

THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO
Proceedings of the Huron City Council
Regular Meeting Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 6:30pm

Call to Order

The Mayor called to order the regular Council meeting of February 24, 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.

Mayor's Proclamation

Mayor Tapp read a Proclamation commemorating the 85th Anniversary of the Rotary Club of Huron. The original Proclamation is attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and incorporate herein by reference.

Francesca Lendrum spoke about the history of the Rotary Club, indicating they were established on February 24, 1941. She also thanked the City of Huron for the contributions by both the City and the community, as well as local businesses. They appreciate all of the support.

Present at the meeting were the following Rotary members: Francesca Lendrum, Fred Lesynski, Alyssa Franklin, Michael Cervenski, Pam Heschel and Doug Studer.

The Proclamation was presented to the Rotary Club and photos were taken of the group.

(Applause).

Approval of Minutes

Motion

Motion by Mr. Dike to approve the minutes of the regular Council meeting of February 10, 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.

None.

Old Business

None.

New Business**Resolution No. 10-2026**

Motion by Mr. Claus that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 10-2026 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO GRANTING A LICENSE FOR THE HURON BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL PROGRAM, INC. TO UTILIZE ANDREW L. FABENS MEMORIAL PARK BASEBALL FIELDS AND CONCESSION STAND) 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: Claus, Harris, Hagy, Dike, Artino, Biddlecombe, Tapp (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived, and Resolution No. 10-2026 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Steinwart explained that this is the City's annual agreement with the Huron Baseball and Softball Program for the 2026 season. They will utilize Fabens Park Fields 1-7 and the concession stand. The contract runs from April 6, 2026, through July 25, 2026, with the concession stand usage continuing through October 1, 2026. Estimated fees from this contract will be \$4,500. HBSP will also have use of the utility vehicle and the storage shed. They will be responsible for payment for the health permit. Mr. Steinwart thanked Mr. Croucher for his work in getting this contract put together, along with Chris Folger, the new President of HSBP.

Mr. Dike asked if there are still opportunities for outside teams to utilize the other fields. Mr. Steinwart answered that there are opportunities for outside rental (Fields 8-9), and there are 7 outside tournaments booked at this time. Mr. Harris asked if there will be a charge for parking for these tournaments. Mr. Steinwart answered that there would not be a parking charge for HBSP tournaments – those are usually the outside tournaments.

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

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 10-2026 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 11-2026

Motion by Mr. Harris that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 11-2026 (A RESOLUTION GIVING CONSENT OF THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO REMOVE SNOW AND ICE AND USE SNOW AND ICE CONTROL MATERIAL ON STATE HIGHWAYS INSIDE THE CITY CORPORATE LIMITS AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL; AND GIVING CONSENT OF THE CITY OF HURON FOR THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO PERFORM CERTAIN MAINTENANCE AND/OR REPAIR ON STATE HIGHWAYS INSIDE THE CITY CORPORATION AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR CERTAIN MAINTENANCE AND/OR REPAIR) 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: Harris, Hagy, Dike, Artino, Biddlecombe, Tapp, Claus (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived, and Resolution No. 11-2026 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Hamilton stated that this is the yearly (2026) consent legislation from ODOT. This allows ODOT to come into the City limits to carry out services for the City. This is the allowable part of the arrangement. Subsequent Resolutions will follow to enter into an actual maintenance agreement with ODOT (one for snow and ice removal and one for road maintenance). After the US Connectivity Corridor project is done, the agreements must be changed again to reflect the new road structures.

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

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 11-2026 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 City Manager spoke on several topics:

Donations – We had a \$20 anonymous donation made to the K-9 Fund.

Motion

Motion by Mr. Tapp to accept an anonymous \$20.00 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.

Utilities Committee – We still have an opening on our Utilities Committee. Anyone interested in joining this committee should contact Terri Welkener at 419-433-5000, ext. 1102.

Lake Erie Electric Trail Connector – We have talked about this project to connect the west end of the Lake Erie Electric Trail to the US-6 Connectivity Corridor trail. We put out a scope of services, ODOT made some changes, and we are finally out to bid on this. This bid closes on March 10th. We need real estate to complete this project, and right-of-way always adds at least a year to these projects, so we don't expect this to start construction until 2027 at the earliest.

Planning Department – We put out an RFP for property maintenance work (mowing lawns with tall grass/weeds, etc.). We received no responses to the first RFQ. We reissued the RFQ and it will close on March 2nd. We have 5 responses this time, so we hope to get good pricing.

Parks & Recreation – The City will be hosting the annual Red, White & Blues Festival. This includes a night of fun, food and music on the 4th of July. However, there will be no fireworks on that weekend. Instead, they are looking to put some of the funds that would have been used on July 4th to enhance the fireworks display at River Fest. This will save the City some money and will avoid competing with River Fest. By doing this, the additional money will be used to add to just the fireworks (not the insurance, mobilization, etc.). We see this as a good partnership and it will be a good test for the 250th anniversary this year. We will see how it goes and adjust from there.

Fire Department – The Huron Fire Department completed their required PALS (Pediatric Advanced Life Support) training (required every year). They also carried out some ice rescues on the river. This is one of the few positives to having such cold weather – they get to practice for these situations.

Finance – The January income tax receipts (\$279,00) are trailing our budget by 27%. RITA advised that they are seeing this throughout Ohio. There is a high percentage of refunds on net profits. Coming into February, those receipts are starting to catch up, so we don't expect this to be a long-term deficit. We expect to catch up toward the end of spring. The Finance Department upgraded their accounting and finance system. The system has been moved out to the cloud, which improves security and access and is a lot more reliable. Employees can work anywhere in the accounting systems so if we have a Level 3 emergency, Finance can still log in from home to work. We still need to reconnect OpenGov, which is our finance reporting system, but that may not be hooked up again in time for next month's financial reports. Please be patient – we will get them out to you as soon as it is hooked back up.

Water Department – We had a water main break on Jim Campbell between Ohio Street and Stowe on February 19th. This break was repaired with no boil alert. Thanks to the guys for taking care of this quickly.

Jim Campbell Pedestrian Crossing – We had a scope for services for this project, but ODOT came back to ask us to add more lighting to make the crossing safer. We have completed that and the additional cost came in at \$44,000-\$45,000. We have sent that back to ODOT and they said they are willing to cover the extra money at a 90/10 split. We are just waiting for final approval and then that project will be put out to bid, as well.

Personnel – We offered the Technology Manager position to Sean Berendt, and we are excited that Sean has decided to join us. He is scheduled to start on March 9th. We are glad he is joining us.

March Meetings – HJRD on Tuesday, March 3rd at 6:30pm in Council Chambers; Public Hearing on Holiday Harbor Rezoning on Tuesday, March 10th at 6:30pm in Council Chambers, to be immediately followed by the regular Council meeting; City Council meeting on Tuesday, March 24th at 6:30pm in Council Chambers; Planning Commission on Wednesday, March 25th at 5pm in Council Chambers; and a Records Commission meeting on Thursday, March 26th at 9:00am in Council Chambers.

Mr. Hagy asked if the 90/10 split for the lighting at the Jim Campbell crosswalk was 90% ODOT and 10% City. Mr. Hamilton answered, yes, they grant funding is also split at 90/10 for the crosswalk construction itself. This is a great deal for the City for something that is so expensive.

Mr. Claus asked if the City will be going to bid now even though it won't be done until the summer of 2027. Mr. Hamilton answered that 2027 is the Lake Erie Connector on the west end. They will still go out to bid on that because part of the scope will be doing the right-of-way acquisition (must be ODOT certified). We may still try to get it done this year, but ODOT is leaning toward pushing it out a year. They are typically conservative with their project timelines.

Mayor's Discussion

Mayor Tapp said:

I want to thank the Rotary Club Members. Congratulations on 85 years – Mr. Artino remembers when you started out (laughter). Thanks for everything you do for the community. Welcome to Sean Berendt. I have not met him yet – he is in for a lot of learning. We get the water line breaks often during this time, and our guys are on them right away. They are doing a great job, but with the thawing and freezing, this is something that happens every year.

For the Good of the Order

Sam Artino – I have nothing, thank you.

Mark Claus – I would also like to say congratulations to the Rotary Club and thank you for your service. He remembers the Showboat hosting the luncheons when he was a kid. He would be there helping on Mondays because nobody else was around. He really appreciates all their service.

Tom Harris – I do not have anything for the good of the order.

Joe Dike – I would like to say congratulations and thank you to the Rotary Club for everything you do for our community.

Joel Hagy – I have nothing for the good of the order.

William Biddlecombe – Congratulations to the Rotary Club. Thank you, staff, for all your hard work, especially the Water and Street Departments for all the water main work they have been doing this winter. Congratulations to Hayden Holmes, who placed 13th at the OHSa Division II State Diving Meet today. Good luck to all the winter sport athletes in your tournaments and competitions coming up, and please come out and support our local events, programs and student athletes, and GO TIGERS!

Executive Session

None.

Adjournment

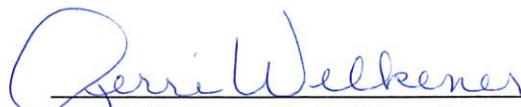
Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe to adjourn the regular meeting of Council.

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, 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 24, 2026, was adjourned at 6:55pm.



Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council

Adopted: 10 MAR 2026



**MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION HONORING THE
85th ANNIVERSARY OF THE HURON ROTARY CLUB**

WHEREAS, the Huron Rotary Club, founded in 1941, proudly celebrates 85 years of dedicated service to the City of Huron and the surrounding region; and

WHEREAS, the Huron Rotary Club has remained committed to uplifting the community through service, education, and partnerships, guided by its principles and motto, "Service Above Self"; and

WHEREAS, the Club has supported local youth through scholarships, contests, and student-focused programs such as the Huron High School Scholarship Program, the Speech Contest based on the Rotary Four-Way Test providing monetary support to graduating seniors, and hosting an Annual Fall Golf Scramble to benefit local students; and

WHEREAS, Huron Rotary members have contributed to numerous community projects and events, including assisting in creation of Huron Rotary Centennial Park, hosting Huron Rotary Rocks (previously the art festival), ringing the bell for The Salvation Army, hosting a Halloween Trunk or Treat celebration, and creating The Storywalk at the James H. McBride Arboretum at BGSU Firelands;

WHEREAS, additional local service includes sponsorship of the Chris and Owen Kedas Foundation, regular support of the Huron Helping Hands Food Pantry, preparing senior gift bags for The Salvation Army, participating in the Good Knights Build-A-Bed program, contributing to the District 6600 Peace Conference, and supporting the Harvest for Hunger through the Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio; and

WHEREAS, Huron Rotary members remain informed and engaged through a robust speaker program and business tours that strengthen their understanding of the City of Huron and surrounding communities; and

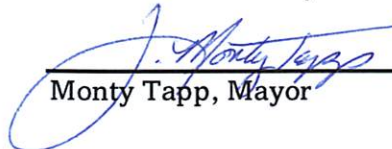
WHEREAS, the Huron Rotary Club extends its service beyond local borders by supporting Rotary International's global initiatives, including efforts to eradicate polio, provide clean water, and deliver medical equipment and supplies to underserved communities; and

WHEREAS, the 85th anniversary of the Huron Rotary Club represents a significant milestone and an opportunity to recognize the lasting and positive impact its members have made on our community and beyond.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Monty Tapp, Mayor of the City of Huron, do hereby proclaim February 24th in the year 2026 as the 85th Anniversary of the Huron Rotary Club Celebration Day in the City of Huron. I call upon all residents to join me in recognizing the Huron Rotary Club for 85 years of exceptional service to our community.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the City of Huron, Ohio on this 24th day of February 2026.



Monty Tapp, Mayor