

THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO
Proceedings of the Huron City Council
Regular Meeting Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 6:30pm

Call to Order

The Mayor called to order the regular Council meeting of April 14, 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: **Sam Artino, William Biddlecombe, Monty Tapp, Mark Claus, Tom Harris and Joel Hagy**. Council Member absent: **Joe Dike**.

Motion by Mr. Claus to excuse the absence of Mr. Dike.

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, Artino, Biddlecombe, Tapp (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor of the motion, the Mr. Dike's absence was excused.

Staff in attendance: City Manager Stuart Hamilton, Law Director Todd Schrader, Fire Chief Kevin McGraw, Police Chief Terry Graham, Parks and Recreation Director Doug Steinwart 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.

No citizens came forward to address Council.

Old Business

Ordinance No. 2026-1 (third and final reading)

Motion by Mr. Artino that Ordinance No. 2026-1 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF HURON TO REFLECT THE REZONING OF APPROXIMATELY 1.3698 +/- ACRES OF VACANT LAND OWNED BY HOLIDAY HARBOR MARINA INC. LOCATED IN THE CITY OF HURON, ERIE COUNTY, OHIO (FORMERLY KNOWN AS ERIE COUNTY, OHIO PERMANENT PARCEL NUMBER 42-02091.000 AND NOW PART OF ERIE COUNTY, OHIO PARCEL NO. 42-00710.000), FROM THE CURRENT R-

3 (MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT) TO B-3 (GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICT) be placed on its third and final reading.

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

YEAS: Artino, Biddlecombe, Tapp, Claus, Harris, Hagy, Dike (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2026-1 was placed on its third and final reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

City Manager Stuart Hamilton explained that this parcel was purchased from Zion Lutheran Church by Holiday Harbor and is being rezoned to match the rest of their property parcels. The rezoning was approved by Planning Commission in January 2026 and passed to council for consideration.

The Mayor asked if there were any 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 (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, Ordinance No. 2026-1 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect in 30 days.

Ordinance No. 2026-2 (third and final reading)

Motion by Mr. Artino that Ordinance No. 2026-2 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 901 (EXCAVATIONS) OF THE HURON CODIFIED ORDINANCES) be placed on its third and final reading.

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

YEAS: Artino, Biddlecombe, Tapp, Claus, Harris, Hagy (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2026-2 was placed on its third and final reading. The Assistant Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

City Manager Hamilton explained the amendments bring the chapter in line with contractor registrations by allowing the city to take bonds and deposits for excavation work within the right-of-way. The bonds, which can go up to \$10,000, allow the city to correct improperly completed work. The ordinance also introduces penalties for doing work within the right-of-way without a permit and includes a \$5 increase to the permit processing fee.

Councilman Claus asked whether contractors need to put deposits for each individual project or have a blanket bond. Hamilton clarified that contractors must pull permits and put surety bonds down for each

project, though for major utilities like Columbia Gas and FirstEnergy, the city uses one-time lump-sum deposits with drawdowns.

The Mayor asked if there were any 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 (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, Ordinance No. 2026-2 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect in 30 days.

Ordinance No. 2026-3 (third and final reading)

Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe that Ordinance No. 2026-3 (AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE HURON POLICE DEPARTMENT VIDEO POLICY) be placed on its third and final reading.

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

YEAS: Biddlecombe, Claus, Tapp, Harris, Hagy, Artino (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2026-3 was placed on its third and final reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Police Chief Terry Graham explained this ordinance establishes a video and audio redaction policy for body-worn cameras and cruiser cameras, in line with Ohio Revised Code 149.43. The policy establishes charging \$75 per hour, not to exceed \$750 per event, with some exceptions for who would be charged. There have been no changes since the last reading.

Mayor Tapp asked if requests have slowed down since the policy was introduced, to which Chief Graham indicated they have not significantly changed.

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

YEAS: Biddlecombe, Claus, Tapp, Harris, Hagy, Artino (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, Ordinance No. 2026-3 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect in 30 days.

New Business**Resolution No. 29-2026**

Motion by Mr. Harris that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 29-2026 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A HIGHWAY LIGHTING MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION) 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, Artino, Biddlecombe, Tapp, Claus (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived, and Resolution No. 29-2026 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

City Manager Hamilton explained this agreement allows ODOT to maintain highway lighting for the city on State Route 2, where most companies are not allowed to work. The city pays for the electricity for those lights and has ODOT do the maintenance. While there's no direct cost for the legislation, there is a cost at the end of the year when the city receives its invoice.

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, Artino, Biddlecombe, Tapp, Claus (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 29-2026 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 30-2026

Motion by Mr. Artino that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 30-2026 (A RESOLUTION ORDERING THE REPAIR OF THE PUBLIC SIDEWALKS ABUTTING CERTAIN PREMISES IN THE CITY OF HURON) 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 (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived, and Resolution No. 30-2026 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

City Manager Hamilton explained this resolution covers Districts 2, 3, and 4, completing the city's sidewalk inspection program. This resolution of necessity will allow the city to inspect sidewalks in these districts. Work notices have already been sent out, and the total cost is expected to be \$120,875. Hamilton noted that each year going forward should see smaller numbers as the city gets caught up on sidewalk repairs.

Mayor Tapp inquired about residents who have only one section of sidewalk needing replacement and the difficulty contractors have with such small jobs. Hamilton explained that residents have multiple options: they can do the work themselves by banding together with neighbors, they can have the city do the work and pay the invoice directly rather than being assessed, or they can be assessed on their taxes. He noted that many people do choose to do their sidewalks themselves, and smaller contractors often approach homeowners in areas where the city is working.

Councilman Claus commented that he always recommends residents opt in to have the city do the work because the city always gets the best price, and contractors working for the city are often willing to do additional side work for residents at competitive rates. Hamilton clarified that any side jobs are directly between contractors and residents.

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 (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 30-2026 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 31-2026

Motion by Mr. Tapp that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 31-2026 (A RESOLUTION RATIFYING SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE STATE BOARD OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL, FIRE, AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES, FOR FUNDING FOR EMS-RELATED EQUIPMENT, TRAINING AND/OR RESEARCH FOR THE HURON FIRE DEPARTMENT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED TEN THOUSAND AND XX/100 DOLLARS (\$10,000.00); AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT SAID GRANT AWARD IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED TEN THOUSAND AND XX/100 DOLLARS (\$10,000.00), SHOULD THE APPLICATION BE SUCCESSFUL) 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, Artino, Biddlecombe (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived, and Resolution No. 31-2026 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Fire Chief McGraw explained this is a reimbursement grant available for EMS-specific equipment that meets state guidelines. The money comes from seat belt tickets, and the department expects to receive around \$4,000 to \$5,000. The grant can be renewed annually as long as the funds are fully spent. The grant covers more expensive equipment used regularly, such as backboards and electronic equipment, with items typically ranging from \$500 to \$1,500.

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, Artino, Biddlecombe (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 31-2026 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 32-2026

Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 32-2026 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO PURCHASE TWENTY-FIVE (25) STREETLIGHT POLES AND ARMS FROM REXEL USA, INC. DBA GEXPRO RELATING TO THE US 6 PHASE II PROJECT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED SEVENTY-FOUR THOUSAND AND XX/100 DOLLARS (\$74,000.00)) 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: Biddlecombe, Claus, Tapp, Harris, Hagy, Artino (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived, and Resolution No. 32-2026 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

City Manager Hamilton explained this unusual ODOT process where the actual lights are approved items, but the decorative poles and arms are not, requiring the city to purchase them outside the contract while still having the contractor install them. These 25 street lights will go on the U.S. 6 Phase 2 project from the current location out to the roundabout, giving it more of a boulevard feel. Hamilton noted that while they would ideally like these decorative lights throughout the city, at \$75,000 for 25 lights, they target opportunities when doing projects where poles need to come out anyway.

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, Tapp, Claus, Harris, Hagy, Artino (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 32-2026 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 33-2026

Motion by Mr. Tapp that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 33-2026 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF HURON, WITH SEELEY, SAVIDGE, EBERT & GOURASH CO., LPA FOR THE PROVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR FROM JUNE 4, 2026 THROUGH JUNE 3, 2027 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED ONE HUNDRED FIFTY FOUR THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND XX/100 DOLLARS (\$154,500.00)) 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: Tapp, Claus, Harris, Hagy, Artino, Biddlecombe (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived, and Resolution No. 33-2026 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

City Manager Hamilton detailed the one-year contract terms, noting either party can terminate with 90-day notice. The contract covers all basic legal law director duties, with litigation at a reduced fee outside the contract. Todd Schrader will continue as Hamilton's primary legal counsel, with Gary backing him up. The contract provides for a monthly flat fee of \$12,875 with no cap on hours worked, and SSEG provides detailed invoices that consistently exceed the contracted hours. Hamilton praised the legal team's dedication and reliability, particularly noting Schrader's expertise and trustworthiness.

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, Artino, Biddlecombe (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 33-2026 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:

Conagra Development: The developer went to KHOV for final approval and successfully completed the process. The acceptance agreement between KHOV and Triban has been finalized, and they are working through legal agreements. The City is working with Triban on the Development Agreement needed before closing. The final unit count from KHOV was 95, reduced from the original 107, then 115, due to KHOV wanting more spacing between unit blocks. The revised site plan will go to Planning Commission, which has authority to approve the changes without returning to council.

Bike Lanes: The bike lane repaint project will strip off existing paint, pressure wash, crack seal, and apply new green paint in targeted areas (not on concrete where it doesn't adhere well). They'll restripe bridge

decks and other white paint areas, then add symbols. The work may reduce traffic to one lane in small areas and is scheduled to start April 20, weather dependent.

Planning and Zoning: The City is now treating industrial and commercial properties the same as residential properties for tall weed and grass maintenance. Previously, these properties were held to different standards, but City ordinances don't support treating them differently. Informative letters have been sent to commercial and industrial property owners advising them they are bound by the same rules as residential properties.

Parks and Recreation: A successful Sustainable Community Tour was held March 30, sponsored by Old Women's Creek Reserve, Erie Conservation District, Ohio Clean Marina programs, and the Parks and Recreation department. The well-attended event showcased the city's environmental initiatives and marina's efforts to prevent pollution entering the lake.

Safety Services: The Fire Department is hosting its first of two open houses this Saturday between 1 and 4 PM at Station 1, allowing residents to visit, interact with crews, and ask questions about daily operations and the upcoming May 5 levy. A second open house will be held May 25 at Station 2 on Bogart Road.

Revenue: The city received \$44,000 in marijuana tax revenue, backdated to August 2024. Going forward, the city expects approximately \$2,000 monthly from this source.

Personnel Changes: Steve Didelot, Streets Foreman with over 32 years of service, is retiring at the end of April. Alec Romick, zoning inspector, left to become a firefighter at Norwalk. The Zoning Inspector position is being converted to part-time, with Carolyn and Christine taking on more daily paperwork while the inspector focuses on field inspections. The Service Manager position is being filled, with interviews starting this week. Greg Kushner joined the water plant team March 30, bringing 10 years of utility and government experience.

531 Berlin Road: The city has taken possession of this property after investing \$24,000 in demolition, environmental work, and title searches. The property will be sold by owner with a yard sign and Facebook marketing to get it back on tax rolls.

Hometown Heroes Project: Local student Grant Bauer initiated a project to put hometown hero banners on street lights from Berlin Road to Main Street, with American flags on the street side. Grant is working with Lions Club, VFW, and other veteran communities to identify heroes and raise funds for banners. The city will provide and install mounts and hang banners, hoping to complete the project by Memorial Day.

Administrative Items: The City Manager approved signs for the Huron Garden Club Plant Sale (median strip May 10-16, sale May 16) and an upcoming Huron Public Library book sale (median strip June 2-6).

Projects Out to Bid: South Main Street streetscape project is out to bid with proposals due April 29 at 2 PM.

Upcoming Meetings: Planning commission meets tomorrow night at 5 PM in council chambers, and the final April council meeting is April 28 at 6:30 PM in council chambers.

Councilman Hagy asked about stormwater infrastructure responsibilities. Hamilton clarified that residents are responsible for storm ditches and swales on their property to keep stormwater flowing, as these

systems are designed to carry maximum water flow. He also asked about the service manager role, which Hamilton explained would handle day-to-day management of streets, water distribution, and building maintenance.

Mayor Tapp mentioned that AM Vets contacted him about their previous flag displays on the bridge, advising that new Hometown Heroes banners should be mounted higher than their flags were to prevent theft.

Mayor's Discussion

Mayor Tapp welcomed everyone back after missing previous meetings, noting he watched them remotely and jokingly observed he may not be needed. He praised Grant Bauer as "super bright, super intelligent" with great energy, expressing pride in the high school student's Hometown Heroes project. The Mayor thanked city staff and legal counsel for their hard work.

Mayor Tapp announced the Fraternal Order of Police Lake Erie Lodge number 17's 27th annual Erie County Law Enforcement Officers memorial ceremony on May 9 at 2 PM in Washington Park, with Perkins Township Police Chief Jeffrey Musser speaking.

The Mayor congratulated Steve Didelot on his retirement, Alec Romick on his new firefighter career, and Terry Ochs on 40 years of service. He thanked all City staff for their hard work as things get busy, and mentioned wanting to operate the crane at the new water tank construction site.

For the Good of the Order

Sam Artino – Councilman Artino expressed condolences to the Allendorf family and congratulations to Terry Ochs and Steve Didelot, praising Steve as hardworking and dedicated to the community.

Mark Claus – Councilman Claus congratulated both Steve Didelot and Terry Ochs, and thanked Todd Schrader and his SSEG team for their legal expertise and hoped for many more years of service. He also expressed condolences to the Allendorf family and inquired about organizing a hard hat tour of the water tower construction. City Manager Hamilton agreed to arrange a tour for Council members.

Tom Harris – Councilman Harris congratulated Steve Didelot and encouraged Terry Ochs to continue his service.

Joel Hagy – Councilman Hagy expressed condolences to the Allendorf family, noting Chuck's sudden passing and his active community involvement. He congratulated Steve Didelot on his retirement.

William Biddlecombe – Councilman Biddlecombe offered condolences to the Allendorf family and congratulations to Steve Didelot and Terry Ochs. He welcomed Greg Kushner and announced the next School Board meeting on April 20 at 6 PM at Woodlands cafeteria, and Huron Pizza House's 35th anniversary. He provided extensive information about Parks and Recreation youth program registration and upcoming home games for boys tennis, baseball, softball, and track and field, encouraging support for local student athletes. Please come out and support our local events, programs and student athletes, and GO TIGERS!

Executive Session

None.

Adjournment

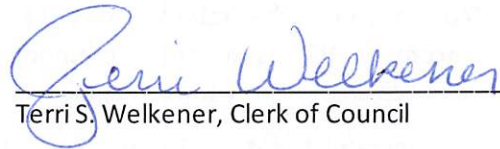
Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe to adjourn the regular meeting of Council.

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, Artino (6)

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor of the motion, the regular Council meeting of April 14, 2026, was adjourned at 7:18 pm.



Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council

28 APR 2026

Adopted: _____