothing on the table now in terms of blending our two organizations any more than collaboration.

Mr. Artino asked what percentage of bed tax Shores & Islands Ohio receives. Mr. Fletcher answered 50% (2% of the 4% collected). Mr. Artino asked how the City of Huron benefits. Mr. Fletcher answered that through the municipal lodging tax Huron has in place, in 2024 it was \$173,000. The other parts of the lodging tax code say that if a municipality does not have their own lodging tax in place, they can get a portion of the county's lodging tax that comes in from the lodging in their municipalities. In Huron's case, where they have their own lodging tax, that doesn't apply. Their operations manager was looking at this earlier today and since short-term rentals came on the scene, those numbers in Huron has gone up significantly. Their organization, after conferring with all of the municipalities, opposes S.B. 109 and H.B. 104 because these bills would regulate the City's ability to regulate short-term rentals. They think that should be up to the City, not the State.

Mr. Biddlecombe mentioned another benefit related to River Fest. After Covid, when inflation started hitting, it became more expensive just to run the festival, and they have been given Shores & Islands Ohio grants the last few years so they wouldn't have to cut back on things like fireworks. Those fireworks are the big draw to bring people to Huron to spend their money. We appreciate that.

Mayor Tapp said he has the letters in front of him, and will let Mr. Fletcher know if they decide to go ahead and sign them. The letters would be sent to Senator Gavarone, Representative Swearinger, Congresswoman Kaptur, President McCauley, Speaker Huffman and Representative Dieter.

Motion

Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe to authorize execution and delivery of the letters to the individuals name above, as well as to the Erie County Commissioners.

Mayor Tapp then read one of the letters into the record. A copy of one of the letters is attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and made a part hereof.

Mr. Artino said he doesn't have a problem with some of this tourist money being used for safety, economic development or infrastructure, but let us make that decision. He can't see where the City should be giving up any more than what we are getting now, and that's in essence what we would be doing.

Mr. Hagy asked if they could add language that speaks to home rule. Maybe the reason they didn't take up our invitation is because they are making all of the decisions for cities anyway – they don't need to come here. Along those lines, could we add language that we see this as an infringement on our home rule. Mr. Schrader said the letter could be amended to reference that we seek to protect and our deserve our home rule rights under the Ohio Constitution and under our City Charter. We would need an amendment to the motion on the table to do so to accomplish that.

Motion

Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe to amend his motion to add language regarding protection of home rule rights to the letter.

Mr. Fletcher said he is fine with adding that language. He did want to clarify to Mr. Artino that the municipal lodging tax collections would not be impacted other than not having the marketing value and other benefits the City receives from Shores & Islands Ohio. Mr. Artino reminded everyone that 2 years ago Shores & Islands paid for repainting the water tower, which was about \$175,000. Mr. Fletcher said

that the “bobber” still stands as one of the best investments they have ever made, because that billboard in the sky is a really nice welcome to people coming from that direction.

Mr. Hamilton added that the amendment to the letter needs to happen quickly, as the letters have to be in by Thursday at the latest.

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

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

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and Mayor Tapp was authorized to sign the opposition letters.

Mr. Fletcher said that GSP is hosting an event with Shores & Islands Ohio on June 23rd at Islander Pavilion at the Jackson Street Pier. It will be a community forum to take about these issues. We have invited our Commissioners and legislators, and they want the community to know about it and be there to learn more. It's at 5:30pm with the program beginning at 6pm. Mr. Claus mentions that they had received invitations.

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.

Christine Crawford – 718 Taylor Ave. – Mr. Mayor and members of Council and staff, Larry kind of stole my thunder. I was going to be up here and bang on the podium... just to follow up with the email I sent to all of you last week. First of all, thank you so much for those of you who have responded. I greatly appreciate your time. Having sat on your side of the bench, I know there is a lot going on. Thank you for recognizing what Shores & Islands Ohio does for your small businesses and for the region as a whole. When you leave here this evening, if you are heading south, if you look at the mural at the end of our building, that is a collaboration as were beneficiaries of a Destination Development Grant. The Pied Piper mural also happened as a result of one of those grants. We have been able to bring some public art to the City. Shores & Islands Ohio is a sponsor of the Grow Huron planters again this year. Not all of them are huge, giant or billboard-scale investments in your community, but they are small detailed touches that benefit our residents as well as our visitors and tourists. You are looking at a couple that fell in love so much with this community that we moved. We started off as boaters and tourists, and as residents we now have businesses here and own property here, and have served on City Council here. Thank you for embracing what Shores & Islands Ohio does and recognizing the benefits they are bringing not only to tourists and businesses, but to us as residents and the people have planted here. You have my greatest appreciation. Thank you.

Old Business**Ordinance No. 2025-12 (third and final reading)**

Motion by Mr. Artino 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); AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY) 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, Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe (7)

NAYS: None (0)

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

Motion

Motion by Mr. Artino to place Ordinance No. 2025-12 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 to place the Ordinance as an emergency measure. Members of Council voted as follows:

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

NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2025-12 was placed as an emergency measure.

Mr. Hamilton stated that in February of this year, the City 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. This process went through the Planning Commission, a Public Hearing in March, a Public Hearing in May, and this is the final step in that rezoning, should Council adopt this legislation tonight. The Zoning Map will be changed to reflect that change from I-2 to R-1.

The Mayor asked if there were any 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, Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe (7)

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and Resolution No. 2025-12 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

New Business**Resolution No. 43-2025**

Motion by Mr. Grieves that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution 43-2025 (A RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE CITY MANAGER'S APPLICATION FOR, AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGERS ACCEPTANCE AND ENTERING INTO, A WATER SUPPLY REVOLVING LOAN ACCOUNT (WSRLA) AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF HURON FOR PLANNING, DESIGN AND/OR CONSTRUCTION OF WATER FACILITIES RELATED TO THE 2.0 MG ELEVATED WATER TANK PROJECT; AND DESIGNATING A DEDICATED REPAYMENT SOURCE FOR THE LOAN) 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. 43-2025 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Evans said that he would be speaking on both Resolutions 43-2025 and 44-2025, as they are very similar. The City is seeking ratification for a loan from the Water Supply Revolving Loan Account through the Ohio EPA Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance in the amount of \$5,227,430. This loan will fund the remaining balance of construction of the new 2M-gallon water tower. The engineer's estimate for this project totaled approximately \$10.2 million, \$5 million of which is covered by the grant the City received. While this number seems to be high, there is a 20% contingency included in the loan amount (about \$1.6 million). It is their intention not to use that contingency. Any contingency fund use would have to be approved through change orders authorized by Council. In addition, there is a loan fee of 1.3%. The City will only be responsible for paying for the portion of the loan used. If they only draw \$3 million, that is what they would repay. The amount requested is higher, but it is there if they need it. The loan term will be 30 years and they expect to learn the interest rate, which is expected to be 0% or low interest. They do qualify for certain reductions, such as being a small community under 10,000 people.

Resolution 44-2025 also seeks ratification for a loan from WSRLA in the amount of \$3,939,353 relating to the Alternate Intake Project. Along the same lines of Resolution 43-2025, there is a contingency included in the loan, and the City will only be responsible for repaying what is drawn on the loan. The terms are the same. They also had a grant/loan combination from the Ohio Public Works Commission in the amount of \$412,000, which funds will be exhausted before any draws are made on the loan proceeds.

Mayor Tapp said Mr. Claus brought up a point, but he is not sure if it matters. The first application includes Matt Lasko and his email address in multiple places. Mr. Hamilton answered that these are ratifications, so these applications were submitted a while ago. They do have the updated information for contact. Mr. Evans explained that this process starts as a nomination, which happened some time ago, and they recently found out that this process is moving forward. That is why they are submitting the applications at this point. Mr. Hamilton added that these zero or low interest loans are the things that keep our projects

going. If we didn't get these loans, we wouldn't doing half of the projects that we get. If we were pulling down 5-6% loans, we wouldn't be able to do any projects. These are our lifeblood and appreciate their support on these things.

Mr. Hagy asked about the \$10 million in debt being created by taking out these loans for the Water Department alone. Has anyone run that out to make sure we are fine on the debt service. Mr. Hamilton answered that these repayments were already included in the budget, as they knew these projects would start this year. When they calculate these through the budgets, they put them through at 5% so any reduction in that rate will save money. This is already in the long-term capital budget. Mr. Hagy asked is a big expensive emergency and they need to go to that well again, does it prohibit them from doing that? Mr. Hamilton answered, no. When you are going through the EPA, it is not like the City debt limits where they look at the ratios and the millage, etc. They look at the merits of the project and your ability to repay the amount of money – that's all they look at. They look at our rate structure for our water and the overall finances. We just completed an audit last week, and they look at this constantly. They won't give us money if they don't think we can repay it.

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. 43-2025 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 44-2025

Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution 44-2025 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, AND ENTER INTO A WATER SUPPLY REVOLVING LOAN ACCOUNT (WSRLA) AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF HURON FOR PLANNING, DESIGN AND/OR CONSTRUCTION OF WATER FACILITIES RELATED TO THE HURON RIVER ALTERNATE INTAKE AND SLUDGE LAGOON PROJECT; AND DESIGNATING A DEDICATED REPAYMENT SOURCE FOR THE LOAN) be placed on its first reading.

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

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

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived, and Resolution No. 44-2025 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: Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves (7)

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 44-2025 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:

Infrastructure, Streets and Utilities – Our RFQ for the Cleveland Road E Sidewalk Project and the SR 13 Pedestrian Crosswalks closed last week, and we had a single respondent. Fortunately, it was a good respondent, so we are now negotiating prices for their services. Once the prices have been negotiated, those two projects can get started. We still intend to complete those projects, or at least starting them, in the summer, with completion in the fall.

Sawmill Parkway Reconstruction – We finally managed to close that project down with EDA. After an audit and running through a year's worth of back and forth, we finally got our last \$107,000 disbursement from that project. As always for projects like this, we can't do it without our funding partners, so we appreciate their support.

Route 6 Phase II – The Phase II Plan was submitted to ODOT for review and sent back comments. We met, answered their comments, and they have been returned to ODOT. We are awaiting approval from ODOT on those.

Electric Trail Project – We received a \$533,000 grant for the Electric Trail Project. We haven't really talked about this project – this is more of a conceptual project. We took a chance in applying for this grant. The project would create a multi-use path from the Lake Erie Electric Trail and connect it to the yet-to-be-built multi-pathway for the US 6 Connectivity Corridor. That would connect us downtown all the way up to BGSU and all the way through to Sandusky and beyond. As we plan this out, we will keep going after more grant money and will get as much funding for this as possible.

ConAgra Development – The next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for June 10th and we intend to have all of the rest of the plans for approval at that meeting. Hopefully, we will be able to get through that meeting and hopefully start soon.

Parks & Recreation – Safety Town is back. This is a 2-week program held at Woodlands School Mon-Wed on June 16-28 and June 23-25. There are still a couple of spots open for this program, so please go sign up. Registrations are open online on the City's website.

Huron Lake Front Market – The Huron Lake Front Market was last Saturday. It was a great success and we had a lot of good feedback. Thanks to everyone who helped to make that a success. Hopefully, it will keep growing each year.

Huron Farmer's Market – The Huron Farmer's Market is back. It will be running every Thursday (should be **Tuesday** – added by Clerk) from 4-7pm through October 2nd. Please come out and support our local vendors.

Safety Services – The Police Department participated in a Tobacco Use & Prevention Grant from the Ohio Department of Health, which aims to use tobacco use through prevention and by conducting tobacco checks. Compliance checks were conducted throughout the City and there are no violations, which is good to hear.

Flock License Plate Readers – The first of our new set of 3 readers went up earlier this year. The additional 2 will be installed within the next week. That makes a total of 8 readers throughout the City. These cameras are a great help to our Police Department with the solvability rate of hit-skips and carrying out investigations. Our Department relies on these cameras, as do other departments in the area. This has turned out to be a very good investment.

K-9 Fundraiser at Pied Piper – The fundraiser was held on June 5th and it was another great event. There were a lot of people out there to support Jax, so thank you to everyone who attended and thanks to all of the officers who made that a fun event.

Ambulance Out of Service – We have been running with an ambulance down due to some body work in the Fire Department. We are hoping to have that ambulance back in service this week, all shiny and new with no dents.

Finance – Income tax through the end of May was still running 8% higher than this time last year. Our total collections through the end of May were approximately \$1.9 million.

West Side Water Tower Project – We are starting to firm up the timeline for this project. We are expecting that contract to be finished by May 31, 2026, which sounds like a really quick project. As some people like to simplify projects, it is just putting something on a site and putting a pipe to it. It should be pretty easy.

Streets Department – Curb painting has started in Chaska, and the guys are going to be heading west into Old Homestead and keep moving through the town. This includes stop bars and yellow paint on curbs to freshen up.

Huron Public Power – We were really excited to get our third transformer delivered this month, but it's not going to happen. We were having compaction issues, so we couldn't pour the pad and set the pad for the transformer. AMP-T, who owns the substation, is working through those issues trying to get the water off the site. Once they have rectified that issue, we will reschedule the transformer delivery and get it installed.

HPP Expansion – The expansion of HPP under the railroad tracks is pretty much done. There is some site restoration work still to do. We completed all of the final connections and electrical testing, so we are ready to start serving customers on Sawmill Parkway.

Personnel – Our new Finance Director, Isaac Phillips, was appointed at the last Council meeting. His intended start date will be June 30th. We are excited to welcome our new Finance Director and we are just in time for budget season – he will be super excited.

Fire Department – The Fire Department conducted interviews today for their open position. They will select the top couple of candidates and will put them through testing. We will keep Council informed on that situation.

Agreements – The Huron 5-K Series is back. They made a request to hang two 4x8 banners on the pedestrian walk bridge from June 12th through November 28th. I signed and approved that on June 3, 2025.

State of the Community – The State of the Community to tomorrow night. If you want to go, you must sign up on the Greater Sandusky Partnership event page, because you need to sign up to get the free event admission.

Upcoming Meetings – Planning Commission on Wednesday, June 18th at 5pm in Council Chambers; City Council Meeting on Tuesday, June 24th at 6:30pm in Council Chambers. Looking ahead, the City offices will be closed on Thursday, June 19th for Juneteenth. We will make sure it is put on social media, on the doors, etc.

Mayor Tapp said he spoke with Chief Graham and Mr. Hamilton about electric bikes, which was brought up by Mr. Dike in the past. He received some phone calls last week, as well. There is a meeting scheduled among the Chief, Mr. Hamilton and our Law Director. We will look at the safety issues and what can and should be done with electric bikes to make things safer for the community.

Mayor's Discussion

Mayor Tapp said:

I want to thank Mr. Fletcher for giving his presentation, and I hope we get things worked out. I know you do a lot for small businesses, and I have spoken to a couple (and Ms. Crawford). I am still learning how much your organization does – I think it is a great asset and those letters will go out soon. We do support you.

Thank you, Mrs. Crawford, for showing up and giving us your insight on Shores & Islands and how they have helped the small businesses and community.

I will hit the Electric Trail again – keep that in the back of your mind.

I want to give our condolences to the Majoy family. Tike Majoy passed away last week at the age of 93. He has been around forever and was a big deal behind the stadium – he was behind all of that and got that started. He was on the School Board as a builder. Again, condolences to the family of Tike Majoy.

For the Good of the Order

Sam Artino – My condolences to the Majoy family, as well. I would just like to say that if a government organization is interested in making some major changes to things like bed tax dollars and that kind of thing, I would like to think that they would include the organizations that are impacted by those decisions. Mr. Fletcher, I can tell you that if some of that money was coming directly to us, I might vote a different way. We should be part of those discussions.

Mark Claus – Happy Birthday to Mayor Tapp. Thank you, Mr. Fletcher, for coming, as well as Mrs. Crawford. We really appreciate the input and getting information firsthand to be able to have some dialogue and ask some questions. It was very helpful for us to be as informed as possible. We appreciate

that. Also, my condolences to the Majoy family. As everyone has said, he was a pillar of the community for a long time.

Joe Dike – My first comment is if we can't figure out something with the e-bikes and trying to regulate them... because I have seen kids just fly right on through a red light many times without any regard to any other types of cars or moving vehicles. If we can't come to anything, then I think we need to eliminate all of the rules for the golf carts because they should be able to move throughout the City. Those e-bikes are more dangerous than golf carts. I would also like to give my condolences to the Tike Majoy family. I am very sorry for your loss. He is an individual that will be missed in the community of Huron. Also, thank you to Mr. Fletcher of Shores & Islands Ohio for coming this evening and sharing more in-depth information about what is going on. Again, I hope everything works out in your favor for the benefit of us, the community and the little guys. Secondly, I think we should sing Happy Birthday to Mayor Tapp.

Matt Grieves – Happy Birthday to Mayor Tapp.

Joel Hagy – I would like to extend my condolences to the Majoy family, as well. I remember growing up as a kid when he was a Councilman/public servant, especially with the football team, the Boosters, and all the stuff he did for the City. He was just a quiet volunteer and he will be missed.

William Biddlecombe – Thank you, staff, for your hard work. My condolences to the Majoy family, as well, I would like to congratulate the Boys Track Team on their State title for the second year in a row. Boat Basin events coming up: Wexford this Saturday, June 14th at 7pm, Swanson Jersey on June 21st at 7pm. Happy Birthday, Mr. Mayor. 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, Dike, Grieves, Hagy (7)

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor of the motion, the regular Council meeting of June 10, 2025, was adjourned at 7:29pm.


Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council

Adopted: 08 JUL 2025



Huron Municipal Building
417 Main Street | Huron, Ohio 44839
Ph: 419/433-5000 | Fx: 419/433-5120
www.cityofhuron.org

Dear Congresswoman Kaptur,

We are writing to express concern about proposed legislation that could allow for the redirection of lodging tax revenue currently used to support local tourism efforts.

Our region's success is the result of decades of strategic investment in tourism promotion through organizations like Shores & Islands Ohio. This work drives millions of visitors to our communities, creating jobs, supporting small businesses, and generating significant tax revenue.

The proposed legislative changes threaten the collaborative framework that has made our local destinations thrive. These changes appear to be moving forward without consultation with the businesses, organizations, and local governments whose work drives the success of the region's visitor economy.

Over the years, sustained investments in destination marketing and strategic partnerships have drawn millions of visitors to the Lake Erie shores and islands, generating revenue that supports small businesses, creates jobs, and enhances local services. Altering the distribution of tourism revenue without a transparent, collaborative process risks undermining that progress.

We urge lawmakers to protect the structure that has helped our region thrive and to engage in open dialogue with the businesses, organizations and communities most impacted by these decisions. Shores & Islands Ohio is a trusted partner, and its continued strength is vital to our future.

Finally, the City of Huron intends to defend its home rule rights from any erosion, regardless of source.

Sincerely,

Monty Tapp

Mayor

City of Huron

6/11 @ 10:00 am