THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO
Proceedings of the Huron City Council
Special Meeting Thursday, June 4, 2026 at 12:00pm

Call to Order

The Mayor called to order the special Council meeting of June 4, 2026 to order at 12:00pm. 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** and **Tom Harris.** Members absent: **Joe Dike** and **Joel Hagy**.

Motion

Motion by Mr. Artino to excuse the absences of Mr. Dike and Mr. Hagy.

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 (5)**
NAYS: **None (0)**

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed.

Staff in attendance: City Manager Stuart Hamilton, Fire Chief Kevin McGraw, Finance Director Isaac Phillips and Clerk of Council Terri Welkener.

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.

New Business

Resolution No. 49-2026

Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 49-2026 (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 SOUTH MAIN STREET STREETSCAPE PROJECT (ERI-HURON MAIN STREET; PID 118507) IN THE AMOUNT OF TWO MILLION ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-FOUR THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED SEVENTY-SIX AND 01/100 DOLLARS ($2,154,476.01)) 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, Tapp, Claus, Harris, Artino (5)**
NAYS: **None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived, and Resolution No. 49-2026 was placed upon its first reading. The Clerk of Council read the Resolution by its title only.

City Manager Stuart Hamilton presented the resolution and opened by thanking Council for their flexibility in accommodating the special meeting. He explained that ODOT, the primary grant funder for the project, locks down project commitments at the beginning of June, and that a missed internal deadline necessitated the special meeting. City Manager Hamilton accepted personal responsibility for the oversight, acknowledging that he had relied too heavily on a project partner and that a lesson had been learned.

City Manager Hamilton provided an overview of the project scope. The streetscape improvements will run along South Main Street from U.S. Route 6 to Bogart Road, and will include the replacement of existing sidewalks, installation of a multi-use pathway connecting Bogart Road to the bike lanes on U.S. Route 6, and general beautification of the corridor. The stated goal is to transform what City Manager Hamilton described as an unwelcoming entrance to the city into a more attractive, downtown-feeling corridor. He noted that the remainder of Main Street has been improved multiple times over the years, while this segment has not, and that ongoing residential development in the township on Route 13 is expected to bring 200 to 300 new residents into the area—further underscoring the importance of a well-maintained gateway into the city. Upon completion of streetscape improvements, the full corridor from U.S. Route 6 to Bogart Road will be resurfaced.

The city received two bids for the project. The lowest and best bid was submitted by D. L. Smith Concrete, LLC—the same contractor currently performing work on the U.S. Route 6 corridor—at $2,154,476.01. City Manager Hamilton noted that the bid came in approximately 2.5 percent below the city's internal project estimate. Regarding funding, he highlighted over $700,000 in grant support: $427,410 from ODOT, which required today's approval to preserve, and $360,025 from the Erie County MPO and ERPC. City Manager Hamilton emphasized that this project would likely not have been undertaken without this grant funding, calling nearly three-quarters of a million dollars in grants a significant contribution. The remaining project cost will be financed through a direct placement bond, anticipated at a 20-year term and an estimated interest rate of 4 to 4.5 percent—a method City Manager Hamilton described as more cost-effective and efficient than a public bond issuance for a project of this size and term.

Vice-Mayor Biddlecombe relayed feedback from a resident he had spoken with at a community event the previous evening. The resident noted that long-term projects like this are discussed over multiple years, and that it can be difficult for residents to track the full picture—project renderings, total cost, and grant contributions—by the time a final vote is taken. Vice-Mayor Biddlecombe suggested that for this and future projects, a clear public summary, particularly through social media, be published upon bid award, including a visual rendering and a breakdown of funding sources. City Manager Hamilton acknowledged the suggestion, noting that the city had recently done something similar for the U.S. Route 6 project. He explained that the city typically waits until after the bid award to publish detailed information, as the final budget and timeline are not confirmed until that point, but agreed that preliminary renderings and reminders could be shared earlier in the process.

A Councilmember also noted that the South Main Street Streetscape Project had been part of the city's long-term plan for several years and was included in the budget, characterizing it as a well-established priority rather than a new expenditure.

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, Artino (5)**
NAYS: **None (0)**

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 49-2026 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

<u>Adjournment</u>
Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe to adjourn the special 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, Artino (5)**
NAYS: **None (0)**

There being a majority in favor of the motion, the special Council meeting of June 4, 2026, was adjourned at 12:09pm.

Terri Welkener
Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council

Adopted: 23 JUN 2026