

**THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO**  
**Proceedings of the Huron City Council**  
**Regular Meeting Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at 6:30pm**

**Call to Order**

The Mayor called to order the regular Council meeting of May 12, 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, Law Director Todd Schrader, Attorney Matt Waters of Seeley, Savidge, Ebert & Gourash, Fire Chief Kevin McGraw, Police Chief Terry Graham, Parks and Recreation Director Doug Steinwart, Water Superintendent Jack Evans and Terri Welkener, Clerk of Council.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Motion by Mr. Dike to approve the minutes of the regular Council meeting of March 24, 2026.**

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 (6)**

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and the minutes of the March 24, 2026 regular Council meeting were adopted.

**Motion by Mr. Dike to approve the minutes of the regular Council meeting of April 28, 2026.**

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)**

**ABSTAIN: Dike (1)**

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and the minutes of the April 28, 2026 regular Council meeting were adopted.

**Mayor's Proclamation**

The Mayor read a Proclamation designating May 16-22 as National Safe Boating Week. A copy of the Proclamation is attached hereto as Exhibit "A".

**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 members of the public came forward to address Council.

**Old Business**

None.

**New Business****Resolution No. 43-2026**

**Motion by Mr. Claus that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 43-2026 (A RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE CITY MANAGER'S SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION TO THE ERIE COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (ERPC MPO) TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES (TA) PROGRAM RELATING TO THE HURON WATERFRONT PARKS WALL STREET SEGMENT PROJECT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED TWO HUNDRED FORTY-SEVEN THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE AND XX/100 DOLLARS (\$247,425.00); AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT SAID GRANT AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE ERPC MCO 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: 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. 43-2026 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

City Manager Hamilton presented this resolution, which ratifies the submission of a grant application to the Erie County Regional Planning Commission Metropolitan Planning Organization (ERPC MPO) under the Transportation Alternatives Program. The project involves constructing an off-road bike path along Wall Street from the pier through Lakefront Park, forming one segment of a broader multi-use connectivity network linking the pier, parks, and other areas of the city. The grant amount of \$247,425 represents approximately half of the estimated total project cost. City Manager Hamilton noted that ERPC MPO has been a strong partner on similar projects and that, if funded, construction would not be expected until 2027 or 2028, making this a proactive planning effort.

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. 43-2026 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

**Resolution No. 44-2026**

**Motion by Mr. Claus that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 44-2026 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO WITH HURON RIVER FEST, INC. TO HOLD ITS ANNUAL RIVER FEST EVENT IN THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO DURING THE PERIOD OF JULY 10, 2026 THROUGH JULY 11, 2026) 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, Tapp, (6)**  
**RECUSE: Biddlecombe (1)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived, and Resolution No. 44-2026 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

It was noted for the record by Law Director Schrader that Councilmember Claus recused himself and left the Council chambers prior to consideration of this item. Parks & Recreation Director Doug Steinwart presented the resolution, which authorizes the annual agreement with Huron River Fest, Inc. to utilize City property, specifically the Boat Basin, for the River Fest event on July 10–11, 2026. The agreement includes a road closure along the S-curve down South Street beginning at 2:00 PM on Thursday, July 9, through 11:00 AM on Sunday, July 13. Beer sales in a designated area are also approved. The two-day facility charge of \$1,000 (\$500 per day) will be directed to the Parks Fund. In response to a question, Director Steinwart confirmed that fireworks will take place on July 10 — a consolidated and anticipated larger show — and that there will not be a separate 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks display that weekend.

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, Tapp, (6)**  
**RECUSE: Biddlecombe (1)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 44-2026 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

**Resolution No. 45-2026**

**Motion by Mr. Tapp that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 45-2026 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH AXON**

**ENTERPRISE, INC. FOR A PERIOD OF 10 YEARS TO CONSOLIDATE EXISTING AGREEMENTS FOR AXON BODY-WORN CAMERAS, AXON CRUISER CAMERAS, AXON TASERS, AND RELATED SOFTWARE AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE HURON POLICE DEPARTMENT IN AN AGGREGATE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED NINETY-SIX AND 49/100 DOLLARS (\$550,896.49)) 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. 45-2026 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Police Chief Terry Graham presented this resolution authorizing a consolidated 10-year agreement with Axon Enterprises, Inc. covering body-worn cameras, in-car cruiser cameras, Tasers, and the Evidence.com software platform, in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$550,896.49. Chief Graham explained that the City currently maintains multiple Axon contracts with staggered end dates, and this consolidation simplifies management while locking in fixed pricing. By entering into the 10-year agreement, the City is projected to save approximately \$220,000 over the contract term, equating to roughly \$22,000 per year. Chief Graham noted that the agreement also includes equipment upgrades at 2.5-year intervals, ensuring officers always have current technology without additional cost. Chief Graham further noted that Section 17.2 of the 43-page contract contains a termination clause allowing the City to exit the agreement if sufficient funds are not appropriately available, providing a financial safeguard. Councilmember Harris commended staff for their efforts to consolidate and achieve cost savings.

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. 45-2026 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

**Ordinance No. 2026-10**

**Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe that the three-reading rule be waived and Ordinance No. 2026-10 (AN ORDINANCE TO REVISE THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES BY ADOPTING CURRENT REPLACEMENT PAGES; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY) be placed on its first 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, Tapp, Claus, Harris, Hagy, Dike, Artino (7)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2026-10 was placed on its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

**Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe to place Ordinance No. 2026-10 as an emergency measure.**

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 five or more votes in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2026-10 was placed as an emergency measure.

City Manager Hamilton explained that this ordinance, which adopts current replacement pages to the Codified Ordinances, was being advanced on an emergency basis at the request of the City's Prosecutor. The update incorporates changes from the Ohio Revised Code into the City's codified ordinances to address an issue that has been affecting communities across the state, specifically, Avery's Law relating to vicious dogs.

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

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

**Ordinance No. 2026-11**

**Motion by Mr. Dike that Ordinance No. 2026-11 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PARAGRAPH 331.37(a) OF SECTION 331.37 (DRIVING UPON SIDEWALKS, STREET LAWNS OR CURBS) OF CHAPTER 331 (OPERATION GENERALLY) OF THE HURON CODIFIED ORDINANCES) be placed on its first 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: Dike, Artino, Biddlecombe, Tapp, Claus, Harris, Hagy (7)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2026-11 was placed on its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

City Manager Hamilton introduced this item, noting that during previous discussions regarding motorized e-bikes, scooters, and similar devices, staff identified a conflict within the Huron Codified Ordinances. He

deferred the explanation to the city's legal representative, Matt Waters, who clarified that two sections of Huron code directly contradict one another — one provision permits low-speed micromobility devices (such as electric kids' scooters) on sidewalks, while another prohibits it. Additionally, the prohibition conflicts with the Ohio Revised Code, which permits such devices on sidewalks. This amendment resolves the internal contradiction and aligns the city's ordinances with state law. Council elected to allow this item to proceed through all three readings rather than waive that rule, given that it constitutes an ordinance change.

The Mayor asked if there were any questions. There were none.

**Ordinance No. 2026-12**

**Motion by Mr. Tapp that the three-reading rule be waived and Ordinance No. 2026-12 (AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND PRESCRIBING THE MANNER OF SALE OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY THE CITY OF HURON, LOCATED AT 531 BERLIN ROAD, HURON, OH 44839, ERIE COUNTY PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 42-01067.000; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR THE SALE OF THAT PROPERTY TO FINTON PROPERTY SERVICES LLC; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY) be placed on its first 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: Tapp, Claus, Harris, Hagy, Dike, Biddlecombe, Artino (7)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2026-12 was placed on its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

**Motion by Mr. Tapp to place Ordinance No. 2026-12 as an emergency measure.**

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, Biddlecombe, Artino (7)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion passed and Ordinance No. 2026-12 was placed as an emergency measure.

City Manager Hamilton provided background on the property at 531 Berlin Road. In 2023, the City's Building Official condemned the structure as unsafe and ordered demolition. The City bore the cost of demolition and has maintained the property since. After the property failed to sell at sheriff's sale on three separate occasions, the City claimed the property, had all back taxes removed, and proceeded to solicit offers. Three offers were received, and the best offer of \$25,450 plus closing costs — submitted by Finton Property Services LLC — is before Council for approval. Hamilton emphasized that the City's goal was solely to recover its costs and return the property to the tax rolls, not to profit from the transaction.

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

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being a majority in favor, Ordinance No. 2026-12 was adopted. The Ordinance 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:

**Anonymous Donation:** — VR Training Equipment: The Police Department received an anonymous donation of \$15,000 to be applied toward the purchase of virtual reality training goggles. Hamilton described the Axon-based VR system as a forward-looking training tool that allows officers to practice responding to scenarios — including mental health crisis situations — without leaving the department.

**Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe to accept the \$15,000 anonymous donation for virtual reality training equipment.**

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, the motion passed and the donation was accepted.

**South Main Street Streetscape Project:** Bids closed on May 7, with two bids received. The apparent lowest bid came in at approximately \$2,154,000, consistent with the engineer's estimate. Bids are currently under review for correctness. Hamilton reminded Council that the project has received \$360,000 in ERPC grant funding and \$410,000 in HSIP funds, bringing the City's net project cost to approximately \$1.5 million.

**Route 6 Phase 2:** Full road closure of Route 6 from Main Street to the city limits is anticipated from June 8 through August 14. Detour signage is expected to be posted within approximately one week. Staff will use social media and text alerts to keep the public informed as the closure date approaches.

**Bike Lanes:** The old green paint has been removed and the bike lanes crack-sealed. Repainting in the new configuration is expected within the next few weeks. Hamilton acknowledged Seal Master for donating paint at cost and providing the labor for the repainting project.

**Parks and Recreation:** The spring City-wide garage sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 16 from 8:00 AM to noon at the Boat Basin. A limited number of vendor spaces remain; interested parties may contact Parks & Recreation at 419-433-8487. Summer program and youth camp registrations are open at [cityofhuron.org](http://cityofhuron.org).

**Huron Boat Basin Shelter Improvements:** The Erie Metro Parks Capital Improvement Grant Program awarded the City \$8,742 for the replacement of the two Boat Basin shelter roofs. Additionally, the Huron Lions Club agreed to donate the cost of residing both shelters, including labor and materials, up to \$6,000. Both shelters will be updated to match the marina building aesthetic.

**Safety Services / Fire Levy:** City Manager Hamilton expressed gratitude to all residents who participated in the fire levy vote. He acknowledged supporters of the levy and assured those who voted against it that every dollar collected would be carefully managed and maximized.

**Water Safety Day:** The Police and Fire Departments, along with ODNR Watercraft Division, U.S. Coast Guard, and USGS, will participate in a water safety day with Huron third graders at the Boat Basin on Wednesday, May 13. Immediately following, the new police boat — made possible by an anonymous donation — will be launched at the boat ramp. The public is invited to attend at noon.

**Autism and Special Needs Registry / Surveillance Camera Registration:** Hamilton reminded the public of two voluntary programs recently introduced by the Police Department. The autism and special needs registry allows residents to register information with police to aid officers during emergency contacts. The surveillance camera registration program allows residents to voluntarily register the location of their cameras so that officers can more efficiently seek footage in the event of an incident.

**Safety Services Sponsored Baseball Team:** Games are scheduled for May 19, June 4, and June 18.

**Water Department:** The water filtration plant completed PFAS ("forever chemicals") sampling on April 20 as part of a class action lawsuit. Prior testing indicated no local problem, but results are pending. Once received, the Water Superintendent will work with legal counsel on any necessary remediation, and the public will be kept informed. Distribution staff are actively completing road restorations related to winter water main breaks. Hamilton congratulated Marty Luipold on passing his Class 3 water supply examination, making him eligible to apply for licensure in July. The water plant now has one Class 4 operator and four Class 3 operators, a staffing level Hamilton described as exceptional.

**Water Plant Re-Rating:** The EPA has approved an increase in the plant's rated capacity from 3.4 million gallons per day to 5.5 million gallons per day — a process that began in 2021. This re-rating provides capacity headroom to support new businesses and developments and addresses the fact that the plant had met or exceeded its prior rated capacity on over 300 days in the past four years.

**Personnel:** A part-time Zoning Inspector position (approximately 24 hours per week) remains open, suited for a retiree or individual comfortable with fieldwork and code enforcement. City Manager Hamilton also welcomed Jackson Schaefer as the new Service Manager, bringing over 20 years of relevant water distribution experience from Erie County.

**Upcoming Meetings:** Planning Commission meeting on Wednesday, May 20 at 5:00 PM in Council Chambers; final City Council meeting of the month on Tuesday, May 26 at 6:30 PM in Council Chambers. Administrative offices will be closed Monday, May 25 in observance of Memorial Day.

### **Mayor's Discussion**

Mayor Tapp said:

Mayor Tapp echoed thanks to the community for supporting the fire levy and for the generous donations received by the city, noting the particular significance of the donated police boat. He confirmed that the water safety program the following day would take place at the parks by the Boat Basin, with the boat splash occurring at noon at the boat ramp on the opposite side of the river. Mayor Tapp also noted an open vacancy on the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) due to a recent resignation, and invited anyone interested to come forward.

**For the Good of the Order**

**Joe Dike** - Councilmember Dike thanked the community for supporting the fire and safety services, noting the department's longstanding strong presence in the city, and pledged his continued support as a Council member.

**Sam Artino** – Councilmember Artino thanked the community for its ongoing support.

**Mark Claus** – Councilmember Claus thanked the community for turning out to vote in support of the fire levy, and specifically acknowledged Chief McGraw and his staff for their outreach efforts. He also congratulated new Service Manager Jackson Schaefer.

**Tom Harris** – Councilmember Harris welcomed Jackson Schaefer as the new Service Manager, congratulated the Fire Department, and thanked the community for passing the fire levy.

**Joel Hagy** – Councilmember Hagy had nothing to add.

**William Biddlecombe** – Vice-Mayor Biddlecombe thanked staff for their hard work and the community for supporting the fire levy. He noted the upcoming school board meeting on Monday, May 18 at 6:00 PM in the Woodlands cafeteria, the city-wide garage sale on Saturday at the Boat Basin, and reminded residents that the last home track and field meet of the spring season is May 15. 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 May 12, 2026, was adjourned at 7:11pm.

26 MAY 2026

  
Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council

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



## MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION

For over 100 million Americans, boating continues to be a popular recreational activity. From coast to coast, and everywhere in between, people are taking to the water and enjoying time together boating, sailing, paddling and fishing. During National Safe Boating Week, the U.S. Coast Guard and the National Safe Boating Council, along with federal, state, and local safe boating partners encourage all boaters to explore and enjoy America's beautiful waters responsibly.

Safe boating begins with preparation. The Coast Guard estimates that human error accounts for most boating accidents and that life jackets could prevent nearly 75 percent of boating fatalities. Through basic boating safety procedures – carrying lifesaving emergency distress and communications equipment, wearing life jackets, attending safe boating courses, participating in free boat safety checks, and staying sober when navigating – we can help ensure boaters on America's coastal, inland, and offshore waters stay safe throughout the season.

National Safe Boating Week is observed to bring attention to important life-saving tips for recreational boaters so that they can have a safer, more fun experience out on the water throughout the year.

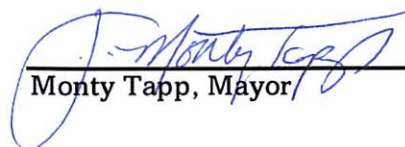
WHEREAS, on average, 650 people die each year in boating-related accidents in the U.S.; 75 percent of these are fatalities caused by drowning; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of these accidents are caused by human error or poor judgment and not by the boat, equipment or environmental factors; and

WHEREAS, a significant number of boaters who lose their lives by drowning each year would be alive today had they worn their life jackets.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Monty Tapp, on behalf of the City of Huron, do hereby support the goals of the Safe Boating Campaign and proclaim May 17-23, 2026 as National Safe Boating Week and the start of the year-round effort to promote safe boating.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the City of Huron, Ohio on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2026.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Monty Tapp, Mayor

