

THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO
Proceedings of the Huron City Council
Regular Meeting Tuesday, August 11, 2026 at 6:30pm

Call to Order

Vice-Mayor William Biddlecombe called the regular Council meeting of August 11, 2026 to order at 6:30pm. The Vice-Mayor called for a moment of silence. After the moment of silence, the Vice-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, Mark Claus, Tom Harris and Joel Hagy**. Council member absent: **Monty Tapp**.

Motion

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

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 (6)

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed and the absence of Mr. Tapp was excused.

Staff in attendance: City Manager Stuart Hamilton, Law Director Todd Schrader, Finance Director Isaac Phillips, Police Chief Terry Graham, Fire Chief Kevin McGraw, Parks and Recreation Director Doug Steinwart, and Terri Welkener, Clerk of Council.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. Dike to approve the minutes of the regular Council meeting of July 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: Dike, Artino, Biddlecombe, Claus, Harris, Hagy (6)

NAYS: None (0)

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

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.

Several residents addressed the Council during the public comment period.

Steven Myers, 513 Wilbor Avenue, requested that the Council and community use the correct name for the trail running between the high school stadium and Woodlands. He stated that the trail is properly called the Lakeshore Electric Trail — a right-of-way of the Lakeshore Electric Interurban Railroad — and not the "Lake Erie Electric Trail" as it has sometimes been referenced in the press. Mr. Myers noted that he originally suggested the name in 1990 when it was formally adopted and emphasized that accuracy would matter as the bike lane is extended in that direction.

Tim Madzia, 318 Deerwood Road, addressed the Council regarding the city's Flock Safety automated license plate reader (ALPR) camera system. He expressed concern that the system, operated by a third-party company, goes beyond its stated purpose by tracking vehicle patterns in ways that he argued would ordinarily require a warrant. He cited the "Deflock Ohio" movement, noting that numerous counties and municipalities across the state have declined to renew or have outright terminated their contracts with Flock Safety due to concerns about data integrity, third-party access, and documented instances of misuse — including use by federal immigration authorities, tracking of individuals seeking out-of-state medical procedures, and use as probable cause in traffic stops. Mr. Madzia stated he had 135 residents prepared to sign a petition against further expansion of the system and asked the Council to investigate thoroughly.

Julie Dively, 316 Kiwanis, echoed Mr. Madzia's concerns. She noted that most individuals captured by the system are innocent and asked that if the city determines the system is necessary for crime prevention, clear answers be provided on how long data is retained, who it is shared with, and how its use is controlled.

Maxwell Fry, 1009 Cove Circle, expressed personal discomfort with the presence of the cameras, characterizing them as contributing to an "open air prison" environment. He also raised broader concerns about the increasing role of AI in law enforcement.

Patricia Braeunig, 705 Ottawa Drive, stated she shared the concerns of the preceding speakers and asked the Council to look into the matter and provide residents with a clearer picture of the program's scope.

Drew Worley, City Councilman from Vermilion, appeared on behalf of Liberty on the Lake, whose members were unable to attend. He indicated he is well-versed on the topic, having reviewed Flock's contracts and patent documents, and stated that he has drafted an ordinance to ban Flock cameras in Vermilion. He noted that over 100 cities nationally have canceled or declined Flock contracts, and referenced recent court rulings — including *Chatry* (2026) — which led at least one Ohio city's law director to conclude the system may be unconstitutional. He offered to meet individually with Council members to discuss the matter in more detail.

Janet Skaggs, 616 N. Oakhurst Court, expressed similar concerns, questioning why cameras continued to multiply throughout the city and asking for greater transparency regarding data access.

Old Business

Resolution No. 57-2026 (second reading)

Motion by Mr. Claus that Resolution No. 57-2026 (A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE CITY OF HURON'S WITHDRAWAL OF ITS MEMBERSHIP IN THE HURON JOINT RECREATION DISTRICT ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION NO. 1995-16 ADOPTED ON JUNE 12, 1995 AND CERTIFYING

SUCH WITHDRAWAL TO THE HURON JOINT RECREATION DISTRICT BOARD) be placed on its second 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 (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 57-2026 was placed upon its second reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

City Manager Stuart Hamilton provided a recap of the legislation. He explained that the Huron Joint Recreation District (HJRD) was originally established to be fully self-sufficient with its own revenue source and tax structure, operating independently of the three entities — the city, the township, and the schools — that created it. In practice, it never achieved that independence and functioned as an additional city department funded by those same jurisdictions. After consultation with all three entities, leadership concluded that the most practical long-term solution was to dissolve the HJRD and return to a direct Parks and Recreation department model. City Manager Hamilton noted that the township would continue to support the Parks and Rec department in the same manner as it supported the HJRD, and that the school district, while recognizing some modest benefits from the existing arrangement, understood and agreed that dissolution was the right move going forward. There would be no change in function or operations for residents.

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

Resolution No. 58-2026 (second reading)

Motion by Mr. Claus that Resolution No. 58-2026 (A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A CITY PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD AND VESTING IN THE CITY PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD THE AUTHORITY TO ADVISE CITY COUNCIL ON THE SUPERVISION, MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE PARTKS THAT ARE SITUATED WITHIN THE CITY OF HURON) be placed on its second 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 (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 50-2026 was placed upon its second reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Parks and Recreation Director Doug Steinwart presented the legislation, describing it as the companion measure to Resolution No. 57-2026, formally establishing a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to replace the outgoing HJRD Board. He noted that operationally, very little would change from how the department has functioned for years. The By-laws, which cover responsibilities including assisting,

monitoring, supporting, and making recommendations to Council, were reviewed by staff and legal at the May HJRD meeting.

In response to a question from Councilmember Claus about the composition of the new board, Director Steinwart explained the board would consist of five members: two appointed by the mayor (as with other city boards), one city council member, one at-large member appointed by the township trustees, and one appointed by the schools. He also noted that six members from the existing HJRD board would carry over, ensuring continuity, eventually meeting the new membership requirements through attrition.

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

Ordinance No. 2026-21 (second reading)

Motion by Mr. Hagy that Ordinance No. 2026-21 (AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE RATE TO BE PAID BY RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY OWNERS FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 2027 THROUGH DECEMBER 2027 FOR RESIDENTIAL SOLID WASTE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL; AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE TO CERTIFY THE COSTS OF SAME TO THE ERIE COUNTY AUDITOR FOR PLACEMENT ON THE TAX DUPLICATE FOR COLLECTION WITH OTHER CITY TAXES IN 2027) be placed on its second 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: Hagy, Dike, Artino, Biddlecombe, Claus, Harris (6)

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, Ordinance No. 2026-21 was placed upon its second reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Finance Director Isaac Phillips reported that through negotiations with the city's public services provider, the city was able to reduce the contract price for 2027 by 9.5 percent, and that savings is being passed directly on to residents. The new monthly residential solid waste collection rate for 2027 will be \$26.00 per trash can, representing a 4 percent reduction from the current rate.

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

New Business

Ordinance No. 2026-22

Motion by Mr. Artino that Ordinance No. 2026-22 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND RESTATING CHAPTER 557 (GRASS, WEEDS AND VEGETATION) OF THE HURON CODIFIED ORDINANCES) 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, Claus, Harris, Hagy, Dike (6)

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority of votes in favor, Ordinance No. 2026-22 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

City Manager Hamilton explained that shortly after the city updated Chapter 557 of the codified ordinances last year, staff began receiving questions about how "weed" was defined — particularly regarding milkweed, which has become a popular plant for pollinator habitat. Upon research, staff discovered the State of Ohio had already removed milkweed from its official weed list. Rather than simply carving out a milkweed exception, the city opted for a cleaner solution: removing the city's own enumerated weed list from the ordinance entirely and instead deferring to the Ohio Revised Code for the definition of what constitutes a weed. This simplifies enforcement and ensures the city's ordinance remains current without requiring future amendments every time the state updates its list.

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

Ordinance No. 2026-23

Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe that the three-reading rule be waived and Ordinance No. 2026-23 (AN ORDINANCE DECLARING A MORATORIUM ON THE ISSUANCE OF NEW TRANSIENT RENTAL REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY) 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, Harris, Hagy, Dike, Artino (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived, and Ordinance No. 2026-23 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe to place Ordinance No. 2026-23 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, Claus, Harris, Hagy, Dike, Artino (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor, motion passed and Ordinance No. 2026-23 was placed as an emergency measure.

City Manager Hamilton explained that Chapter 1369, the city's transient rental ordinance, has been in effect for five years. The city has received significant feedback from both residents and transient rental owners, and with five years of experience, staff and Council determined it was time for a comprehensive review of what is working, what is not, and how the ordinance compares to the evolving landscape of short-term rental regulation across the state and nation.

The moratorium, declared as an emergency measure, will halt the issuance of any new transient rental registration certificates while the review is conducted. Existing license holders are not affected — they may continue to operate and renew their licenses. Additionally, if a property with a transient rental license is sold, the license remains transferable within the applicable two-week window.

City Manager Hamilton outlined a two-phase work session process: the first session will present research findings to Council and the public for interactive feedback; the second will present a draft of revised legislation. He emphasized that nothing is off the table in this review and that the goal is to produce legislation that is fair, enforceable, and workable for all stakeholders — residents, transient rental owners, and city staff. He noted the moratorium is set for a maximum of one year, but staff is targeting completion within six months.

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

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

There being a majority in favor, Ordinance No. 2026-23 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Vice-Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Ordinance No. 2026-24

Motion by Mr. Claus that Ordinance No. 2026-24 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND RESTATING SECTION 385.01(a)(1) RULES; PERMIT AND FEES OF CHAPTER 385 SMALL BOAT MOORING HARBOR OF THE HURON CODIFIED ORDINANCES) be placed on its first reading.

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

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

There being a majority votes in favor, Ordinance No. 2026-24 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Parks and Recreation Director Steinwart presented the ordinance, which establishes seasonal dockage rate increases at the Huron Boat Basin for 2027. He noted that two years ago, the city shifted from large, infrequent rate increases (every five years) to smaller, incremental increases on a biennial basis. The proposed increases reflect rising utility, maintenance, and operational costs at the marina.

The proposed 2027 rates reflect the following annual increases over 2026: resident seasonal slip holders would see increases of \$40/year for a 20-foot slip and \$60/year for a 30-foot slip; non-resident seasonal slip holders would see increases of \$40/year for a 20-foot slip and \$90/year for a 30-foot slip. Director Steinwart reported strong demand, noting that all 30-foot docks are at 100% occupancy and 24-foot slips are at approximately 97% occupancy for the current season. In response to a question from

Councilmember Claus, Director Steinwart confirmed that a transient rate increase had already been implemented for the current season, and a further transient adjustment would be considered next year.

The Vice-Mayor asked if there were further questions. There were none.

Resolution No. 64-2026

Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 64-2026 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER'S EXECUTION OF THE PROPOSAL FROM BUSINESS COMMUNICATION SPECIALISTS (BCS) FOR FIREWALL ENDPOINT PROTECTION SERVICES AND RELATED EQUIPMENT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED THIRTY-THREE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-SEVEN AND 45/100 DOLLARS (\$33,177.45)) be placed on its first reading.

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

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

There being five or more votes in favor, Resolution No. 64-2026 was placed upon its first reading. The Assistant Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

City Manager Hamilton explained that three years ago, the city consolidated its cybersecurity infrastructure — firewalls, endpoint client protection, and all network security — under a single vendor, allowing staff to monitor everything from one platform. The three-year maintenance agreement on that infrastructure is now expiring. Resolution No. 64-2026 authorizes a new three-year maintenance agreement with Business Communication Specialists (BCS) for firewall and endpoint protection services and related equipment, not to exceed \$33,177.45, which will keep all security systems current and supported.

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

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

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 64-2026 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Vice-Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 65-2026

Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution No. 65-2026 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH ERIE COUNTY, OHIO TO PARTICIPATE IN THEIR ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FOR MICROSURFACING THE NORTH HALF OF BOGART RD. BETWEEN 1019 AND 1101 BOGART RD IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED TWENTY-EIGHT THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED FORTY-FOUR AND 30/100 DOLLARS (\$28,444.30)) be placed on its first reading.

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

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

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was waived, and Resolution No. 65-2026 was placed upon its first reading. The Assistant Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

City Manager Hamilton reported that Erie County approached the city with an opportunity to participate in an ongoing roadway improvement project on Bogart Road. The county planned to micro-surface its own 0.5-mile section and invited the city to join the project for the city's portion, from Rye Beach to the city limits. City Manager Hamilton enthusiastically endorsed the arrangement, noting that the county would manage and execute the work, then bill the city. Micro-surfacing, he explained, is best applied to structurally sound roads like Bogart — it crack-seals the surface and applies a new approximately 3/8-inch wearing course that restores grip and weather resistance. The work is expected to be completed this calendar year, likely in October. The city's cost is not to exceed \$28,444.30.

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

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

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 65-2026 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Vice-Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 66-2026

Motion by Mr. Hagy that Resolution No. 66-2026 (A RESOLUTION CERTIFYING SIDEWALK REPAIR AND/OR CONSTRUCTION CHARGES TO THE ERIE COUNTY AUDITOR FOR COLLECTION) be placed on its first reading.

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

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

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 66-2026 was placed upon its first reading. The Assistant Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Finance Director Phillips explained that this resolution, along with the following Resolution No. 67-2026, certifies unpaid invoices for completed sidewalk repair and tree maintenance work to the Erie County Auditor for placement on the tax duplicate. Property owners with outstanding balances will have their charges collected in eight installments over four years (two annual payments), with no interest charged by the city. The Erie County Auditor assesses a 2% administrative fee on top of the certified amounts. A

question was raised from the floor about how the city's sidewalk repair program compares to neighboring communities; Vice-Mayor Biddlecombe indicated City Manager Hamilton would address that topic in the City Manager's Discussion.

The Vice-Mayor asked if there were further questions. There were none.

Resolution No. 67-2026

Motion by Mr. Hagy that Resolution No. 67-2026 (A RESOLUTION CERTIFYING TREE REMOVAL AND/OR MAINTENANCE CHARGES TO THE ERIE COUNTY AUDITOR FOR COLLECTION) be placed on its first reading.

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

YEAS: Hagy, Dike, Artino, Biddlecombe, Claus, Harris (6)

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, Resolution No. 67-2026 was placed upon its first reading. The Assistant Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Finance Director Phillips noted this resolution follows the same collection mechanism as Resolution No. 66-2026, certifying unpaid tree removal and maintenance charges to the Erie County Auditor under identical repayment terms.

The Vice-Mayor asked if there were further questions. There were none.

City Manager's Discussion

Flock Camera Update. Prior to his formal report, City Manager Hamilton invited Police Chief Graham to address the Council and those in attendance regarding the Flock ALPR system, given the public comments received earlier in the meeting. He clarified that the Chief's remarks were intended to provide an informational update from the city's perspective rather than a direct rebuttal to any individual's comments.

Chief Graham thanked residents for their participation and delivered a prepared statement. He explained that the Flock system captures license plate images and visible vehicle characteristics — make, model, and color — of vehicles traveling on public roads. He stated emphatically that the cameras do not identify occupants, record audio, use facial recognition, access personal devices, or continuously track vehicles through the city. The system is not used for traffic enforcement. Data is automatically deleted after 30 days unless preserved as evidence in an active criminal investigation.

Chief Graham described the department's internal safeguards: every search must be associated with a valid law enforcement purpose and a report number; all searches are logged and subject to audit; retired officers' accounts are immediately deactivated; and any officer found to have conducted an improper or unauthorized search will be criminally charged and recommended for termination. He repeated that commitment for emphasis.

Chief Graham cited the system's operational value, noting that in the prior year the cameras recorded over 8.2 million license plate reads in the city, generating alerts for 167 registered sex offenders, 6 violent offenders, 3 unsupervised releasees, and 2 individuals on a gang or terrorist watch list. The system has assisted in locating stolen vehicles, solving hit-skip investigations, executing arrest warrants, and finding missing persons.

On the constitutional debate, Chief Graham acknowledged the "digital dragnet" argument but stated his disagreement, noting that the recording of license plates on public roadways has not been ruled a Fourth Amendment violation by the U.S. Supreme Court. He drew an analogy to other professions — medicine and the clergy — where individual bad actors are held accountable without abandoning the tools or institutions themselves, concluding that the good the system produces far outweighs the risk of misuse.

Sidewalk Program Context. City Manager Hamilton briefly addressed the earlier question about the city's sidewalk repair approach in the context of neighboring communities. He noted that when the city pursued an income tax increase in recent years, the sidewalk and tree programs were among the services targeted for expansion. When that increase did not pass, the city was in a position of reducing rather than expanding services, and the additional revenue needed to take over a broader sidewalk repair program was not available.

K-9 Fund Donation. City Manager Hamilton reported that the Police Department received a \$500 donation to the K-9 Fund from Mary Jane Patterson, and requested a motion to accept.

Motion

Motion by Mr. Biddlecome to accept the \$500 K-9 Fund donation from Mary Jane Patterson.

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

YEAS: Biddlecombe, Claus, Harris, Hagy, Dike, Artino (6)

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor, the motion passed.

ConAgra Project. City Manager Hamilton announced that on Monday, August 3rd, the city closed on the ConAgra property and title was transferred to Triban Investments. The property was sold for \$750,000: \$25,000 in earnest money, \$225,000 cash at closing, and the remaining \$500,000 to be paid at \$10,000 per unit for the first 50 units sold. He expressed enthusiasm about the milestone, describing it as a major step after years of effort.

US 6 Phase II — Ribbon Cutting. All roads associated with the US 6 Phase II project are scheduled to reopen on Monday, August 17th at approximately 9:00 AM, with a ribbon cutting ceremony and a ceremonial parade of city vehicles through the new roundabout before opening to the public. City Manager Hamilton described the project as "transformative" for that end of the city, improving access to the high school and the overall look and feel of the corridor. He also addressed community questions about the metal fence along US 6 between Jim Campbell and the highway, clarifying that the fence is

ODOT property required by law for limited-access roadways, and that ODOT declined the city's request to remove it.

Planning and Zoning. The Planning Commission recently discussed Chapter 1133 (off-street parking), specifically why public parking lots are treated differently from off-street parking with respect to paving requirements. The Commission concluded that public and private lots should be held to the same paving standard, and a future ordinance to that effect may come before Council. City Manager Hamilton noted any such ordinance, if passed, would apply prospectively only. Additionally, there is an opening on the Board of Zoning Appeals; interested residents were directed to contact Clerk of Council Terri Welkener at (419) 433-5000, ext. 1102.

Parks and Recreation Events. Upcoming events include: the final Arts at the Amphitheater event (Amplify, a summer praise gathering) on Sunday, August 16th at 6 PM; Movies by the River — The Lion King — at the Amphitheater on Wednesday, August 12th at dusk; and Boppin' in the Basin on August 15th featuring Super Beetle, a Beatles tribute band, at 7 PM. The Parks Department's old pickup truck is listed for sale on GovDeals.

Ohio Historical Marker. The Erie County Historical Society is working to satisfy the Ohio History Commission's concerns about the replacement marker's text and hopes to resolve the matter within weeks. A grant extension has been obtained from the County Community Foundation, with the goal of reinstalling the marker this fall.

Safety Services. Detective John Dusza was nominated for Part-Time Task Force Officer of the Year by the United States Marshals Service — one of 10 nominations from Northern Ohio out of more than 500 eligible task force officers. The award will be announced at a banquet in Cleveland on September 24th. City Manager Hamilton offered his congratulations to Detective Dusza.

The Fire Department recorded its busiest month ever in July, with 251 call-outs — 130 more than the same period last year. Promotional testing for lieutenant and captain positions has been released, with testing scheduled for mid-September. Two lieutenants and two captains will be promoted off the resulting eligibility list due to upcoming retirements, with those vacated positions to be backfilled with new firefighters. Fire crews have also begun annual school inspections in advance of the return to classes.

Finance. Income tax receipts through July totaled \$2.3 million, trailing 2025 by 15% (approximately \$400,000). Overall budgetary performance through the second quarter has remained in line with expectations, supported by increased kilowatt-hour tax revenue from HPP and adult-use marijuana tax collections. The city's total unencumbered cash position improved from \$13.6 million to \$16.9 million, with the general fund cash balance growing from \$1.7 million to \$2.3 million. Investment performance continues to yield just under 4%. Budget preparation season is underway, with departmental meetings throughout August and September, finance committee presentations in October and November, and all relevant dates available in the City Manager's report.

Water Department. Staff member Marty Luipold passed his Class 3 Water Supply exam and has applied for his license. The water tower project is progressing; the city's logos have been painted on the structure, and the tank bulb is scheduled to be raised on August 22nd in a slow, meticulous process. City Manager Hamilton noted that staff will attempt to document the raise with a time-lapse video.

Streets. Crack-sealing crews are actively working on city roads. City Manager Hamilton reiterated his request that residents slow down and move over when passing work crews for the safety of staff and the public.

Personnel. Michael DelGrosso joined the city as part-time Zoning Inspector on August 5th, working Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays in the Planning and Zoning Department. He brings experience in industrial design, manufacturing process, and value engineering from his prior work in Canal Winchester.

Water and Sewer Regionalization. Erie County has released its Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a feasibility study on the regionalization or consolidation of water and sewer services across the county. Responses are due September 1, 2026. All participating entities, including the city, will have the opportunity to review and score the proposals. City Manager Hamilton indicated the city will continue to keep Council informed as the process develops.

Upcoming Meetings. Planning Commission: Wednesday, August 19 at 5 PM in Council Chambers. Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, August 25 at 6:30 PM in Council Chambers.

In response to Councilmember Hagy's question about Iranian government hacking of municipal water systems through SCADA remote access, City Manager Hamilton confirmed that the city's SCADA system is air-gapped and has no external internet exposure. He explained that the city does maintain one emergency remote-access device that requires a physical connection on-site and a two-factor key exchange to activate — used only once in the past 12 months. He acknowledged that SCADA security is the most significant cybersecurity risk facing municipalities and noted the city's electric substation operates under the same strict isolation protocols. He expressed hope that recent high-profile incidents would prompt the release of federal funding for both technological and physical security improvements at water infrastructure facilities nationwide.

Vice-Mayor's Discussion

Vice-Mayor Biddlecombe thanked all residents who attended the meeting, noting his preference for a full room over empty chairs. He welcomed Michael DelGrosso to city staff. He reminded the public of the upcoming School Board meeting on August 25th at 6 PM at the Woodlands cafeteria, and the back-to-school ice cream social at the Boat Basin on August 18th. He highlighted upcoming fall sports home events, including girls tennis on August 13th and 18th, girls and boys soccer on August 17th, and a football scrimmage at Lake High School on Friday. The first game of the football season is August 21st, away at Oak Harbor.

Please come out and support our local events, programs, student athletes and GO TIGERS!

For the Good of the Order

Councilmember Hagy expressed gratitude to the residents who came in person, noting that direct engagement with Council is more effective than social media, and reiterated that his contact information is publicly available on the city's website with a commitment to respond the same day.

Councilmember Harris echoed the appreciation for public attendance and similarly encouraged residents to bring concerns directly to Council meetings rather than social media. He also welcomed Michael

DelGrosso to the team. On the topic of Flock cameras, Councilmember Harris offered additional information for interested residents, citing Flock Safety's patent number (11,416,545 B1) as a public document worth reviewing. He noted that his own concern is less with how the police department uses the system than with the fact that it is operated and held by a third-party company with capabilities that may exceed what law enforcement has access to, and left the point at that for residents to consider.

Councilmember Claus thanked attendees and affirmed that the Council takes the Flock camera concerns seriously, committing to continued research and legal review to stay current on the issue. He also extended warm congratulations to City Manager Hamilton and staff for closing the ConAgra transaction, remarking that the project has been a community question for close to 15 years since the facility's implosion, through multiple developers. He expressed optimism about seeing a shovel in the ground this fall.

Councilmember Artino thanked attendees once more, affirmed that Council has previously reviewed the Flock system and received the same assurances from the Chief, and stated that the Council keeps a close eye on the program and would act if it ever became a genuine issue. He welcomed the new planning department staff member.

Councilman Dike expressed appreciation for the public's participation and input, and for the efforts of his colleagues and staff.

Vice-Mayor Biddlecombe extended the Council's condolences on behalf of the full body to Chuck Norton and his family upon the recent passing of his wife. Mr. Norton has had a long and valued involvement with the city's finance operations.

Executive Session

None.

Adjournment

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

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

YEAS: Harris, Hagy, Dike, Artino, Biddlecombe, Claus (6)

NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor of the motion, the regular Council meeting of August 11, 2026, was adjourned at 7:39 pm.

Adopted: _____

08 SEP 2026


Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council



**CITY OF HURON
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**

BY-LAWS

BOARD MISSION:

The City of Huron Parks and Recreation Advisory Board ("Board") shall strive to preserve, protect, maintain, improve, and enhance the City's natural resources, parkland, and recreational opportunities for all current and future generations.

ARTICLE I. PURPOSE AND RESPONSIBILITIES. These bylaws are adopted by City Council to facilitate performance of the Board's duties as outlined in the City of Huron Resolution Number 58-2026.

A. **PURPOSE.** The Board's purpose is to advise City Council on the operations of the City of Huron Parks and Recreation Department; recommend related policies to City Council; advise City Council on long-term parks and recreation needs; make recommendations to the City Council for investments in facilities or expanded operations; and elicit and take into account citizen input and community engagement regarding City parks and recreation services.

B. **RESPONSIBILITIES.** Each member shall represent and advocate for what each member believes is best for the City of Huron Parks and Recreation Department and the City as a whole, putting aside personal or special interests. The responsibilities of the Board to City Council include:

1. To advise and recommend on the initiation, planning, and design of a system of City parks, facilities, and programs that will accommodate the public's need for parks and recreation activities.
2. To assist with the preparation and development of rules and regulations by which City parks and recreation programs may operate.
3. To monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of City park and recreation programs.
4. To advise and recommend ways and means by which City parks and recreation programs may be improved or strengthened.
5. To support new City parks, programs, and activities as public need may dictate.
6. To recommend a system of fees and charges for use of City parks and recreation facilities or for participation in City parks and recreation programs, and investigate and



recommend alternate sources of funding for City parks and recreation such as grants, gifts, endowments, etc.

7. To assist with the adjudication of complaints, disputes or other grievances from the public arising out of City parks and recreation activities.

8. To evaluate City parks and recreation programs and activities which are offered from year to year.

9. To review and recommend rules and regulations for City parks and recreation facilities in the community and associated programs.

10. To promote a wide range of City parks and recreation programs that will contribute to the meaningful use of leisure time.

11. To review and recommend City parks and recreation operational policies for all properties and assets under the management of the Parks and Recreation Department.

12. To review and recommend a comprehensive plan for City parks and recreation programs.

13. To assist in identifying funding alternatives and other resources for the operation and maintenance of Parks and Recreation Department facilities and programs.

ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP.

A. **MEMBERSHIP COMPOSITION.** The board is composed of five (5) members that, unless otherwise specified herein, are to be appointed by Council: one (1) Council member, two (2) at-large members (each appointee must be a resident of either the City of Huron or Huron Township); one (1) member appointed by Huron Township Board of Trustees (appointee must be a resident of Huron Township); and one (1) member appointed by the Huron City Schools. Membership will be on a revolving two (2)-year term.

B. **QUALIFICATIONS.** Each member shall be between the ages of 21 and 75, inclusive, at the time he or she is appointed as a member and at the time of any reappointment of his or her membership pursuant to Article II, Section A.

C. **CHAIRPERSON.** The Board shall elect a Chairperson from among the members of the Board by a majority vote of all the members, who retains their ability to discuss, make motions and vote on issues before the Board. The Board may remove the current Chairperson with or without cause by a majority vote of all the other members of the Board and may appoint a new Chairperson. The Chairperson shall:

1. Review with the Parks & Recreation Member or staff, prior to a Board meeting, the items to be on the Board's meeting agenda;

2. Periodically meet with the Parks and Recreation Member and/or other Parks and Recreation Department staff to review Parks and Recreation Department operation, procedures, and to monitor progress on various Parks and Recreation Department projects.

3. Assist in the interview and selection process for any new Parks and Recreation Member if the need arises.

4. Perform such other duties as may be requested by the Board and serve as the liaison to the City Council/Administration.

D. **REMOVAL, VACANCIES.** Any member of the Board may be removed at any time for any reason, or no reason, by the entity that appointed such member. When a voluntary, involuntary, or end-of-term vacancy occurs on the Board, a new member shall be appointed in accordance with Article II, Section A.

ARTICLE III. PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

A. The Board shall advise City Council regarding:

1. the acquisition, development, improvement, equipment, and maintenance of city parks and public playgrounds;
2. the future development of the City parks, playgrounds, and recreational facilities, and the purchase of additional land for those purposes; and
3. improvements in the maintenance, operation, and general welfare of the City's parks, playgrounds, and recreational facilities and their use by the public.

B. The Board shall promote close cooperation between the City, Huron Township, Huron City Schools and all private citizens, institutions, and agencies interested in or conducting recreational activities within the City, so that all recreational resources within the City may be coordinated to secure the greatest public welfare.

ARTICLE IV. MEETINGS.

A. **REGULAR MEETINGS.** Meetings of the Board shall be held the first Tuesday of every second month at 5:30 PM at the location given in the public notice of the meeting.

B. **SPECIAL MEETINGS.** Special Meetings shall either be called by the Chairperson, or by any two members of the Board.

C. **QUORUM.** Three (3) voting members of the Board, regardless if vacancies exist or not, present in-person at a meeting shall constitute quorum for the transaction of business and taking of official action for all matters before the Board.

D. **MOTIONS.** Motions for Board action to be considered by the Board shall be restated by the Chairperson before a vote is taken of the members.

E. **VOTING.** Voting by the members of the Board on any issue before the Board shall be by voice and shall be recorded as passing or failing. Roll call votes will be recorded only upon request by a member of the Board and shall be recorded by "yes" or "no". Members must be present in-person at a meeting to cast a vote. Voting by proxy shall not occur. Provided a quorum has been established at a meeting, the affirmative vote of a majority of those members present in-person at such meeting shall constitute an action of the Board, except as otherwise specifically provided for herein. If less than a quorum is present at a meeting, the meeting may be adjourned by a majority of those members present.

F. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

1. All regular and special meetings, hearings, records, and accounts of the Board shall be open to the public and shall be conducted according to Ohio's Open Meeting Act, ORC §121.22. The public shall be reasonably informed of all public meeting dates and locations. A meeting agenda shall be available to the public at each meeting.

2. Public comment on all non-agenda items may only be presented at the beginning of a meeting, and all public comment on agenda items may only be provided during the public comment period of such agenda item, which is immediately before Board discussion of the relevant agenda item.

3. No other public comment shall be allowed during the meeting, subject to the discretion of the Board, which may direct questions on any agenda item or non-agenda item to members of the public.

ARTICLE V. MISCELLANEOUS.

A. **AMENDMENTS TO AND REVIEW OF THESE BYLAWS.** These Bylaws may be amended, or new bylaws may be adopted, only by City Council. The Board shall review these Bylaws at least once every three (3) years and provide recommendations to City Council for any modifications thereto.

B. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST.** All members of the Board shall comply with the Ohio Ethics Law and related statutes that are found in ORC Chapter 102 and §2921.42 and §2921.43. Generally, these laws prohibit public officials and employees from misusing their official positions for their own personal benefit or the benefit of their family members or business associates. Specifically, members of the Board are prohibited from certain action, including but is not limited to:

1. Participating in their public role as a member of the Board in any action that involves the direct interests of the Member, or those of a family member, or another with whom the member has an ongoing private business relationship;

2. Authorizing, or using a public position to secure, a public contract or the investment of public funds in any security that benefits the member, a family member, or a business associate;

3. Improperly profiting from a public contract;

4. Soliciting or accepting substantial and improper things of value, including, outside employment or consultation fees, gifts, or travel, meals and lodging, from those dealing with a public agency;

5. Unauthorized disclosure or use of information deemed confidential by law; and

6. Representing others before any public agency in a matter in which the member was involved, both during, and for a period of time (at least one year) after, leaving the Board.

C. **COMPENSATION.** The members of the Board shall serve without compensation or remuneration.