

**THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO**  
**Proceedings of the Huron City Council**  
**Regular Meeting Tuesday, June 24, 2025 at 6:30pm**

**Call to Order**

The Mayor called to order the regular Council meeting of June 24, 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, and Matt Grieves**. Council members absent: **Joe Dike and Joel Hagy**.

**Motion**

**Motion by Mr. Claus that Mr. Dike and Mr. Hagy's absences from the meeting be excused.**

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, Biddlecombe, Artino (5)**

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and Mr. Dike's and Mr. Hagy's absences were excused.

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

**Approval of Minutes**

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.

**Mike Riggle – 224 Williams St., Apt. K** – I noticed a section of sidewalk was torn up a month ago on the north side of South St. between Williams and Center but hasn't yet been replaced.

Mayor Tapp said that the Zoning Department will check on that.

Mr. Claus commented that the sidewalk has been completed at 805 Main St. and Cleveland Rd. owned by the City. Mr. Hamilton confirmed that it has been completed, and the delay was due to weather.

**Old Business**

None.

**New Business****Resolution No. 45-2025**

**Motion by Mr. Artino that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution 45-2025 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH DLZ OHIO INC. FOR PROFESSIONAL CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION, MANAGEMENT, ADMINISTRATION AND MATERIALS TESTING SERVICES RELATING TO THE CLEVELAND ROAD EAST SIDEWALK EXTENSION PROJECT (ERI-6-18.88 SIDEWALK, PID 117240) IN THE AMOUNT OF EIGHTY THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED TWELVE AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$80,412.00)) 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: Artino, Claus, Tapp, Grievess, Biddlecombe (5)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived, and Resolution No. 45-2025 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Hamilton stated that this is for construction administration and inspection for the Cleveland Rd. E. sidewalk project. This is the last piece to slide into place so that we can get this project scheduled. We put the RFQ out for this project and also for the pedestrian crossings on Route 13. While DLZ was the only respondent, we still went through and scored them and checked references and found that that come highly recommended. The total would be \$80,412. I would like to remind Council that this project is fully funded with grant funding. We are excited about that.

Mayor Tapp said once this is approved, do we have any idea when the contractor might start work? Mr. Hamilton answered that the date will be determined by the inspection and construction teams. It will be, at the latest, later this summer. The project will probably run for 2 months. It will definitely be done and completed by fall.

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, Grievess, Biddlecombe (5)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 45-2025 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

**Resolution No. 46-2025**

**Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution 46-2025 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO WITH HURON TOWNSHIP, OHIO RELATING TO SCOTT CEMETERY (fka SCOTT UNION CEMETERY) LOCATED IN MILAN TOWNSHIP, OHIO, COMPRISED OF ERIE COUNTY, OHIO PERMANENT PARCEL NUMBERS 50-00367.001,**

**50-63013.000, 50-63012.000, 50-63014.000 AND 50-63015.000, EFFECTIVE JULY 15, 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: Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp, Grieves (5)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived, and Resolution No. 46-2025 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Hamilton reminded everyone that Scott Cemetery is run by the Scott Cemetery Board. It is owned by the City, managed by the Township, and located in Milan Township. It could not get more confusing. The Township approached the City to ask if things could be simplified by disbanding the cemetery board and leaving the Township fully controlling the day-to-day operations of the cemetery, and the City would retain ownership of the cemetery. Staff does not see a problem with that, as it would simplify things and save on audit costs, etc. There are a lot of other nuances that will enter this. We came up with the idea of disbanding the cemetery board and doing a Master Services Agreement for the Township to fully run and maintain the cemetery. The agreement is written in a way that fully defines the Township's roles and responsibility, all the while protecting the City. They would document the closing fund balance for the cemetery in the agreement. If in the future the Township decides they don't want to run it anymore, that amount of money will come back to the City, with interest. If it's 10 years down the line, the City would receive 10 years' interest. The cemetery would be fully maintained at the cost of the Township. That includes capital costs. There are capital costs coming in the cemetery for mausoleums, for expanding the burial sites, putting in roads and maintaining the roads. This removes the City's responsibility for having to pay those capital costs along with the Township. The agreement would be for a minimum of 5 years. There would be no expiration date on this agreement, but what we don't want to do is enter into an agreement and then have it not work after a year and revert back to where we were. The Township would be committed to do this for at least 5 years, but in perpetuity for all intents and purposes, unless the City decides they are not doing it properly or the Township decides that it is really not worth them doing it anymore. The City's residents will always be guaranteed the same rates as the Township residents. That's one of the most important things for us. This is City property, so whatever the Township residents get charged, the City's residents will also be charged. There is no cost to the City for this agreement; it actually relieves the City of audit costs, etc. They will still have oversight of the cemetery and the Township will report back to them twice a year on how it is operating. The Township will take full control of all operating costs and maintenance of the cemetery.

Mr. Claus wanted to clarify that the City has oversight or the ability to audit whatever they want twice a year. Mr. Hamilton answered that the Township will not maintain the same cemetery fund as it stands right now. They will roll that into their main cemetery operating fund. They will report back to the City twice a year on how it is running.

Mayor Tapp said Mr. Zimmerman had told him that the date was changed. Mr. Hamilton added that the Cemetery Board will meet after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, as was confirmed by Mr. Biddlecombe. Mr. Biddlecombe

further explained that is the reason why the effective date of the agreement is not July 1<sup>st</sup>, because the Cemetery Board must be disbanded prior to the agreement taking effect.

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 (5)  
**NAYS:** None (0)

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 46-2025 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

#### **Motion**

**Motion by Mr. Artino to set a Public Hearing for August 12, 2025, at 6:30pm, immediately preceding the regular Council meeting, on the Rezoning Application of OJD Holdings LLC to rezone vacant property located on River Road (Erie County, Ohio Permanent Parcel Nos. 42-01720.000, 42-01720.001 and 42-01719.000) from its current I-2 General Industrial District to B-3 General Business District.**

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, Biddlecombe (5)  
**NAYS:** None (0)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and a Public Hearing was set for August 12, 2025, at 6:30pm.

#### **Motion**

**Motion by Mr. Artino to set a Public Hearing for August 12, 2025, at 6:30pm, immediately preceding the regular Council meeting, pursuant to Section 1139.06 relating to the general development concept plan for the former ConAgra parcel (PPN: 42-61270.001).**

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, Biddlecombe (5)  
**NAYS:** None (0)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and a Public Hearing was set for August 12, 2025, at 6:30pm.

#### **City Manager's Discussion**

The Interim City Manager spoke on several topics:

ConAgra Development – A Public Hearing was held on June 18, 2025, before the Planning Commission to review landscaping, lighting, green space and elevations. The recommendation was to approve these plans via the Planning Commission and pass it on to Council. The Public Hearing set tonight for August 12, 2025, will take place and then Council will then get to vote on that plan.

OJD Holdings LLC – The rezoning for OJD Holdings LLC for the River Rd. property from I-2 to B-3 had a public hearing at the Planning Commission meeting held on June 18, 2025. The Planning Commission passed that one on to Council, also, that the second Public Hearing was set for August 12, 2025, at 6:30pm.

River Fest – It's River Fest time again. This multi-day event features a lively mix of family-friendly activities, a parade, live music, food vendors, carnival rides, craft booths and a fireworks display on the river. This tradition has spanned decades. River Fest brings residents, both current and past, together for the vibrant celebration of local culture, entertainment and small-town charm. SAVE THE DATE for Friday, July 11<sup>th</sup> from 5:30pm to fireworks at 10:15pm, and on Saturday on July 12<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am (River Run 5K Relay, and Fun Run) to 10:00pm. The Huron Lions Club River Fest parade will take place on Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am, so please come out and support all our local vendors and have some fun.

Safety Services – The Police Department hired Officer Logan Demuth as a full-time police officer starting on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Officer Demuth has 7 years of experience as a full-time police officer, replacing Ian Foos who resigned in September 2024.

The Police Department also hired Cadet Jacob Eck as a full-time employee starting June 23, 2025. Jacob is expected to graduate from the academy on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Cadet Eck will be replacing an anticipated retirement this fall.

We continue to work through the nuances of controlling these ever-faster e-scooters and e-bikes on our sidewalks and roads. Chief Graham, SSEG and I will come back to Council at some point (probably early July) for a quick Work Session on this. I believe the Work Session will be more about where we stand. There are not a whole lot of options, but we will present any options that we can bring to the table.

Public Hearing on 2026 Tax Budget – There is a public hearing for the 2026 Tax Budget set for July 8<sup>th</sup> preceding the Council Meeting to be held here in the Council Chambers at 6:30pm. Anyone who wants to come along and have some fun, you are welcome to join us.

Electric Aggregation Update – This is a reminder that the City's Aggregation Program expires in July. Due to market conditions, we were unable to provide meaningful aggregation savings when we went out to bid on this. Therefore, the City will be stepping away from the Aggregation Program. As always, we will keep an eye on the market and can reenter the Aggregation Program at any time. When the market allows and can provide some meaningful savings, we will reenter aggregation and will let the residents know that we have done so. To get our residents through to when we can do that, we suggest that residents visit [www.energychoice.ohio.us](http://www.energychoice.ohio.us) to review the Energy Choice Apples to Apples site, where they can shop their own aggregation program. They can see some small savings there but will see that there isn't a whole lot of savings available. As soon as we can bring savings for our residents, we will reenter the program.

Upcoming Meetings – Public Hearing on the Tax Budget on Tuesday, July 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in Council Chambers; Council Meeting on Tuesday, July 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in Council Chambers; BZA Meeting on Monday,

July 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm in Council Chambers; Planning Commission Meeting on Monday, July 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm in Council Chambers; and a second Council Meeting on Tuesday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30pm in Council Chambers.

Mr. Biddlecombe said he saw a post on Talk of Huron that people were surprised about the aggregation. I know that we posted it on Facebook back in May because he found the post and shared it but asked that we post it again. In addition, that might have been something that could have gone in the mailer that was just sent out because that is going to affect everyone. A lot of people don't see all of that stuff online. Mayor Tapp said he has received phone calls, text messages and in-person contact regarding this matter. There are a lot of people that aren't particularly happy, but there is nothing we can do about it because the savings just aren't there. He thought that reposting was a good idea and to include the Energy Choice Apples to Apples website information. Apparently, Ohio Edison sent out a letter that they are taking over the accounts and rates will be going up in July. Mr. Biddlecombe said that many residents said they have been estimated for many months in a row, so they are expecting to get socked when that happens. Mayor Tapps said staff continue to seek options through the aggregation program, and if something does come up we can take care of switching over just like we normally did.

Mayor Tapp wanted to reiterate what Mr. Hamilton said as far as the e-bikes go. He is still receiving some complaints, and it isn't an easy choice to figure out to resolve the matter. Chief Graham has been working on it, too, and there have been some conflicting sections in the code that make it difficult to police. If they had 100 police officers we could post at every corner, it would work out great, but they can't do that. They are actively looking into it and trying to come up with a solution. As the City Manager said, they are going to sit down and discuss this and hopefully, they will come up with some options to present to Council.

Mr. Claus stated that they talked about potentially posting some stuff on Facebook or on social media, but that hasn't happened because they don't have anything to post yet. Mr. Hamilton said they are working through the current ordinances, and there are a couple of conflicting sections in there. They want to make sure that they are on 100% clear footing before they start posting anything. To put out bad information is worse than no information. Once they have worked through that, they will start doing some reeducation. After the Work Session, they can state where they stand, how the code is currently written, how enforceable it is as written, and then talk through some of the nuances. We can then push it out to the public. Mr. Claus said he has a feeling that some of the parents are buying their kids these \$1,000 e-bikes that go 30mph, but don't see what they are doing when they are running around a couple of neighborhoods next door in a group when they are going the wrong way and riding 2 and 3 on a single bike. Someone is going to get hurt. Thank you for all of your efforts and I agree that we need to do it right.

### **Mayor's Discussion**

Mayor Tapp said:

We are looking into electric aggregation as well as e-bikes. I spoke with Mr. Artino, who is on the Planning Commission, before the meeting and I want to send kudos to the Planning Commission because things are getting done and following through, and people are happy that things are moving along like they are supposed to do. Please pass that on to the other Board members. Thank you, Mr. Riggle, for showing up and we may appoint you as a resident inspector. Regarding the e-bikes, I am trying to stay calm on the e-bike thing because it's just different than what it used to be, and how things are handled. It just takes

more time now. Luckily, we have Chief Graham working on it, and that's better than myself. Thanks to staff and a heads up that our new Finance Director Isaac Phillips will be starting on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Sam Artino** – Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Everybody be safe.

**Mark Claus** – Nothing really. Everybody who won't be back before the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, enjoy your 4<sup>th</sup> of July holidays. Be safe – it's going to get crazy out there for the Chief and his team. Hopefully, it's not quite this hot because they have to run around in those black uniforms. I'm sure they will be breaking out the shorts. Be safe and have fun over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday.

**Matt Grieves** – Nothing really, other than my 6-year-old really likes his e-bike.

**William Biddlecombe** – Thank you, staff for your hard work. Welcome to Officer Demuth and Cadet Eck.

Takeaways from the last School Board meeting, which was last night – They have agreed to purchase a subscription to Magic AI for use by students and staff. They will be replacing the roof for the workshop at the Bus Garage. The Assistant Coach, Matt Smith will be the new Girls Head Basketball coach, and they hired alumnus Sarah Klaiber as a new Pre-School teacher. They also announced that Roger Blevins was awarded the honor of being named, "State Biology Educator of the Year," so congratulations to him. Outgoing Booster president Amy Springer gave the Board her final report and for somebody who has helped with football for many years now, I have witnessed her dedication to the Boosters and her support of the student athletes firsthand. She has left some big shoes to fill, and I thank her for her 15 years of service. There will be a special meeting of the Scott Union Cemetery Board to take action on the matters set forth in Resolution 46-2025 on July 7<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. I hope to see you all there.

Some Boat Basin events coming up: Huron Rotary Festival all day this Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, Red, White & Blues BANG! on July 5<sup>th</sup> at 6pm with fireworks at 10:15pm. Please come out and support our local events, programs, student athletes, Happy Independence Day 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:

<b>YEAS:</b>	<b>Biddlecombe, Artino, Claus, Tapp, Grieves (5)</b>
<b>NAYS:</b>	<b>None (0)</b>

There being a majority in favor of the motion, the regular Council meeting of June 24, 2025, was adjourned at 7:01pm.

  
Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council

Adopted: 08 JUL 2025