

**THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO**  
**Proceedings of the Huron City Council**  
**Regular Meeting Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 6:30pm**

**Call to Order**

The Mayor called to order the regular Council meeting of February 10, 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, Fire Chief Kevin McGraw, Police Chief Terry Graham, Parks and Recreation Director Doug Steinwart and Terri Welkener, Clerk of Council.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Motion**

**Motion by Mr. Dike to approve the minutes of the regular Council meeting of January 27, 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. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS:           Dike, Artino, Biddlecombe, Tapp, Claus, Harris, Hagy (7)**  
**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.

Shaun Bickely – Rye Beach/Cleveland Rd. – Happy New Year. It's good to be here. My name is Shaun Bickely. I live in Rye Beach. We have multiple properties in Rye Beach, Cleveland Rd. and Oklahoma. We've got the marina in town. I have been in this town 55 of my 60 years and I'm really proud to be here – it's a good community. The reason I am here is to address the Council on the snow plowing and the cleaning of the driveways, particularly our northern streets on Cleveland Road. They are just pushing all of that snow right across the road onto the sidewalks. I try to make fun of the town – I put it on the Talk of Huron and got 7,000 views. Some people loved it; some people hated it. Our current ordinance says the City has 24 hours after the event to clean their driveways and then, if they are contacted, then they have 72 more hours to clean it off. If you go up and down all of these streets, there are people that just don't even bother cleaning their snow. It was a great gift from our state, we got grant money and were able to do the bike path, we tossed in money... I am very happy for these sidewalks in town, especially down Cleveland Rd. All 4 of our schools are here (3 Huron and St. Pete's). When Matt Lasko was here, I made

the offer to clean from Rye Beach out to St. Pete's and he would buy the tractor and broom (about a \$30,000 investment) and would do it for just \$600 per snow, but I wanted a 5-year contract. That then turned into favoritism for people living on Cleveland Rd. and not keeping our schools and our students safe. Our kids are walking to school in the road. People are walking their dogs in the road. That's about it – I offered to do this before school started because I am up at 4am beating the hell out of the liberals in the morning. I am here to help and we should figure this out as a community. That's where I'm at and if you have any questions, here I am.

Mr. Hagy asked if he meant that the streets of Grand Force Beach on the north side of Cleveland Rd. are pushing that snow onto the sidewalk on the south side of Cleveland Road. Mr. Bickley answered that was correct. Mr. Hagy said that is not the City pushing that snow because those are private streets using private contractors.

### **Old Business**

None.

### **New Business**

#### **Motion**

**Motion by Mr. Tapp to appoint Matt Chamberlain to the Huron Joint Port Authority for a term ending December 31, 2029.**

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

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed.

#### **Resolution No. 8-2026**

**Motion by Mr. Artino that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 8-2026 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO AWARD THE BID AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH D.L. SMITH CONCRETE, LLC FOR CONSTRUCTION SERVICES RELATING TO THE US 6 PHASE II PROJECT (ERI-6-16.07; PID 107223) IN THE AMOUNT OF TWO MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED FORTY-TWO THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED FORTY-THREE AND 44/100 DOLLARS (\$2,742,143.44)) 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, Biddlecombe, Tapp, Claus, Harris, Hagy, Dike (7)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived, and Resolution No. 8-2026 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Hamilton clarified that this relates to the US 6 Phase II Project. Phase I was from Berlin Rd. through to Williams St. and this is the second phase of it. The City went to ODOT for help with this project. ODOT came back and said they would give the City \$500,000 for the resurfacing but then told the City that the light at Center St. was not warranted and they would no longer support it. They then offered \$500,000 to take that down and close the Easterly end of Jim Campbell Blvd.

This project will close Jim Campbell Blvd., Center St. US 6 will be repaved from Williams St. out to the City limits, and a roundabout will be created at Liberty Ave. That will take the school traffic through that roundabout onto Jim Campbell Blvd. down to the high school. It will also give them the opportunity to create more of a boulevard from the roundabout into town by bringing it down to a single lane in either direction. Out of the \$2.7 million they have just over \$1 million in ODOT funding. The project was put out to bid and 2 bids were received (D.L. Smith and Smith Paving). There was only \$200,000 difference between the 2 bids. The \$1.7 million left over will be funded through bonds.

Mr. Hagy said this project came in significantly less than the engineer's estimate of \$4.1 million. He asked if anything was cut or was it a miss on the estimate. Mr. Hamilton answered that it is a little bit of both. They took the fluff out of this project. The original project included a lot of nice landscaping and those kinds of things which were taken out to make sure they could do this affordably. They left the lighting, resurfacing and creating of the roundabout in. The engineer's estimate was a little high, particularly with regard to the lighting. The City has a light pole set they normally buy because it lasts and it is affordable. Most of the \$200,000 difference between the 2 bids related to the lighting poles. They took a lot of the fluff out of this project, and it was a little overestimated.

Mr. Artino asked Mr. Hamilton to explain how this design was negotiated with ODOT because this is a State route. Mr. Hamilton explained that they went through a very long process with this. ODOT told them that the light was not warranted, but also said Jim Campbell couldn't be kept open if the light went away. Then then looked at 4 different options, and everything ODOT said was allowed, the City didn't want because they believed it wasn't safe for the residents. Everything the City wanted, ODOT didn't want because they said it wasn't safe. They settled on the concept of a roundabout (ODOT loves roundabouts) but then had to go to the very top of ODOT to be able to cut through the side of Route 6. They don't let you create new openings on State routes because they say it is another conflict. Eventually, ODOT gave us that opening and they then settled on the roundabout. That was the only option that both sides could agree upon to pull this project off.

Mayor Tapp asked if Mr. Hamilton was referring to the existing cut-through at Fabens Park. Mr. Hamilton answered no, this would be the new cut-through at Liberty Ave. The Michigan left at Fabens Park will remain after the project is completed.

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

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 8-2026 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

**Resolution No. 9-2026**

**Motion by Mr. Tapp that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 9-2026 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR HURON TOWNSHIP TO PROVIDE FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY SQUAD SERVICES FOR ALL PROPERTY AND RESIDENTS WITHIN HURON TOWNSHIP FOR A FIVE-YEAR TERM BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2026 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2031) 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: Tapp, Claus, Harris, Hagy, Dike, Artino, Biddlecombe (7)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived, and Resolution No. 9-2026 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Chief McGraw stated that this is a new 5-year contract with the Township under pretty much the same terms as in the past. 50% of the operating budget will be paid by the Township as well as 50% of capital purchases. Any capital equipment purchased will be owned by the City of Huron and depreciation will be taken out each year of what is owed by the Township during that contract.

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

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 9-2026 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Mayor Tapp made two motions:

**Motion**

**Motion by Mr. Tapp to accept a \$75.00 donation by David Kendall to the K-9 Fund.**

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

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed.

**Motion**

**Motion by Mr. Tapp to accept an anonymous \$10,000 donation to the K-9 Fund.**

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

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed.

**City Manager’s Discussion**

The City Manager spoke on several topics:

Donations – I would like to add my thanks to our two donors. This keeps our K-9 Fund going – thank you very much.

Utilities Committee – We still have an opening on the Utilities Committee. If you know anyone who wants to join the Utilities Committee, please reach out to Terri Welkener at 319-433-500-, ext. 1102.

US 6 Phase II – We received 2 bids for that project. We also issued an RFQ for construction inspection/construction administration services. I marked them the other day and we have asked OHM Advisors to provide a proposal for those services. This project will require an up to 60-days full closure on Route 6 west of Center St. to be able to pull up the road, construct the roundabout and then rebuild the single lanes. Once this project is awarded, we will get a project timeline from the contractor. We will then make sure that everyone is aware of when those closures happen. I will make sure everyone knows the detour paths. We have been in full contact with the schools and don’t believe this is going to affect the school traffic in any way because we won’t do any of the work that interferes with that traffic during the school season. We will do that when they close during the summer.

Electric Trail Connector – As a reminder, that is connecting the west side of the Lake Erie Electric Trail to what will be the US 6 Connectivity Corridor Multi-Use Pathway. We carried out a walk-through and a scope of services that was finally agreed upon. We have \$533,000 from ODOT to do this project. We are waiting on that final scope and then they will work on obtaining right-of-way to be taken for that project from Goodwill and the gas station. That will probably push that project out to 2027.

Code Enforcement – The department was provided a report by Erie County Family and Children’s Services regarding a home on Adams Ave. There was a substantial water leak that brought attention to this house. We tried to gain access to the house to see what was going on and the owner at the beginning was not agreeable to us going in at first so they couldn’t prove there was a leak in there. Thanks to the Police Department and our Fire Chief, they managed to finally get in there. The house is not in a great state of affairs and it has since been condemned by the Building Official for habitation. They worked with all of their local partners to get the occupant other accommodation, and everyone is still working on that to make sure they have what is needed and/or required. Thanks to all of those partners and thanks to the Fire Chief for running with this, as well as the Building Official to help us get the person out of the building.

Property Maintenance RFP – We issued a Request for Proposals for property maintenance and code enforcement (mowing, weeds, etc.). We didn't receive one bid, surprisingly, so we are going to put that one back out and will reach out to some of our local partners to see if we can get someone to bid on that.

Ice Rink – Our ice rink is still up and running, but a couple more days over 40 degrees and it will be a swimming pool. Please remember it is there. We actually have had some traffic even during the very cold days. Hopefully, it will remain useable, so please come out and enjoy it.

Safety Services – We have seen a substantial increase in requests for body-cam and cruiser-cam videos. A lot of these requests are not true public records requests – they are more from YouTubers and social media geeks who just want to find all of the fun and controversial stuff in there. It takes the Chief twice as long to redact a section of video as the length of the video itself. If he gets asked for 2 hours of video, it is going to take him 4 hours to redact that video. It is becoming very cumbersome. The State of Ohio recently passed legislation that allows police departments to charge for public records requests. You don't have to charge for all of them, but they let you charge \$75/hour per hour of footage requested and up to \$750.00/request. The primary reason for this is to cut down on all of the social media requests. As soon as you tell a lot of these YouTubers and funning TV shows that they have to pay for these, they will suddenly stop requesting them. If we keep going at the current pace, we are going to end up having to add staff to keep up with redactions. This is something we will bring back to Council for consideration at a later date. This is becoming burdensome and the Chief has no assistants – he does all of these by himself. We would never charge for a true public records request for someone who wants a copy of their interaction with the police or anything along those lines – these are just to knock off the social media requests and try to get them back down to a manageable level.

Finance – The 2024 financial statements have been completed and filed with the State Auditor. I would just like to say thank you to Mr. Phillips – he put a lot of working to getting this done when the State Auditor was crawling down our neck and Moody's was getting a little tetchy because we hadn't filed. Our partner kept promising to deliver, but wasn't delivering, so he had to pivot at the last minute and managed to pull it off. 2024 is now filed and we are going to move over to using this same partner for the next audit to be filed by the end of June.

Fire Levy – As you can see in the City Manager's Report, there is a chart there with the impact for the levy that the Auditor gave to us. Again, it ends up being roughly \$53/\$100,000 assessed value. The levy language has been filed with the Board of Elections, and it will be on the May ballot.

Crossing at Jim Campbell Blvd. – We were awarded \$123,300 for this project. ODOT asked us to add additional lighting to that project. We are in the middle of getting the engineer's estimate and redesigning that. ODOT is going to pay 90% of the additional lighting cost. I think additional lighting at a crossing on a bend by a high school is a good investment. Once that is done, we are hopeful this crossing will be installed this year while the schools are shut down for the summer. This is only if the design is completed and bids go out in time.

HPP Third Transformer – We have all of the switchgear delivered. All bids are in place and there is a kickoff meeting for the full installation on February 16<sup>th</sup>.

Administration – We received an update on the Water and Sewer Regionalization Project from Erie County. Milan and Vermilion have agreed to sit at the table. Therefore, it is time that I sit at the table, as well. When everyone else is working on this and we are blind to what is going on, I don't think that is a good place for the City to be. The first step on this is to issue an RFQ to conduct a study to see if there is any feasibility and any cost savings to be had in regionalization. I still stand by my original opinion on this - that there is not a lot of savings to be had, and those savings are going to be very hard to find. However, we may as well have a report that looks at it – they may come back and say there are savings, or they may come back and say there is no savings. I think we are going to provide the information regardless of whether we are at the table or not because they will just make public records request for all of the information. I am going to sit at the table as they put together the RFQ and as the RFQ comes in. I want to remind Council that this is an RFQ; this is a report. There is nothing to be done without Councilmatic action. This is our water utility, and these are our residents and this report can say whatever it wants. At the end of the day, without action by Council, nothing can be done. I will keep you posted on that.

Upcoming Meetings – Planning Commission on Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 5pm in Council Chambers; City Council meeting on Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in Council Chambers; Records Commission meeting on Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 9am in the Council Chambers. Reminder that the city offices will be closed on Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup> in observation of President's Day.

Mr. Hamilton addressed Mr. Bickley's comments. We did hear you on the snow getting pushed over from the streets on the north. This is something we did not know, so thank you. Our Streets Department and our Police Department are keeping an eye on it. Snow from our roads should stay on the road and should not be dumped onto someone else's sidewalk, especially when you are pushing snow from a road because it is more like slush and ice. This makes it difficult to move. Our staff are keeping an eye on that and when we catch them doing it, we will have a polite word with them and tell them to keep their snow on their own street. On the citations, this is one of these situations where you can walk around every street in town every time it snows and try to cite 3,000 houses. Half of the time, 24 hours later the snow has melted on the sidewalks and if not, you've got another 72 hours to wait for that snow to melt. We then must take them to court and by that time the snow has melted. It is hard because (1) we don't have the staff to walk around the City and cite every house that doesn't clear the snow; and (2) we rely on our residents to be a community and look after each other. If people cannot clear these sidewalks themselves, we rely on residents to help their neighbors. We cannot go out and cite every single person every time it snows – it's just not realistic, as much as we would love to have every sidewalk cleared. We do keep an eye on it and talk to people who don't consistently clear their sidewalks. I am not going to cite one person and not cite everybody in the City because it is not a selective process. If it is an ordinance, if we do one person, we have to do everybody.

Mayor Tapp wanted clarification on the water and sewer regionalization. He asked if it is going to come back to Council, no matter what happens. Mr. Hamilton said that is correct and there is no cost to the City. The Mayor said he still has the same stance, but he feels it is probably a good idea that Mr. Hamilton is sitting at the table to find out what is going on. The County is taking care of the cost of the RFQ. Whatever the result is, unless the County can give us a guarantee that City residents will not be charged more, he would be against it. He wants to make sure that the County has no legal authority to tell the City that we must do this, or not. Mr. Schrader answered that the City is a home-rule or Charter municipality and he has no knowledge of an authority where the County can change the rules. It could come down to who owns the pipes and infrastructure, but at first blush, he is not familiar with a situation where the

County can impose a change on the City without consent. Mr. Hamilton added that we must remember that the County is its own entity and the City of Huron is home-rule. That doesn't just mean our ordinances and how we act, that also includes everything we own. The County can come back and suggest all these changes, but that is all they can do. Mayor Tapp said he has full confidence in Mr. Hamilton sitting at the table while this is going on.

Mr. Artino said he has full confidence in Mr. Hamilton, as well. When the time comes to select this consulting group that is going to do the study, who makes that selection? Mr. Hamilton answered that the RFQ would be designed by all of the entities, including the municipalities and the county. The selection would be done by the same people. What has been said is that if this is not a project that is fully inclusive, then it doesn't matter what the report says – nothing is ever going to happen. He is hopeful and is taking them at their word that that is not lip service and that they actually mean that. The people with the knowledge in this realm are the municipalities – they are the ones who do this. He is hopeful that what has been said comes to fruition.

### **Mayor's Discussion**

Mayor Tapp said:

Thank you for the donors to the K-9 Fund – it's great to have people like that. Thank you to Mr. Bickley for coming in. It would be nice if neighbors took care of neighbors. It doesn't happen all of the time and you are out there helping quite a bit – we appreciate that.

The Fire Chief has been keeping me updated on the issue on Adams Ave., as well as Mr. Zimmerman and Mr. Hamilton. The Fire Chief has gone above with helping this person out and taking care of things. He has been contacting and meeting people, so I just want to thank you for doing that.

Thank you, Mr. Phillips for getting things taken care of when that company wasn't doing their job.

Thank you to the Street Department and staff for all of your hard work.

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

**Sam Artino** – I would like to say that I have receive a couple of phone calls about snow removal and they were all positive, so thanks to our guys out there in this bitter cold. Thank you.

**Mark Claus** – Thank you to the K-9 Fund donors and Mr. Bickley and Mr. Riggle for showing up to our meeting today.

**Tom Harris** – I have nothing for the good of the order.

**Joe Dike** – Nothing, thank you.

**Joel Hagy** – No sir, I have nothing for the good of the order.

**William Biddlecombe** – Thank you to the donors to the K-9 Fund. Thank you staff for your hard work. The next School Board meeting is coming up on Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm at McCormick. Wrestling has its SBC Championship coming up on February 21<sup>st</sup>. There aren't any more home games for any of the winter sports, but they are either in or about to start tournament play. Please come out and support our local events, programs and student athletes, and GO TIGERS!

**Executive Session**

None.

**Motion**

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

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being a majority in favor of the motion, the regular Council meeting of February 10, 2026, was adjourned at 7:07pm.

24 FEB 2026

  
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Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_