



CITY OF HURON
CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

February 21, 2025

Matthew Lasko, City Manager

ECONOMIC/COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

ConAgra: During the week of February 17th, the developers made their \$25,000 escrow deposit with the title company per the terms of the development agreement. All parties continue efforts on due diligence investigations and seawall design and engineering. Additionally, as required by ORC, the City sent the required notice to Erie County of our intent to ultimately approve an Incentive District TIF on the site to pay for the costs of the seawall. A public hearing will be held soon prior to final adoption of the TIF.

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.

Finally, 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.

River Rd. Land: The city, considering the recent income tax failure, is undertaking a review of our capital projects – many of which will be delayed or removed. As such, it is not likely a new service complex will be constructed soon – which was the primary motivation for purchasing the farmland on River Rd. Therefore, the City is looking to sell the land to recoup our investment.

INFRASTRUCTURE/STREETS/UTILITIES/IT

Rt 6 Phase II: The city executed an Agreement with TranSystems Corporation of Ohio for professional design and bidding services relating to the US 6 Phase II Project in the amount of \$369,469. We will work on design and will carry out public engagement throughout the project. It is hoped to construct this project in 2025. Survey of the project limits has commenced. Once this step is completed, design can start with the layout and limits of all aspects of the project. Staff continue to hold project meetings.

East Side Sidewalks: ODOT has finally released this project for bidding. Bid packets have been assembled by OHM and the City will be advertising on the 24th of February, with bid opening scheduled for March 20th 2025.

Route 13 Crosswalks: ODOT has finally released this project for bidding. Bid packets have been assembled by OHM and the City will be advertising on the 24th of February, with bid opening scheduled for March 20th 2025.

Pavement Condition and 2023 Resurfacing: After receiving our final pay request for the project, the City anticipates the project will come in at around \$530,000 below budget. Since the City issued bonds to pay for the project and has already received the bond proceeds, we met with our bond counsel and financial advisor to determine what options we may have. Per their guidance, the remaining funds must be spent on future paving and reconstruction projects. If that is not possible, the City must transfer the excess proceeds into the bond retirement account to be used to pay debt service on the bonds. Staff will continue to work with council over the next month or two to determine the preferred use of these excess funds.

South Main Street Streetscape Design and Engineering: Staff continue to meet regularly with representatives from OHM regarding initial plan designs and preliminary engineering. Shortly, OHM and City staff will begin meeting individually with property owners to review preliminary drawings. A conceptual plan has been developed, and the next step will be to engage business owners within the project limits. These discussions will be very high level explaining the intent of the plan and talking through any potential issues that the concept plan may cause to the operations of each business.

A Stakeholder meeting was carried out on Wednesday 15th @ 10:00AM in the Council chambers. This meeting presented the conceptual plan and garnered feedback from property and business owners within the project area. There was a lot of constructive feedback and staff were able to clarify and address concerns that arose.

South Main St Watermain Replacement Project: Construction of this project is now substantially complete. There was a final walkthrough on November 18th and a final punch list was developed prior to officially closing out the project.

Website: The new website went live on the 17th of December. There is still work to do, and functionality needs to be added. We would like to thank Jen Kilbury, Terri Welkener and Chris Gibboney for their hard work during this project.

ZONING/CODE/PLANNING

Zoning Map Revisions: Staff have found the current Zoning Map requires revisions to reflect legislative action taken within the last few years. The map had been updated internally in recent years, however, prior to that, the County was provided with information, and they would revise the city map as well as their information. Staff found and we are currently researching a property that had a court-ordered action which reverted the undeveloped areas of an R-2 PUD (Two Rivers original R-2 PUD) to R-1 Single Family Residential Zoning. A portion of the same property was approved as an R-1 PUD along Sheltered Brook, which will also need to be reflected. We will work with legal to verify the information and would anticipate legislation to formally acknowledge the court order and zoning. We have reached out to the County and verified that they would require the adopted legislation to make these necessary updates.

Coastal Management Assistance Grants: The final lakefront parks plan will be presented to Council for consideration at the February 25th Regular City Council meeting. A special thank you to OHM advisors who facilitated the design process and public outreach, and we also appreciate all the community feedback received throughout the process.

Race Permits: The City, very similarly to what is required for parades, is exploring a similar permitting process for races (such as 5k's). Based on recent feedback from streets and police departments, it is critical that the City, minimally, understand the proposed race route, staging areas if any and times of race to ensure proper road/intersection closures and is properly staffed from a safety service standpoint.

Long John Silvers: The former Burger King building on Cleveland Road W. was purchased and the new use is intended to be a Long John Silver restaurant. Planning and Zoning plans and permits are in review. The building department held a demolition meeting on 1/23/2025, and the demolition permit has been issued. Demolition work has since commenced.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

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.

Berlin Road Property: At the final Council meeting in January, it was decided the greenspace on Berlin Road would be renamed Dancing Waters Park – as a bit of an acknowledgement to the family that was responsible for developing the man-made lake on-site. Staff are moving forward with ordering the signage for installation sometime in the Spring of this year.

SAFETY SERVICES

FLOCK License Plate Readers: As an update to our Flock camera program, five (5) cameras were installed in February of 2024. For 2024, the total vehicle volume was around 450,000 per month which equates to around 5 million license plate reads per year. We are installing three (3) additional cameras in 2025 which will bring our total to eight (8) cameras. The program continues to be a tremendous asset for the police department with investigations and the solvability rate of our hit/skip accidents and thefts has increased exponentially.

FINANCE

Income Tax: Through January of 2025, income tax receipts are 24% higher than 2024 receipts and are trending 6% above budget. January receipts were just over \$370k compared to \$300k last year. We will continue to close monitor receipts as it is difficult to get a clear picture of overall performance until around June of each year.

Monthly Financials: [January Financial Report](#).

WATER DEPARTMENT

Recent Activity:

- New raw wet well screens are currently being built by Lake Erie Diving, Inc. The existing screens are original and have deteriorated over time. These screens prevent large debris found in the lake water from entering the wet well which can cause damage to raw water pumps.

Active Project Updates:

Alternate Intake/Sludge Lagoon: Engineering and design are nearing completion for the water tower and the Water Superintendent will advise on progress. Preliminary designs for the Water Tower and the pump station for the intake have been sent to the city for review. Due to timing constraints, it is being advised that a low-interest loan from OWDA will be the only option for funding the balance of the water tower project. An extension was granted to commit funds for the \$5M grant from the Department of Development. The project must be awarded by 6/30/25 and construction must be completed by 8/1/26.

West Side Water Tower: The City accepted a proposal from Kleinfelder on January 12, 2024, in the amount of \$132,250 for design and bidding services. On June 16th, The City was awarded \$5M from Governor DeWine's Ohio BUILDS water and wastewater infrastructure grant program. An extension was granted to commit funds for the \$5M grant from the Department of Development. The project must be awarded by 6/30/25 and construction must be completed by 8/1/26. Kleinfelder estimated the project will be completed by 5/31/26.

Plant Re-Rating: The EPA issued a response on 10/11/24 that included requests for additional information. This will be reviewed by the Water Superintendent and Kleinfelder. The Water Superintendent provided answers to questions from the EPA and returned this document to Kleinfelder on 10/30/24. This will be resubmitted to the Ohio EPA as soon as possible after being reviewed by Kleinfelder

STREETS DEPARTMENT

N/A

HURON PUBLIC POWER (HPP)

Distribution Rate Study: This has been progressing for several months. With the increasing costs of maintenance, and the additional debt being borne from the purchase and installation of the new third transformer, a rate increase is required. This went before the Utilities Committee on February 5th for consideration and left with direction to return with a final draft for review.

Expansion Under the Tracks: The City and contractor received permission to move the boring location under the tracks to another location – which will allow the project to move forward. Due to not being able to locate a major fiber line in the preferred area, the boring location required relocation which has now been approved. We are currently waiting for a flagger being assigned by the Railroad to we can recommence work.

PERSONNEL

Finance Director: The City continues to accept applications for this position and has interviewed 1 person thus far. Interviews will continue during the week of February 24th.

P&Z Secretarial Position: Planning & Zoning Department received nine applications for the Secretarial Position in our office. Two candidates with work related experience were selected for interviews. Carolyn Boger was offered and accepted the position and will start on Monday, March 17th. She brings knowledge of permitting and construction experience as a Project Management Assistant at Tusing Builders. We are looking forward to having Carolyn on our team.

2024 Annual Report: Staff, and mainly Jen Kilbury is putting the finishing touches on the 2024 annual report. We anticipate this report to be available to Council and the community sometime in March of this year.

AGREEMENTS/CITY MANAGER APPROVALS

N/A

PROJECTS OUT FOR BID

Cleveland Road East Sidewalk Project.
Routh 13 Pedestrian Crossing Project.

CONTRACTS

- Seeley, Savidge, Ebert & Gourash Co., LLP (Res 47-2024) – **Expires 6/3/25**
- Dynegy Electric Aggregation Agreement (Res 29-2023) – **Expires 7/30/25.**
- Dynegy Electric Standard Large Stable Service Agreement (Res 54-2023) – **Expires 08/2025.**
- Emergency Services Agreement with Huron Township (Res 85-2024) – **Expires 12/31/2025.**
- 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.**
- 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.**
- 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

February Meetings:

- City Council Work Session – Tuesday, February 25th at 5:30pm in Council Chambers.
- Public Hearing on John Farschman CAUV Application – Tuesday, February 25th at 6:30pm in Council Chambers.
- City Council Meeting – Tuesday, February 25th at 6:30pm in Council Chambers.

March Meetings:

- HJRD – Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at 6:30pm in Council Chambers.
- Utilities Committee – Wednesday, March 5, 2026, at 5:00pm in the main conference room.
- BZA – Monday, March 10th at 5:30pm in Council Chambers.
- City Council Meeting – Tuesday, March 11th at 6:30pm in Council Chambers.
- Planning Commission Meeting – Wednesday, March 19th at 5:00pm in Council Chambers.
- City Council Meeting – Tuesday, February 25th at 6:30pm in Council Chambers.