



CITY OF HURON  
CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

November 7, 2025

Stuart Hamilton, City Manager

## DONATIONS

## ECONOMIC/COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**ConAgra:** As required by ORC, the City sent the required notice to Erie County with our intent to ultimately approve an Incentive District TIF on the site to pay for the costs of the seawall. The County did not formally object to the TIF and the TIF was approved by Council on April 8, 2025, and submitted to the Ohio Department of Development on April 9, 2025.

The City is finalizing the process with ODNR to formally dedicate a portion of the ODNR boat launch property as public right of way – the preliminary dedication plat has been sent to Erie County for review and will be legislated by Council and signed in the next few weeks. As part of the plat, the City is providing a temporary name for the new roadway for purposes of getting the plat recorded as possible – which will be simply “Access Street.” Ultimately, the new public roadway will need a permanent name, and the staff is proposing calling it River Road as a continuation of the existing River Road – south of Rt. 6 – similarly to how we treat Berlin Road.

The City is putting the finishing touches on a joint easement agreement with ODNR which will permit the City temporary construction easements outside of the formal roadway while also providing ODNR an access easement for the property that is being dedicated as public right of way to ensure people have perpetual access to the boat launch.

USACE issued the permit for the Seawall project. We are waiting for confirmation that ODNR does not have any additional requirements. KS will prioritize the design completion and approval process, so we are ready to issue it at the correct time.

The developer's plans were approved at the Planning Commission and Design Review Board meeting on June 18<sup>th</sup> 2025 and forwarded on to Council for approval. A public hearing was scheduled for the Council meeting August 12<sup>th</sup>. 2025. The development plan was passed by Council at this meeting.

Staff met with the developer last week to discuss the status of their due diligence. The conversation did not go as well as hoped. They have discovered that each unit would require footers tied into the bedrock at a depth of around 50ft, adding unexpected additional costs. These extra costs are not anything the City can cover (~\$3M), so the developer (Triban) are looking at options from their side. The builder (kHov) does not have this additional cost built into their formulas, so for now, this project is somewhat at a pause as the situation is assessed.

The developer has requested the first of two available 60-day extensions to complete due diligence. This automatically extends the due diligence period through January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026.

## INFRASTRUCTURE/STREETS/UTILITIES/IT

**Utilities Committee:** We have an opening on our Utilities Committee. If you, or anyone you know, are interested in serving on this extremely interesting committee, please reach out to Terri Welkener at 419-433-500 x 1104.

**East Side Sidewalks:** Staff have recommended contracting with RMH Concrete for this project. The project is expected to be substantially completed in 2025.

It should be noted that the bid came in roughly 50% lower than projected – meaning the City has excess grant funds from ODOT and Erie County Regional Planning. Staff will soon be engaging each entity about the possibility of moving these funds to other relevant and eligible projects, but our only option is to return any unused monies.

The closing date for the RFQ for construction inspection and construction administration was June 3<sup>rd</sup>. We received a single RFQ, so the city will now enter into negotiations on pricing for these services.

The contracts for construction and for construction inspection have been awarded. A Pre-construction meeting was carried out on July 14<sup>th</sup>. A project schedule will be forthcoming.

This project is well underway and on schedule. Restoration has been completed on the sidewalk areas. The RRFB's have been installed, and we are waiting for road striping.

ODOT visited this project site last week and wanted to see some changes of the ADA ramps (even though they approved the plan set). We are working with the contractor toward a remedy and still expect to finish this project this year.

**Route 13 Crosswalks:** Staff have recommended contracting with DL Smith for this project. The project is expected to be substantially completed in 2025.

The closing date for the RFQ for construction inspection and construction administration was June 3<sup>rd</sup>. We received a single RFQ, so the city will now enter into negotiations on pricing for these services.

The contracts for construction and for construction inspection have been awarded. A Pre-construction meeting was carried out on July 14<sup>th</sup>. A project schedule will be forthcoming.

The ADA ramps have been dug out and poured. We are waiting on the RRFB's to arrive so they can be installed and the crossings painted.

**South Main Street Streetscape Design and Engineering:** The City has received updated cost estimates from OHM and is reviewing internally. Once reviewed by staff, Council will be briefed and a work session scheduled to determine if we desire to move forward with the project and if so, whether the proposed scope of work should be amended.

Stage 1 and Stage 2 (combined) plans were submitted to ODOT for review. Comments and clarifications were received back, addressed and resubmitted. Stage 3 plans are now underway.

**Rt 6 Phase II:** The City has received updated cost estimates from OHM and is reviewing internally. Once reviewed by staff, Council will be briefed and a work session scheduled to determine if we desire to move forward with the project and if so, whether the proposed scope of work should be amended.

Phase 1-2 plan set was submitted to ODOT for review and some clarifying questions were asked of us. The City, Transystems and OHM conducted a meeting, and all questions/clarifications have been addressed and returned to ODOT.

Stage 3 plan set was submitted to ODOT 7/3/2025. We will await comments.

The City received Federal authorization to proceed on this project. We will work toward putting this project out to bid in the near future.

**Electric Trail Connector:** The city applied for and was awarded a grant from ODOT (TAP) funding of \$533,000. The project is still in its conceptual phase but will connect the Lake Erie Electric Trail to the soon to be constructed US6 Connectivity multi-use pathway that will run from BGSU to Sandusky and beyond. We thank ODOT for their continued support of our connectivity projects.

A PO has been issued to OHM Advisors to work with the City on the proposed route and ROW requirements to design this connector in the amount of \$12,550. Once this is complete, we will have enough information to start work on ROW acquisition and actual design.

**Bike Lanes:** The City plans to repaint the bike lanes from Berlin Road to Williams St. This will entail removing all existing paint, crack sealing, repainting the green paint in a new and reduced configuration, then restriping. We will be adding high vis paint on the bridge decks to ensure in inclement weather the lanes are still visible. Seal Master are painting the green portion for us, with the City only covering the actual cost of the paint. We thank them for their partnership.

## ZONING/CODE/PLANNING

**ConAgra Development:** A second public hearing was held on June 18, 2025 before the Planning Commission to review Landscape, Lighting, Greenspace/Streetscape and Elevations. A recommendation was made to approve the site and design plans with modifications and

forward recommendations to City Council. The recommendation report has been submitted to the Clerk of Council pursuant to the process outlined in Chapter 11227 MU-GD and Chapter 1139. This project is now at the City Council level. A Public Hearing was held at the City Council level on August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Following the hearing, City Council approved of the General Development Concept Plan by the adoption of Ordinance 2025-22.

**Zoning Map Update:** Earlier this year staff reviewed the current zoning map, researched discrepancies, and compiled rezoning legislation from previous years to submit to ERPC to have the city map updated. ERPC has incorporated the updates and provided the revised map which has been posted to the Planning, Zoning & Building page of the city website.

**Code Enforcement:** There have been 124 cases year-to-date. New case since our last report other than grass/weed violations include site line obstructions and a shed being constructed without a permit.

Cases at the Prosecutor/Municipal Court Level:

- Strowbridge Drive: property maintenance violations (exterior & repeat grass/weeds) which went to court. The owner is now working with Courts on time schedule for repairs. The city has continued to mow this property; owner has paid recent outstanding invoices. Court has set dates of completion for the repairs.
- A property maintenance case on Wheeler Drive that had been initiated in 2022, appealed, taken to the Ohio Supreme Court, has now been remanded back to Huron Municipal Court with the case set for a Bench Trial in October. The case has now been set for November 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Oakwood Ave: June-Paving of two driveway areas without a permit, noncompliance with driveway regulations, paving over water meter pit. Owner has been advised of corrective action; required application not submitted. Case transferred to the Prosecutor; court has attempted to serve the owner, to date, the owner has not claimed the certified mailing. The owner has since submitted the required application but has not provided the fee or the bond. No permit can be issued until these items are provided. The owner submitted all required application documents, the permit was issued, work was completed, final inspection passed. The case has been closed.
- Ashland Ave: property maintenance violations (exterior, roofs, drainage, debris) Case opened in December 2024; extensions requested and provided with no substantial improvements made. Case transferred to the Prosecutor; Court has served the owner. Owner has asked for multiple continuances. A Bench trial has been set for January 9, 2026

**Code Amendments:** Staff continue to document code sections that are antiquated, contradictory, absent and/or unclear as written, and as time allows research and documentation into other municipal codes are compiled. The code sections we are presently drafting:

Grass/Weeds- Chapter 557 - formatting of sections, clarification and simplification of language, streamlined language pertaining to required noticing methods and number of notices per calendar year, increase in fees/higher fee for repeat offenders. Staff has submitted proposed changes to Legal for review and edits, upon the final draft, this can be placed on an upcoming Council agenda. Legal has reviewed and provided their recommendations; this is being reviewed by staff and the draft amendment will be placed on an upcoming agenda. Ord. 2025-28 will be on its third and final reading 11-12-25.

Off-Street Parking Regulations -Chapter 1133- clarification of a Section which was to address the expansion, enlargement, additions, and increased occupancy of Commercial/Business Uses, but current language is not specific to this use, in fact, as currently stated would apply to residential uses as well. Knowing this, staff has not applied this section to any residential use, however, the code needs to be corrected. This amendment was discussed with the Planning Commission on 10-15-2025 at which time they supported and recommended the amendment be forwarded to City Council. Ordinance 2025-30 was placed on its first reading on 10-28-25, second reading will be held 11-12-25.

Excavations- Chapter 901- incorporating language to identify any work within the city right of way (ROW); amending bond requirements to align with the bond requirements within the Contractor Registration Chapter, address the issue of owners performing work in the ROW themselves. Staff will be corresponding with Legal on this as research into other municipalities has not yielded results.

Vehicles/Vehicle Parking- there are sections in Residential, General Offenses, and the Parking Code that speak to where vehicles and watercraft can park and what type of surface is required. Most common vehicle/parking issues reported:

- Vehicles/watercraft parked on the grass in yards.
- Vehicles/watercraft anywhere on the premises that appear neglected or deteriorating
- No mention in our code of Construction Vehicles/Construction Equipment on residential property when no active construction project is taking place. Several municipalities have language to address this issue- we are researching at this time.

Additionally "Junk Vehicles" are only addressed in General Offenses, while "Neglected or Deteriorating Watercraft and/or Vehicles" operable or non-operable are within the Zoning Code- under "Effects of Districting and General Regulations" which does not provide Zoning any means of enforcement efforts.

Sign Code Amendments- A Work session meeting of the Planning Commission/City Council was held on 9-11-25. City's consultant, Wendy Moeller, provided overview of case law,

discussed recommendations for consideration and sought input/feedback from members. Ms. Moeller will be preparing a draft based on this discussion which will then be reviewed at the Planning Commission level until such time as the Commission makes a recommendation to City Council. She anticipates a draft to be ready for the November Planning Commission meeting. A special meeting of the Planning Commission has been set for November 18<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.

#### **Transient Rentals:**

We presently have 14 applications on the Wait List. The database of registered properties and the wait list database are posted on the website.

### **PARKS AND RECREATION:**

**Transient Rental Dock Replacement Project:** Our recent grant funding specified that it could be used to improve transient rental dock. So, this project is looking to replace and upgrade B and H piers, which comprises of approximately 26 docks. Once designed, the construction contract will return to Council for consideration.

Stage 1-Preliminary Design drawings for the removal of the existing docks and installation of the new docks has been completed. KS is working on stage 2-Final Construction and bidding Documents.

**Oklahoma Park (Turtle Park):** We are partnering with EHOVE Collision and Refinishing Program to bring the "Turtle" play apparatus back to life with new paint and a fresh new look for years of more fun. The Turtle play structure was installed and incurred vandalism the same afternoon. Parks staff removed it and EhoVe Collision and Refinishing Program has graciously offered to make the needed repairs. We will have it back and installed for public use asap.

**Huron Pier Project:** The USACE contractor's crane on the barge was deemed nonfunctional and had to pivot to working from the beach on the west side of the pier. Unfortunately, this forced the contractor to close the pier while working. We will continue to monitor this situation and have been assured as soon as the barge crane is functional again, they will return to working from the water.

It was discovered that there is an underwater electric cable running from the parking lot, on the riverbed, along the east side of the pier that provides power to the lighthouse. Amazingly, the contractor had not hit this cable and discovered its existence as they moved into shallower water. The Coast Guard no longer has any use for this cable, and the City is the only entity that still uses shore power out at the lighthouse for our uplighting. The contractor has agreed to use all care to try not to damage this cable, but the Coast Guard as owners, and the USACE as project managers will take no responsibility to repair it if it is indeed damaged and will be abandoned. If the cable does survive the remaining construction, the City and Coast Guard will enter in a zero-dollar lease agreement for the use of this cable by the City. We have shut power off to the lights that

illuminate the Huron Lighthouse while the contractors finish the sheet pile work. We want to thank U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Coast Guard and Ryba Marine Construction working through this phase of the project and their commitment to the local stakeholders.

**US Fish & Wildlife Service Boating Infrastructure Grant:** ODNR Parks & Watercraft has received notification from the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) that our project has been fully approved for selection of funding on the Boating Infrastructure Grant Tier II for \$300,000.

With this approval, the next step in the process will be to complete all required compliance measures. This includes NEPA, ESA, SHPO, a full ODNR environmental review, and final design submission. These items will be compiled over the next few months and submitted to USFWS for review. Please note that USFWS has up to 90 days to complete their review once all documentation is submitted to them.

After compliance approval is received from USFWS, then comes the agreement (contract) process, which typically takes approximately 2–4 weeks. Once the agreement is fully executed and all signatures are obtained, we will receive a formal Notice to Proceed, and the BIG portion of our project may begin.

The plan is to use the \$200,000 from the State of Ohio that we received from the Strategic Investment Funding that was issued last year as the match for a total of \$500,000 to go towards replacement of two dock piers. More info to come.

**State Capital Budget:** The city has informally been told that we will be receiving \$200,000 from the State of Ohio as part of the first \$350M in one-time Strategic Investment funding. There will be another \$350M announced shortly which is on top of the state capital funding bill. The \$700M is from a one-time allocation of surplus operating funds from the state of Ohio. These funds will be used to offset part of the necessary capital improvements needed at the Boat Basin site. We will keep Council up to date as we get more formal information about this funding.

**Park Restroom Closures:** Our seasonal restrooms at Lakefront Park, Fabens Park, Boat Ramp, docks at the Boat Basin, fish cleaning station and drinking fountains in the park system have been winterized. There will be a portable comfort station at the Huron Pier and Boat Ramp for the next few months.

**Ohio Historical Marker:** The Erie County Historical Society was awarded for a grant through the Erie County Community Foundation for the replacement of the Huron Urban Renewal Marker at the Boat Basin. The marker has structural cracks and cannot be repaired so we have been working with Erie County Historical Society on replacement options. Next step is working with the Historic Marker Division at Ohio History Connection about the marker's replacement. The goal is to have the project complete by July.



## SAFETY SERVICES

**Fire Chief:** Our Fire Department has operated with the three Captains as a combined Chief. The understanding was always when one got ready to retire that we would move back to operating with a full time Fire Chief. This time has finally come. We would like to thank our Captains for stepping up and operating out of position and filling this gap, this has saved the City a huge amount of money over the years. With this said, we will hold a work session on this topic prior to the next meeting to discuss and set the selections committee and walk Council through the hiring process.

The City will be posting this position within the next month and we are currently finalizing the job description. At the recent work session, an advisory body was developed to assist in the search process for the new Chief. Members of this body include Mayor Tapp, John Zimmerman, Tim Lamb, Denny Antonelli and Mario D'Amico. This board will be charged with conducting interviews with prospective candidates and providing feedback to Administration.

The City has now posted this position and is now accepting applications. For those interested please visit the City website, under employment for more information.

**No Shave November & December:** The police department currently is participating in our "No Shave November & December" program where the officers are allowed to grow a beard during this time. To participate in the program, officers donate a fee of \$20 per month which will be donated to a family in need in the community. Even officers who do not participate in the program are encouraged to donate.

**Trunk-or Treat:** The police department participated in the Huron Rotary Trunk-or-Treat event hosted at Faben's Park and passed out candy donated by Discount Drug Mart. Additionally, officers passed out candy donated by Drug Mart in various neighborhoods during trick-or-treat on Halloween.

**Sergeant Ryan Boesch:** Sgt. Ryan Boesch graduated from the Supervisor Training & Education Program after three (3) weeks of intensive supervisory training by highly qualified and credentialed instructors.

**Marine Patrol Boat:** The Police department has been given a anonymous donation to purchase a new Marine Patrol boat in the amount of \$167,500!! Legislation for the purchase will be presented to Council at the upcoming Council meeting. Funds will not be expended until we have the donation. We are so very excited, and appreciative of our anonymous donor! This donation has been received, and the boat has now been purchased. We will work with the supplier to have the boat wrapped and installed with lights, sirens, radios etc. Lead times on these items will determine if this boat enters service this year, or spring of 2026. Unfortunately, ODNR who administers the Marine Patrol Grant, has put a permanent pause on funding for this program due to budget constraints. While this puts additional strains on our local budget, the City understands the importance of our presence on the waters and will continue to do as much as budget allows.

## FINANCE

**Income Tax:** Through September, income tax receipts still are trending positively and are 10% higher than this time in 2024. Through the end of September, receipts total \$3.2M. We will continue to monitor receipts and keep Council updated.

**2026 Budget:** The Finance Committee annual budget meetings are underway, the first meeting regarding community development departments was held on 10/20/25. The second meeting on 10/27/25 covered service department budgets. The third meeting on 11/3/25 reviewed public safety department budgets. Lastly on 11/17/25 the final committee budget meeting will review quarter three financial performance of the City as well as covering the remaining budgets related to capital, debt, and other special funds.

**Point-Of-Sale Transactions:** City staff is looking into changing point of sale system providers. A few goals the City is looking to accomplish through a transition is to provide card reading terminals throughout more locations. The City would be upgrading the Boat Basin stationary card reader with a mobile unit that could be used dock-side, Nickel Plate Beach would be outfitted with a mobile card reader instead of only accepting cash or check, the parks department would be upgraded from a stationary card reader to a mobile unit, the police department and zoning department would have their own card reading terminals instead of sharing one as they currently do. The courts would also replace their current card terminal with a new unit. Ideally, the new system can be onboarded by spring when transaction volume is entering its peak season. As the City transition's their point-of-sale systems, card transaction fees will be passed on to the consumers. Currently, the City has been covering this cost to a tune of roughly \$12K annually. As cashless payments become more prevalent this cost is expected to grow in correlation with increased transaction volume, especially with the implementation of a card terminal at Nickle Plate Beach. The expected fees for using card payment will be 3% of the transaction amount. Some vendors we have looked at have a minimum fee of \$2 and some do not. Since many of our transactions are lower dollar amounts we will do our best to protect the consumers from a minimum fee while also providing a more convenient and robust sales solution.

**Monthly Financials (September):** <https://stories.opengov.com/huronoh/published/5FoAHZtLk>

## WATER DEPARTMENT

### Recent Activity:

- October average plant capacity 74.6% (3.4 MGD Plant Rating)
- Firelands Electric was onsite 11/4/25 to diagnose a power failure for one of the rapid mixers at the WFP. Parts are being procured and will be fixed in the near future.
- Bissnuss will be onsite 11/5/25 to diagnose a failed chlorinator. This chlorinator received preventative maintenance on 10/1/25 and has not been used. This failure is likely a result of the PM work.

- Staff completed dredging of the sludge lagoon on 10/22/25.
- Recent security breaches have occurred at the WFP. An additional camera has already been installed and more cameras have been ordered. Additional lighting will also be installed. Quotes for fence repairs/replacement are being procured.
- A limited site survey of the Water Filtration Plant was completed by the Ohio EPA on 10/22/25. Everything was found to be in good order and an official response letter will be issued soon. Recommendations will be made for increasing security including additional cameras, lighting, and fence repairs.
- Water Distribution staff have been exercising water valves and continuing to add these assets into the GIS database.

#### Active Project Updates:

**Alternate Intake/Sludge Lagoon:** The design and engineering for this project have been sent to the Ohio EPA for approval. A response from the OEPA was received on 4/4/25 with numerous questions and comments. The largest concern is that the OEPA is requesting 12-months of water quality data from the Huron River. The Water Superintendent inquired with Kleinfelder numerous times over the past 2 years if the city should be collecting water samples for analysis. The city was assured that this was not necessary as this intake is to only be used in an emergency and will not be a permanent source. Staff is currently obtaining quotes for water sampling analysis of the Huron River. These samples are required by the OEPA, but will not delay the project. Kleinfelder is drafting a response to the OEPA that was received on 4/4/25. This project was also nominated for interest-free funding through WSRLA and was approved by City Council on 6/10/25.

**West Side Water Tower:** A pre-construction meeting was held on 8/7/25. This meeting included city staff, Kleinfelder Engineering, Landmark Structures, and staff from Ohio EPA DEFA. This meeting included a review of the project established processes moving forward including timelines. A construction site visit was held after the meeting.

The City officially closed on the property from Ardagh on 9/12/25. Kleinfelder and Landmark were notified and construction of the foundation will begin soon. The contractor has been made fully aware of the schedule and the funding deadlines for the city. The site title opinion was issued to DEFA for the loan for the remaining balance of this project. The city was notified from DEFA that this loan will be awarded a 0% interest rate. This is fantastic news for this city and will save approximately \$2.8M over the life of the loan. As always, the city truly appreciates our funding partners!

Landmark Structures had the lowest and best bid in the amount of \$8,413,000.00 and this was legislated at council on 5/27/25. Funding requests for WSRLA through DEFA were approved by City Council on 6/10/25. The loan through WSRLA will be used to fund the remaining balance of the project. An extension was applied for the \$5M grant from the Department of Development was submitted on 6/26/25. Contracts with Landmark Structures were finalized on 6/23/25 and a

purchase order was procured by the City, which has committed these funds. Construction must be completed by 8/1/26 and Kleinfelder estimated the project will be completed by 5/31/26.

Bi-weekly construction meetings began on 10/30/25. Foundation work has begun and the project is progressing. The culver pipe is expected to be delivered on 11/18/25 and this crossing will be completed the same day. Piers for the footers are being installed this week and the remaining foundation work will commence the week of 11/10. The foundation is expected to be completed by the end of 2025, and the pedestal construction will begin in January 2026.

**Plant Re-Rating:** A response was received from the OEPA on 4/17/25. The Water Superintendent is navigating a response and will accurately provide the information requested by the OEPA. A professional engineer will be needed to sign off on the project for final approval and this will be provided by Kleinfelder. The City issued a response to the Ohio EPA on 8/26/2025. The city is hopeful that this will be the final response and the rerating will be issued soon. However, past responses from the Ohio EPA have taken 6-9 months to be received. The Water Superintendent will be in direct and constant contact with the EPA until this is resolved.

**River Alternate Intake and Sludge Lagoon:** The design and engineering for this project have been sent to the Ohio EPA for approval. A response from the OEPA was received on 4/4/25 with numerous questions and comments. The largest concern is that the OEPA is requesting 12-months of water quality data from the Huron River. The Water Superintendent inquired with Kleinfelder numerous times over the past 2 years if the city should be collecting water samples for analysis. The city was assured that this was not necessary as this intake is to only be used in an emergency and will not be a permanent source. The Water Superintendent is awaiting a response from Kleinfelder. Once approved by the OEPA, the project may go out to bid. This project was also nominated for interest-free funding through WSRLA and was approved by City Council on 6/10/25.

## STREETS DEPARTMENT

**Projects:** Current Projects:

- South McKinley Ave resurfacing (Complete).
- Oakhurst Ct concrete repair (Complete)
- Nickel Plate Drive Entrance storm, raising and resurfacing (collecting quotes).
- Nickel Plate Drive resurfacing within the park (collecting quotes).

**Crossing on JCB by High School:** Staff approached ODOT with this project, and they believe it will be a good candidate for Safety Dollars. The intent would be to construct this crossing as a high visibility crossing, and also to construct it as a multi-use crossing instead of just a pedestrian crossing in preparation for future multi-use development. The Safety Dollars would be a 90/10 split. The City will work with the schools on covering the 10% local match.

**Crack Sealing:** Oakhurst (North and South) and Wilbor have been crack sealed by City crews. Maintenance Systems has been in town this week crack sealing, starting with Cleveland Rd. W. at Main and heading west to Rye Beach Road and returning back to Main Street. Crews will continue with portions of Mudbrook Rd and will start on Bogart depending on how much material is left. Please take care when traversing these areas while crews are working.

**Leaf Pickup Program:** The Street Department is currently working on their third trip around the City.

**Inspection and Cleaning of Storm Lines:** The Streets Department, in collaboration with Franklin Sanitation, continue to jet and camera storm lines. The storm lines on Worthington, Berkshire, Westport, Wickford and Windsor all jetted cleanly. Chatham had a few roots that were cut out to clear the line.

**Tree Program – District 3:** Resident responses to the tree maintenance letters mailed earlier this spring are picking up now that the weather has improved. There has been a lot of activity by both homeowners and contractors removing and/or trimming trees in the Old Plat neighborhood.

**Sidewalk Program – District 4:** Thirty-nine (39) Courtesy sidewalk maintenance letters were mailed to residents on Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup>.

## HURON PUBLIC POWER (HPP)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Transformer:** The City participated in a bond ratings call with Moody's during the week of March 31<sup>st</sup> as a leadup to the bond issuance for the 3<sup>rd</sup> transformer. A follow up call was held on April 9<sup>th</sup> to understand our current bond rating (which we anticipate remaining the same – which is a good thing) prior to us going out to the market for bids. Given the limited number of customers on HPP and the fact that they are all private entities, the bonds are expected to be taxable versus tax-exempt, meaning higher interest rates.

These bonds were sold on April 17, 2025 at a rate of 5.55% over a 15-year period. Our excellent Moody's rating helped keep this rate down.

The Transformer is finally on its way and is scheduled to be delivered on November 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Switch Gear Delivered:** The switch gear that will connect the new transformer to our existing infrastructure was delivered on May 7<sup>th</sup>. Council previously approved the switch gear purchase from PEPCO in January of 2025 in the amount of \$710,780.

**Electric Aggregation:** The City aggregation program expires in July. Due to the market, we are unable to provide meaningful aggregation pricing and will, therefore, let the program expire. We will continue to monitor the electric market and will aggregate again when pricing makes this beneficial. Residents will be automatically returned to Ohio Edison upon expiration of the

program and will not need to take any action. However, we suggest they shop around on their own to find competitive pricing. Sites like Energy Choice Ohio Apple to Apples ([Energy Choice Ohio - Apples to Apples](#)) will present options for Residents to sign up on their own.

## PERSONNEL

## ADMINISTRATION

**Regional Water and Sewer:** The Erie County Commissioners sent the City a letter asking us to participate in a regional water and sewer study. There was no accompanying information clarifying or explaining the scope or intent of this study, so after internal discussions, the City politely declined at this point in time.

In an attempt to start the conversation and to gain insight into the County Commissioners' plans, The City of Sandusky called a Regional Water Agreement Board meeting (Sandusky, Huron and Erie County) for Monday September 15<sup>th</sup> at 5PM in the Sandusky Commission Chamber. We feel this is the best place to investigate this request further and have some open dialogue.

I do find it disappointing that there has been no direct conversation on this topic, outside of a letter from the Commissioners and their address to Council tonight. To be a collaborative endeavor takes open communication, upfront clarification of intent and teamwork. There has been no scope or intent discussed, no plan nor vision, no feedback requested or explanation given. Our job is to make the best decision for the residents of Huron, to keep their interest at the very fore and to protect them at all times. And that is what we will do.

City representation attended the regional water agreement board and each entity reported out. There was an opportunity for open discussion in the hopes that the County would provide further details on scope and intent, but none were forthcoming.

The City sent an email to the County Administrator and County Commissioners inviting them to attend a Council meeting to give us more information on their proposed regional water/sewer study. We would like to thank the County Commissioners for joining us on October 28th to share their vision for regional water and sewer.

## AGREEMENTS/CITY MANAGER APPROVALS

## PROJECTS OUT FOR BID

**Huron Public Power Substation Expansion – 15kV Construction and Installation Work:** With the new HPP transformer being delivered on November 7<sup>th</sup>, the City went out to bid on the HPP Substation Expansion – 15kV Construction and Installation Project. The bid was posted on October 20<sup>th</sup> and bids are due on or before November 17<sup>th</sup>.

## CONTRACTS

- Emergency Services Agreement with Huron Township (Res 85-2024) – **Expires 12/31/25.**
- OHM Advisors (Res 95-2024 Engineering) – **Expires 12/31/25.**
- HJRD Annual Agreement (Res 9-2025) – **Expires 12/31/25.**
- Erie Soil and Water Conservation District (Res 8-2025) – **Expires 1/31/26.**
- Seeley, Savidge, Ebert & Gourash Co., LLP (Res 35-2025) – **Expires 6/3/26.**
- Building Official – Service Agreement (Res 43-2021) - **Expires 7/25/26.**
- School Resource Officer (Res 32–2024 & Res 33-2024) – **Expires 8/31/26.**
- Republic Services (Res 44-2023) – **Expires 12/31/26.**
- City Prosecutor Employment Agreement (Res 79-2024)– expires **12/31/26.**
- Personnel Officer Employment Agreement (Res 78-2024) – expires **12/31/26.**
- Dispatch Agreement – Erie County Sheriff (Res 101-2024) – **Expires 12/31/26.**
- Dynegy Electric Standard Large Stable Service Agreement – **Expires 08/31/27.**
- FOP-Sergeants Collective Bargaining Agreement (Res 100-2024) – **Expires 12/31/27.**
- FOP – Patrol Officers Collective Bargaining Agreement (Res 99-2024) – **Expires 12/31/27.**
- AFSCME Collective Bargaining Agreement (Res 102-2024) – **Expires 12/31/27.**
- IAFF Collective Bargaining Agreement (Res 7-2025) – **Expires 12/31/27.**
- Charles E. Harris & Associates GAPP Conversion (Res 10-2025) – **Expires 12/31/27.**

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### November Meetings:

- BZA Meeting – Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm in Council Chambers;
- City Council Meeting – **Wednesday**, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in Council Chambers;
- Finance Committee Budget Meeting – Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm in Council Chambers;
- Planning Commission Special Meeting – Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm in Council Chambers;

- Planning Commission Meeting – Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm in Council Chambers;
- Council Work Session – Tuesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in Council Chambers
- City Council Meeting – Tuesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in Council Chambers.

**REMINDER THAT THE CITY OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON TUESDAY NOVEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2025 FOR VETERANS DAY.**