

THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO
Proceedings of the Huron City Council
Regular Meeting Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 6:30pm

Call to Order

The Mayor called to order the regular Council meeting of January 27, 2026 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: **Joe Dike, Sam Artino, William Biddlecombe, Monty Tapp, Mark Claus, Tom Harris and Joel Hagy.**

Staff in attendance: City Manager Stuart Hamilton, Assistant Law Director Gary Ebert, Fire Chief Kevin McGraw, Police Chief Terry Graham, Parks and Recreation Director Doug Steinwart and Terri Welkener, Clerk of Council.

Oath of Office

The City Manager administered the Oath of Office to Devin Woods as Patrol Officer for the Huron Police Department.

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

Approval of Minutes

Motion

Motion by Mr. Dike to approve the minutes of the regular Council meeting of December 23, 2025, as written.

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. Member of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Dike, Artino, Biddlecombe, Tapp, Harris (5)
ABSTAIN: Harris, Claus* (2)
NAYS: None.

***Mr. Claus initially voted "YEA" for the minutes approved but later changed that vote to "ABSTAIN" because he was absent for the December 23, 2025 meeting.**

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed.

Motion

Motion by Mr. Dike to approve the minutes of the regular Council meeting of January 13, 2026, as written.

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. Member of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Dike, Artino, Biddlecombe, Tapp, Claus, Harris (6)

ABSTAIN: Hagy (1)

NAYS: None.

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed.

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.

Katherine Wycoff – 112 Dayton Ave., Huron, OH – This evening, I am asking you to do a review of the existing noise ordinance. We have lived in and around Huron for the past 20 years. In December of 2024, we rented 110 Dayton Ave. In May of 2025, the house next door to the rental house we were living in came up for sale. We loved the neighborhood and the community we were living in so we purchased the house and moved into that house in June of 2025. In August of 2025, the new renters arrived and have since turned our dream house into a nightmare. Around 3 weeks after they first moved in, I was woken at 6:45am by very loud bass music. Over the next few weeks, again and again our new neighbors would play their incredibly loud bass and subwoofer and rattle our entire house. We have tried to speak politely with them on more than one occasion to let them know it was too loud and it was bothering us in our house. The music went on whenever they pleased, as loud as they pleased – it just continued to play, and still does. We also contacted their landlords, but that was also no help and the music has continued on. We finally had enough and on December 8th we called the police for the first and only time. Unfortunately, the police were unable to help because they are limited by the noise ordinance. We were informed by the officer that there was nothing they can do because we live within 80 feet and on a private street, and that we could only call them to have them do something if the noise came after 9pm and before 8am. He also informed the neighbors of this ordinance and they took it as an open invitation to play music even louder for longer periods of time during the day. Here are some facts about low-frequency bass. Low-frequency bass easily penetrates through walls, floors and ceilings. Low-frequency bass can travel through bricks, cement, drywall and wood and can shake windows and walls. The bass from the neighbor's subwoofer rattles our walls and our windows and can be heard and felt in every room of our house. It's loud, it's distracting and it cannot be blocked out. It feels like an invasion of privacy, or at the minimum, an uninvited guest in our house whenever they please. I have seen that we have light ordinances for trespass when lights are shining into people's yards or windows that is too bright – I am asking you to do something about noise trespass where bass and music is too loud and travels into the neighbor's house. Also, there are ordinances for people's dogs barking. I can close my windows and not hear dogs, but I cannot close my windows and hear this bass coming through the entire house. Other people's enjoyment shouldn't come at the cost of your own. I used to manage the record store in Sandusky, so I am the last person to ever ask anyone to turn their music down, yet here I am. I would like to say after reading the noise ordinance numerous times, I still don't fully understand it or why it excludes us. Thank you for your time.

Old Business**Resolution No. 92-2025 (third and final reading)**

Motion by Mr. Artino that Resolution No. 92-2025 (A RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO SECTION 5705.19(I) OF THE REVISED CODE SUBMITTING TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF HURON THE QUESTION OF THE PLACEMENT OF AN ADDITIONAL TAX LEVY ON A CONTINUING BASIS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING AND MAINTAINING FIRE APPARATUS, MECHANICAL RESUSCITATORS, UNDERWATER RESCUE AND RECOVERY EQUIPMENT, OR OTHER FIRE EQUIPMENT AND APPLIANCES, BUILDINGS AND SITES THEREFOR, OR SOURCES OF WATER SUPPLY AND MATERIALS THEREFOR, FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF LINES OF FIRE-ALARM COMMUNICATIONS, FOR THE PAYMENT OF FIREFIGHTING COMPANIES OR PERMANENT, PART-TIME, OR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTING, EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE, ADMINISTRATIVE, OR COMMUNICATIONS PERSONNEL TO OPERATE THE SAME, INCLUDING THE PAYMENT OF ANY EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS REQUIRED FOR SUCH PERSONNEL UNDER SECTION 145.48 OR 742.34 OF THE REVISED CODE, FOR THE PURCHASE OF AMBULANCE EQUIPMENT, FOR THE PROVISION OF AMBULANCE, PARAMEDIC, OR OTHER EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES OPERATED BY A FIRE DEPARTMENT OR FIREFIGHTING COMPANY, OR FOR THE PAYMENT OF OTHER RELATED COSTS) 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, Biddlecombe, Tapp, Claus, Harris, Hagy, Dike (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 92-2025 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Chief McGraw provided Council with more information on the proposed levy. The last levy was passed in 1999. It was a static levy, meaning the money they received in 1999 is the same money the City is receiving today. The proposed levy would cost the average resident of Huron \$53/year for each \$100,000 in home valuation, which equals \$4.41/month. The average home value in Huron is \$335,000. The 1.5 mill levy would cost approximately \$175 more per year, or just under \$15/month.

In 1999, the Huron Fire Department went on 967 calls. In 2025, they went on 2,208 call, which is an increase of 128% with additional funding coming in, but not from the existing tax levy. There have been increases in the cost of apparatus. The ladder and engine are at a 30% increase, and the City is at a point where it has begun to purchase used apparatus for the Department, which is something they have never done before. In the next 10 years, they will have next to \$5 million in apparatus that must be replaced, which includes an engine, ladder truck (hoping to get 10-12 years out of the used truck arriving in spring) and two ambulances. That \$5 million price tag is the current price, and the actual cost will only continue to increase. Their turnout gear cost \$1,500/set in 1999, while a new set is \$5,000 today. A heart monitor that cost \$18,000 in 1999 now costs \$80,000. Their daily equipment is up in cost anywhere from 22-30%. They are just getting by with what they currently have coming in. The Huron Fire Department soft-bills our residents (means residents are only charged what their insurance will pay), while non-residents are hard-billed (submitted to insurance and patient is responsible for the remainder of the bill). They take pride that they soft-bill our residents and hope that it never comes to the point where they would have

to consider hard-billing residents due to financial constraints. They pay taxes and we are asking them to renew a levy we feel would help them a lot. One of the concerns with this new levy has been people on fixed incomes having increased tax obligations. If a person were to fall and take an ambulance ride to the hospital (basic call with no invasive procedures), that bill would come to around \$700 with insurance paying \$200 of that. For one ride, the people on fixed incomes (who also tend to be more frequent ambulance users) would have to pay \$500 per ride. As people fall more and more, and you see the same people over and over again, the amount they will have to pay increases greatly under a hard-billing scenario. They would like to continue to soft bill our residents.

They have begun to delay replacement of apparatus – they are already off the schedule they should be on. They have pushed off renovations to the station (windows and HVAC). They have been economically diligent with the cost of keeping the station warm/cold, but major attention is needed (specifically, the windows and HVAC system). Their calls for service continue to go up and the cost of business continues to go up. They need additional financial help to continue doing what they are doing because that is what the residents and guests of Huron deserve.

Mr. Hagy asked when this will be put on the ballot. Chief McGraw answered, the May 2026 election. They would not start to collect any sort of increase until 2027. Mr. Hagy asked how they will promote this; they had a tax levy 1.5-2 years ago that failed 90%-10%. – he is wondering if they are considering some sort of outreach to the community with the stats, etc. Chief McGraw answered that he has been collecting data alongside his coworkers and they are working on an informational pamphlet that will be provided to people when they are not operating in emergency fashion. That flyer will provide these stats and clear up any questions they may have. They are going to do some open houses in the neighborhoods on different weekends so they can come in to see what's going on. The Township would also like to hold open houses at their station so that people can see that we are operating out of two stations.

Mr. Hamilton added that, as with the income tax levy, the City is not allowed to promote levies, tax increases, etc. They can give out information, but they cannot go out to lobby and sell. When the firefighters are doing this, they will be doing it as the Union more than as the City. There is a fine line/tightrope that must be walked on.

Mr. Dike said asked if he, as a Councilmember and citizen of Huron, is allowed to express his support. Mr. Hamilton answered that he is allowed to express his support and give details out, but what he cannot do is purchase promotional materials and go out to lobby people. You can show your support and discuss the information, but you cannot go out and actively promote it. You can talk to your neighbor about supporting the fire levy, but you cannot purchase promotional materials – you can have discussions about this but to go to an HOA and try to sell the residents on it would not be allowed. As long as it is informational, you are allowed to do it.

Mr. Artino stated that a year ago, Council asked the City Manager and staff to take a look at the City's expenses. The City employees did a heck of a job of stripping out everything they could to the tune of approximately \$1 million. The City really doesn't get any more money than they did in 1999. He believes that he speaks for all of Council when he says this is the last thing any of them want to do – to ask for more money. With the limitations of the old levy and increasing expenses, and the fact that the employees have done quite a bit to reduce any spending (some of that stuff cut out probably should be in the budget),

that is why they are asking for the levy to see if they can keep providing the high level/quality of service our residents have today.

Mr. Biddlecombe said that they talked in the past about how the Township is also going to go for a levy to cover their one-half of the expenses, have they acted on that to vote to put that to the ballot? Mr. Hamilton answered that they are on track to put their levy on the May 2026 ballot, as well.

Mr. Harris stated that from the information he has received, as much as he supports the Fire Department needing money – he sees that it is there and sees the need, he doesn't think there is a support there. He thinks that the money the City would spend to put this on the ballot could be better used. He thinks that this has almost zero chance of passing based on information he has heard. Asking people to put it onto their taxes is not going to work at this time. I know that a lot of people here are going to vote to put it on the ballot, and that's okay. I am personally going to say no just because he thinks it would be a waste because he doesn't think it will pass. I think the money to put it on the ballot could be used to do fundraising, which he thinks people would step up and help out with. He thinks in the current atmosphere that this is a lost cause in terms of putting it to the ballot. In the spirit of saving money, he thinks that they should not spend that money out of the general fund just to put it on the ballot, where it will almost certainly fail.

Mr. Hagy asked what the expense is to put the issue on the ballot. Mr. Hamilton said they are typically looking at \$10,000.

Mr. Tapp said the good thing about Council is that they can agree to disagree. While he may be a little biased, he knows we have different circles of people, and in his circle the Fire Department has been one of the "icons" of Huron. He has not heard anything coming his way other than support. He is 100% in full support, especially when he knows how many calls they go on because he listens to them every night. He shouldn't, but he does. When the Chief talks about the increasing expenses, while \$10,000 is a lot of money, it is only a drop in the bucket for anything for the Fire Department. He was there when they got the first heart monitor and he thought it was crazy paying that much money for it. Now it's 5-6 times more expensive than it was then. He doesn't want the level of care going down – that's the last thing any of these guys want and anyone in the community wants. He will hold this community against any other community when it comes to the level of care they get and he is 100% for it.

Mr. Harris clarified that he is all for getting a levy passed, but he needs to also be very clear that the people that are telling him what they think – they are saying that they don't support it. It has nothing to do with him not wanting the Fire Department to be able to do their job and have the money. He just doesn't see it happening. He doesn't want his perspective to be taken for non-support of the Department because that is not the case. He just doesn't think that in today's atmosphere, specifically with people trying to get property taxes abolished in Ohio altogether, I think this is the wrong time to ask – that is just his two cents'.

Mr. Hamilton added that as they came out of the budget meetings at the end of the year, the Finance Committee was very clear. They tasked the administration with figuring out revenue because expenses are not going to go down. When they went for the income tax increase and it was voted down, the next level is a levy. That is the next lever we are trying to pull. If this fails, our revenue is going to stay static, our expenses are going to keep going up and at that point something has to give. That is either going to

be the level of service that the City of Huron's residents get from our Fire Department, or the other one, which he hopes we never get to, is to start to look at hard billing. Hard billing is way more expensive for everyone than a levy would be. We are at a crossroads – we cannot keep doing what we are doing. We don't take it lightly, but it's a necessity at this point. There is a cause and effect if this levy passes or fails and he just hopes that everyone does understand that.

Mr. Hagy shares Mr. Harris' concern – not to the point that he doesn't support the levy, but they just lost 90/10 on the last one. He would say we need to have a Plan B, a financial Plan B of what the hell is going to happen if/when this levy fails. That's unfortunate, but the last time we put a tax increase it failed 90/10, and 50% of those people either had a reduction in their tax or no impact whatsoever. It's just the word "tax" and he is really fearful that it will fail. He would love to join you and be a part of that solution, but there's got to be a Plan B.

Chief McGraw said he understands where Mr. Harris and Mr. Hagy are coming from as far as the prior income tax issue is concerned, but the best thing they can do is to get people the right information. A lot of the information people want to get is from social media from people that probably don't even live here, are misinformed or want to spin something as a negative. It is baffling that of the people who live here, the loudest ones are the ones who want to bring this place down and share that misinformation. We will give them the facts – we will show them how we are operating and what our needs are. If they want to continue receiving what they are receiving, we will give it to them as long as we can. Plan B will probably be quick because things are only going to get more expensive. We have a lot of nice things because the guys take care of what we have – we got a ladder truck to last 29 years. We have some other equipment that should have been replaced by now that guys are taking care of. They put the time in to take care of our equipment to make it last, but they cannot last forever. He feels that if the Department can give the information they need, they have the right to choose if they want their Fire Department the way it is now. If that doesn't happen, then he will have some very difficult decisions to make, and they are going to have to do some serious brainstorming on how to continue providing the service our residents are currently receiving. Our residents will also have to understand that magic cannot occur if something doesn't change.

Mr. Artino said the last time they asked for an increase was for income tax, and he didn't think it was the right time, either. He thought that we lacked a lot of information, particularly about some of the new businesses that came into area – how much we would receive from them as income and the income from the recreational marijuana. There was some information we needed, and like he said, they asked Mr. Hamilton and the rest of our staff and employees to take a hard look at current expenditures, and they did. They have cut the budget to the bone and are sacrificing in some areas. This levy is specific to the Fire Department, while the other one was for general use – that was a concern that some people had. To him, this is two different things and he thinks that he is not only asking for this to be placed on its third and final reading, but he is also going to support this.

Mr. Claus added that because this specifically relates to the Fire Department and believes that for those in Huron that have lived here all of their lives, the Fire Department has always been a crown jewel for the City. The Department provides outstanding services, much like the Parks & Recreation Department, and he believes the citizens will support this issue if the data and statistics are put out there. That is something the citizens can grab onto and understand what they would be missing. It's a lot harder to pass an income tax that is going to go to a lot of different things. Part of our pitch on that was that we wouldn't have to do the levies if they would have been able to get the income tax passed. They were trying to do that so

they didn't have to come back to potentially do other levies that were specific. That didn't fly, as we all know. He is definitely in support of proceeding.

Mr. Phillips clarified that the \$100,000 of assessed value at \$53 would equate to \$72 for a \$375,000 home. A valuation of \$375,000 isn't the "assessed" value – a homeowner is not assessed at full value.

Mr. Hagy commented that everyone is making great points, but these are details. The word "tax" is the problem, it's not what the money is for or how much it is. Chief McGraw answered that this has to be their breakthrough – all they can do is give them an informed decision and that's their best chance. Mr. Hagy said he is rooting for them and hopes they are correct that this will sail through 90/10 the other direction – but he does not believe this will be the case and they need to have a Plan B.

Mr. Biddlecombe wanted to make one point. Recently, EHOVE passed a levy and that was possible because in Huron as a whole, everyone voted "for" versus "against." He believes there is hope for the fire levy to pass, so he would like to have the voters have their shot and see what we get.

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, Biddlecombe, Tapp, Claus, Hagy, Dike (6)
NAYS: Harris (1)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and Resolution No. 92-2025 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and the Clerk and will become effective immediately.

New Business

Motion

Motion by Mr. Artino to set a Public Hearing on the application of Holiday Harbor Marina to rezone 1.3698 acres of real property (Erie County, Ohio Permanent Parcel No. 42-02091.000) from its current R-3 Multi-Family Residential District to B-3 General Business District for Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 6:30pm, immediately preceding in the regular Council meeting.

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

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and a Public Hearing was set for March 10, 2026 at 6:30pm.

City Manager's Discussion

The City Manager spoke on several topics:

Zoning Code – The Planning & Zoning Department is currently reviewing the building and zoning fee schedule. The legislation on the books hasn't been updated for costs for a long time, and there are a lot of services in there that don't have a cost associated with them. They are doing comparisons against other local jurisdictions and they will eventually bring suggestions back to Council.

Excavations – We are also looking at the Excavations chapter (right-of-way permits). They are trying to tidy that up as it is hard to control the contractors when they are working the right-of-way. They are looking at clarifications and costs and will bring back some amendments back to Council.

Ice Rink – Winter is here and the ice rink is more than ready to go; people are just too cold to use it. We are hoping we will get a little warmer weather so that people can enjoy the rink. There is ice – please come and use it.

Safety Services – The “new to us” ladder truck is stripped and is currently getting painted. We are hoping to see that sometime in March. It will be exciting to get it that early in the year.

Water Department – As we all know, we have had an exciting couple of weeks at the Water Department. We have lost the plant a couple of times due to ice in the intake. We were on Plan ZZ and towards the end of it, we were down at the same time Sandusky's plant was down. What a lot of people don't realize is that if we are down and Sandusky is down, the County is down. We supply all the water to the County. It was “all hands on deck,” not only from a staff point of view, but also from our leadership and jurisdiction point of view. We were in constant contact with Sandusky and the County trying to figure stuff out and trying to figure a way out of this. Our staff were phenomenal. To watch the entire City staff move as one to keep this plant online was impressive. Our fire guys probably spent more time in the water than they did out of it trying to keep our mobile pumps moving, cleared, getting all the stuff done and they were taking divers on frigid cold days. Our distribution staff were working around the clock for 4-5 days, as were the plant and streets staff. There was a lot that went into this and we learned a lot, as well. We found a lot of good ways to react faster to be more reliable when this happens, instead of the way we have always done it. That worked for the short-term emergencies, but we don't have those anymore. These emergencies we are having are longer term, more abrupt and harder to deal with. We need to make some small investments in more targeted equipment so we can easily move next time.

We kept the water flowing and didn't depressurize the system and didn't need any boil alerts. That says something about our staff – that they managed to keep that going. I want to say thank you to them. It wasn't just our staff, it was our local companies, as well. We made call to companies and they dropped everything. In the middle of the night, they delivered equipment to us, they brought cranes, dozers and anything else we needed to keep this water flowing. The Manager's Report lists all those companies. That was amazing. We had multiple companies in there with their heavy equipment on top of an ice shelf trying to keep this water going – that was impressive. We are now free from ice and are hopeful that the ice forming over the lake will make this one of the last incidents this year. I want to give the Mayor an honorable mention. When the guys are out at 3am and the Mayor is standing next to you, that says a lot – that meant a lot to you. That's nothing against anybody else, but he doesn't sleep, hears what's going on and gets out of his bed to lend his help. Thank you, Mr. Mayor, from me and the rest of the staff. With the arctic front moving through the area, there is a salt shortage in Ohio (especially northern Ohio). We managed to get some delivered right before the snowstorm came in. We are dropping salt conservatively. It doesn't work under 20 degrees and works only marginally under 30 degrees. We are trying to drop the

salt more for traction than anything else in main intersections. If the sun hits it, we might get some melting going on. Until this salt shortage frees itself up, we are going to only be dropping salt in heavy-use intersections and where we really need it. Please be patient with the guys – they are using what we have the best way we know how to use it. They are trying to keep on top of the road, which are icebound, as best as they can. The plows will not scrape the roads – they will scrape them down and leave the ice on there. Please take your time when you are driving and plan ahead. If you try to stop in this weather, you are not going to and the streets guys can't do anything about it. The next people you are going to see are police and fire.

Jim Campbell Blvd. Crosswalk – We got funded for the Jim Campbell Blvd. crossing at the high school. ODOT told us today that they are going to give us \$123,300 to put that crossing in. They have asked us to add additional lighting on that bend, which they will pay for as well. We are going to go back and design that so when the crossing is installed we can increasing at the same time. Thank you to our partners at ODOT – they are always there to support us.

Agreements – I signed an agreement after the last meeting. We work with Columbia Gas a lot. They came to us because every time they pull a permit we make them send us a check for \$50 and we do that permit the same way we do everyone else's. They asked if the City would enter into an agreement where they give us \$5,000/year and every time we do a permit they don't have to send a separate check. The City does not have to track the expenditures from that \$5,000 and any money left at the end of the year is kept by the City. The Legal Department reviewed the agreement terms. We will still track the permit and do everything else; we are not stepping outside the process. This is just an agreement to allow them to pay in one lump sum.

Upcoming Meetings – HJRD on Tuesday, February 3rd at 6:30pm in Council Chambers; Utilities Committee on Wednesday, February 4th at 5pm in Council Chambers; Finance Committee Meeting on Tuesday, February 10th at 5:30pm in Council Chambers; City Council Meeting on Tuesday, February 10th at 6:30pm in Council Chambers; Planning Commission Meeting on Wednesday, February 18th at 5pm in Council Chambers; City Council Meeting on Tuesday, February 24th at 6:30pm in Council Chambers; and Records Commission Meeting on Tuesday, February 26th at 9am in Council Chambers.

REMINDER: City Hall offices will be closed on Monday, February 16th in observance of Presidents' Day.

Mr. Dike said it's great that we have the support and everyone was helping out but is there something the City could start thinking about that could help us to prevent that type of scenario in future years. Is there something we can start looking into now? Mr. Hamilton answered that we already have project in with the EPA for the secondary (river) intake. Needle ice is not a problem in the river. Needle ice forms out in the lake, the wind blows it in, and it collects along the shoreline. The river moves, which causes any needle ice that gets form to get washed away. That secondary intake will include a pump station down by the Boat Basin. The intake will probably be 20-25 feet deep in the river so it should never freeze all the down. That intake will take it straight back to the wet well at the plant. With that secondary intake, they will be able to just switch from the lake intake to the river intake. That's a \$2.5-\$3 million project that they took off the table with the 2026 budget. This year has told them that they need to get it back onto the capital projects list and figure out a way to get it paid for. Mr. Hamilton said Mr. Dike's point is well taken and, hopefully, the river intake if we can push it through should solve this problem.

Mr. Claus stated that there is a Port Authority meeting on January 28th at 6pm at the Huron Township Hall.

Mayor's Discussion

Mayor Tapp said:

I received a letter from John Orzech, City Manager of the City of Sandusky, relating to the recent water issues. The letter says, "On behalf of the City of Sandusky, I wanted to express our gratitude during the recent water plant issues both in Sandusky and Huron. I and our team were in constant communication with City Manager Hamilton during the water intakes issue that both of our plants experienced. As an elected official, you don't always get to see all of the behind-the-scenes work that takes place. Mr. Hamilton and his team worked collectively and collaboratively to ensure that both the City of Huron and the City of Sandusky continued to supply water during challenging times. It is critical that we work together, share information and make suggestions to each other. From my perspective, that was met and exceeded. I appreciate all of the work that your staff and leadership did to divert the crisis not only in Huron, but the communication back and forth was top-notch. Thank you." I just wanted to pass that on, and I think that speaks for the staff and everything that has been going on for the last couple weeks. I want to thank the Water Department, Street Department, Fire Department, all of the businesses that jumped in and dropped everything... there were companies that said, whatever Huron needs, get it to them. I want to thank all of those people.

Congratulations to Devin Woods. I would like to thank Ms. Wycoff for coming in and expressing her concerns about the noise and I know staff have looked at that they will continue to look at that along with the police. I also want to give my condolences to the family of John Pfefferle who passed away. He was an attorney from Huron whose kids grew up here. He was a partner with several firms, and he was also the first legal counsel for the City of Huron (around 1968/1969) and Prosecutor. Condolences to the Pfefferle family.

It is cold, everybody be safe out there.

For the Good of the Order

Sam Artino – My condolences to the Pfefferle family, as well, and welcome aboard Officer Woods. I don't know who was responsible for putting that stuff on Facebook – the pictures of the folks working on the water intake (I assume Jen Kilbury) – when you look at that picture and walked outside for 2 seconds and saw how cold it was, I wonder if we can't really do a nice story with more pictures. I think that will hit home to see our people going above and beyond. We appreciate everything they did and I think we need look at the secondary intake – of course the money went away – I think we might want to take a look at doing that project. Once again, my point is that if we can do a more elaborate story about the intake and name some names... I think people deserve recognition for doing what they are doing. I got some phone calls from people that praised our Street Department for the snow removal, they did a great job. Kudos to those people, too.

Mark Claus – Thank you again to the Water Department, Fire Department, Police Department and Street Department. The water issue was a big thing last week and this major storm we had over the weekend – those streets guys are out there 24/7 keeping up. I was really surprised to see trucks making one quick pass around the perimeter in our neighborhood early in the morning. They really stayed on top of it. I

really appreciate that as a citizen, but more importantly as a Councilmember, to see everybody jumping in and pitching in. Again, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the Mayor.... When I saw the picture of the guy in the helmet, I figured that was Monty.... I really want to thank everybody for their hard work.

Tom Harris – I also want to say thank you and you everybody did a great job. I know that when we saw it on Facebook we filled up all of our water jugs and got ourselves ready. I really want to say thank you for all of your hard work, including Mr. Mayor. I don't know the right way to do it would be to make a motion. If so, I would like to put up an additional idea in case the levy does not pass, to give you guys the opportunity to maybe do a fundraiser... I don't know the proper way to do that. That's something that would probably work. There are a lot of people out there that would donate to help the cause. The Mayor didn't think that a motion was necessary.

Joe Dike – I want to say that I came home in the late evening and there was a water leak over on Lincoln Avenue. It was cold, and those fellas got that done pretty quick... compliments to them in that regard. I also want to say thank you to Mike for shoveling the sidewalks. Thank you for doing that so people can get through. I think it is very kind of you to do that, and I want to recognize your hard work. I have been here since the 4th grade and there is a lot of history with every individual up here, one way or another, and I think the times are tough everyone comes together and make things happen. We may have our opinions, but I think we are going to surprise some people come May because I also think a lot of people in the community are satisfied with the decision we made with the Fire Chief. Those are the comments I am getting out of this community, so both of you (indicating Chief Graham and Chief McGraw) keep doing what you are doing because one thing that I am proud of is our safety services because when you need them, you want them. They get there like that (snapping fingers)! Thank you, guys, for all of your efforts and I am going to support you in any way I can.

Joel Hagy – I want to send out a shout-out to the Water Department, the Street Department and the Mayor. When I saw that Sandusky made the Cleveland news, I was just holding my breath waiting for Huron to be right after. They showed great leadership... it is brutal cold out there, as we all know. They were not only reacting to a significant crisis but also doing all of that work in subzero weather. Great job to everybody who participated.

William Biddlecombe – My condolences to the Pfefferle family. Thank you, staff for your hard work, especially water, streets and emergency services, not only for the cold temperatures and needle ice, but also the work during the past storm. Welcome Officer Woods. There is a Dine-to-Donate on Thursday from 3-8pm at Fazoli's if you would like to support the Huron Band. The ice rink is now open and if you would like to utilize it but don't have skates, you can go down to the office on Wall Street and rent some skates from the Parks & Rec Department. Anyone interested in being a River Fest vendor this year can sign up now on www.huronriverfest.com. Home games coming up: Bowling on February 4th; Girls Basketball on February 3rd; and Boys Basketball on February 10th. Please come out and support our local events, programs, student athletes and Go Tigers!

Executive Session**Motion**

Motion by Mr. Claus to enter into executive session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of a public employee or official, and to invite Mr. Ebert, Chief Graham and Mr. Hamilton.

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, Harris, Hagy, Dike, Artino, Biddlecombe, Tapp (7)

NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion passed and Council moved into Executive Session at 7:28pm.

Return to Regular Session

Council returned to regular session at 8:22pm.

Adjournment

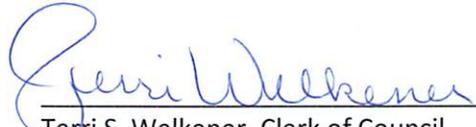
Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe to adjourn the regular meeting of Council.

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, Harris, Dike, Artino, Tapp, Claus, Hagy (7)

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor of the motion, the regular Council meeting of January 27, 2026, was adjourned at 8:22pm.



Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council

Adopted: 10 FEB 2026