



CITY OF HURON
CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

September 8, 2025

Stuart Hamilton, Interim City Manager

DONATIONS

[Donation Description]: The City has received a donation from an anonymous donor in the amount of \$167,500 for the purchase of a new Marine Patrol boat. We would like to thank this donor on behalf of not just the City, but also all of our residents and visitors that this boat will keep safe in years to come!

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 18th 2025 and forwarded on to Council for approval. A public hearing was scheduled for the Council meeting August 12th. 2025. The development plan was passed by Council at this meeting.

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 3rd. 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 14th. A project schedule will be forthcoming.

This project is well underway and on schedule. We anticipate being fully complete by the end of August.

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 3rd. 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 14th. A project schedule will be forthcoming.

We are waiting on some submittals and lead times on some items for this project. We still expect this project to be complete by the end of October.

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.

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

Sign Code: A reminder that there is a joint Planning Commission/Council work session scheduled for this coming Thursday, September 11th, at 5PM in Council Chamber as we work through making our code signage more cohesive and easier for our residents and businesses to understand while also making it more enforceable.

Sandusky Bay Pathway Steering Committee: The first steering committee met for the first time last week. This committee is an attempt to pull together local jurisdictions from Vermillion to Oak Harbor to try to imagine how this 100+ mile multi-use pathway could connect the greater region.

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 12th, 2025. Following the hearing, City Council approved of the General Development Concept Plan by the adoption of Ordinance 2025-22.

513 Berlin Road: As approved earlier this evening, the city filed a petition to accept this property. It was listed for Sheriff's fire sale twice and failed to sell and would normally revert to the State for ownership. This would sit under State control, unmanaged, for years to come. By petitioning ownership, it puts the City in control to move this property on.

This has been approved by Erie County Court. We will wait for the deeds to transfer and then the City will be the legal owner.

OJD Holdings LLC Rezoning Application: OJD Holdings LLC applied on 5-19-25 for the rezoning of three (3) parcels on River Road from I-2 to B-3. A Public Hearing was held at the Planning Commission on June 18, 2025, at which time the application was approved. The Planning Commission's recommendation report was submitted to the Clerk of Council pursuant to the process outlined in Section 1139.06. This application is now at the City Council level.

A Public Hearing was held at the City Council level on August 12, 2025. Following the hearing, Ordinance 2025-19- was placed on its first of three readings, with the third reading scheduled for the September 9th Council meeting.

Code Enforcement: There have been 112 cases year-to-date. New cases since our last report other than grass/weed complaints include: shrub/bushes causing site line issues, recreational vehicle in yard & possibly occupied, complaints regarding construction, and the general condition of a property. Coordination with the Building Official, Health Department and Police are required for some of these cases. We continue with repeat mowing several properties related to grass/weeds that are now at their 4th offense.

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.
- **Pittsburgh Ave:** Advertising and operating a transient rental without a certificate- Defendant's Plea- No Contest, fine paid.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

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 have submitted proposed changes to Legal for review and edits, upon the final draft, this can be placed on an upcoming Council agenda.

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 have not applied this section to any residential use, however, the code needs to be corrected. This amendment will be placed on the upcoming Planning Commission agenda for discussion and recommendation.

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- Chapter 1127- Work session meeting at the Planning Commission to be held on September 11, 2025. Consultant is preparing these amendments.

Transient Rentals: We presently have 11 applications on the Wait List. You may notice this number has decreased as we have had a few certificates expire, as well as a home which was sold, but the new owner did not apply for a transfer certificate. The database of registered properties and the wait list database are posted on the website.

Preliminary Reviews: Staff meets weekly with applicants contemplating new builds, substantial additions, rebuilds to review the code regulations relative to their parcel and zoning district. Recent reviews consisted of Commercial/Business reviews, addition of a second dwelling on an R-2 parcel, proposed demo/rebuild of a single-family home, lot split/lot combo reviews.

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 at replacing and upgrading B and H piers, which comprise of approximately 26 docks.

Fall Ball: HPRD's Fall Ball Program which includes both Baseball (8U & 10U) and Softball (10U & 12U) has started. The program is mostly full, however there are a few spots open should a team be interested in registering. This program will run through next weekend. Registration is online through the City's website.

Nickel Plate Beach – As the summer begins to wind down Nickel Plate Beach seasonal parking passes have slowed down. To date, Staff has sold 137 seasonal parking passes. Daily parking passes have remained strong with the warmer temperatures and sunny skies.

Huron Pumpkin Fest: Save the date! Saturday, October 11, 11 AM to 5 PM at the Huron Boat Basin. This day is a fun-filled day of all things PUMPKIN! The Annual Pumpkin Drop will take place at 2:30 PM.

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.

Fabens Park Restroom and Concessions Building Painted: The Fabens Park restroom and concession building was painted by Akzo Nobel employees, who donated their time and materials. We would like to thank Akzo Nobel for their commitment to the community.

Clock Tower Repairs: The clock tower at the corner of Main St. and Cleveland Rd. requires replacement of its motors and micro switches. AmeriClock, the company that installed the clocks in 2016, is providing the parts and Brady Signs will be installing them. The east/west clocks have been repaired. We await the rebuilt motors for the north/south faces.

The clock tower repairs are finally complete, and all clock faces are functional again.

Fish Sculpture at Huron River Boating Access Facility: The Parks & Recreation Department has been working with the Fish Huron Ohio group as they would like to donate a hanging fish sculpture to be located at the Huron River Boating Access Facility. This public art piece will provide fishermen with the ability to show off their catch and take pictures while promoting Huron as a fishing destination. The donation will be made to ODNR and through the terms of the existing MOU, the City will be responsible for managing and maintaining the donation. The art installation would be a stainless-steel sculpture with a concrete base and will be located north of the existing fish cleaning station.

The concrete pad has been poured in preparation for the sculpture delivery, which is expected mid-month.

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. The new sign for this park is on its way. If the weather holds, the footer will be poured next week in anticipation of the sign being installed when the footer has cured.

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 process.

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. Depending on lead times on these items will depend on if this boat enters service this year, or spring of 2026.

Jacob Eck: Ofc. Jacob Eck recently graduated from the EHOVE Basic Police Academy on August 19th and he has started his field training. His ceremonial swearing-in is scheduled for September 23rd. He will be assigned to squad 3 which is night shift on the front half of the week.

Jaden Carey: Jaden Carey finished her internship with the police department on August 20th and she has returned to Bowling Green State University to complete her senior year in her criminology program. The internship program was very successful and it should greatly assist with recruitment with the Police Department.

FLOCK Camera Installation: Our last remaining FLOCK camera was finally installed on US6 at the walkover bridge monitoring west bound traffic. Our FLOCK camera program continues to be extremely valuable with investigations and it has increased our solvability rate with crimes and investigations exponentially. Currently, the FLOCK cameras have over 800,000 plate reads per month.

FINANCE

Income Tax: Through July, income tax receipts still are trending positively and are 14.6% higher than this time in 2024. Through the end of July, receipts total \$2.7M. We will continue to monitor receipts and keep Council updated.

Real Estate Taxes: The City's received its second half tax settlement payment on August 18th, total property tax revenue was approximately \$15,400 higher than budget and \$123,800 (11%) higher than 2024 receipts. This increase is due to Erie County's re-evaluation process. The City will anticipate 2% growth in property tax revenue for 2026, allowing for a conservative budget as well as reflecting the growth anticipated now that the re-evaluation process has concluded.

2026 Budget: The Finance Department has held 1st round of departmental budget meetings, the finance team is working diligently to incorporate anticipated challenges, requested modifications, and updated assumptions based on performance through this point in 2025. Finance staff will hold additional meetings with department leaders to finalize departmental operating plans before Finance Committee review. The tentative financial planning schedule is below.

Finance Committee Schedule @ 5PM	
Tuesday, August 12, 2025	Q2 Results & Budget Schedule Presentation
Monday, October 20, 2025	Budget Meeting- Community Development (Parks & Rec, Building & Zoning, Economic Development)
Monday, October 27, 2025	Budget Meeting - Services (Street / Water / Refuse, Electric, Storm Water)
Monday, November 3, 2025	Budget Meeting - Public Safety (Police, Fire, Court & Administration)
Monday November 10, 2025	Q3 Results & Budget Meeting (Debt / Capital / Reserves / Carryover) - Committee Approval
Tuesday November 25, 2025 (Council Meeting)	Council Meeting - 1st Reading of Appropriations
Tuesday, December 9, 2025	(If needed)
Departmental Schedules	
Police	August 13th @ 9:00 AM
Water	August 15th @ 10:00 AM
Streets	August 14th @ 8:00 AM
Admin / Electric / CIP / Economic Dvlp	August 26th @ 10:00 AM
Parks & Rec	August 19th @ 9:00 AM
Building & Zoning	August 19th @ 2:00 PM
Court	August 18th @ 2:00 PM
Fire	August 25th @ 8:00 AM
IT	August 21st @ 10:00 AM

Monthly Financials (July): <https://stories.opengov.com/huronoh/published/9y65SUkhB>

Finance Committee: We currently have an opening for on our Finance Committee and welcome any and all volunteers to apply. Please reach out to Terri Welkener at 419-433-500 x 1104.

WATER DEPARTMENT

Recent Activity:

- **NOTICE OF FIRE HYDRANT FLUSHING –**

Water Distribution Staff have continued flushing the fire hydrants. The process is going smoothly as the south and east sides of town are nearing completion. The east side of town has been completed, and staff are now work their way west from the Water Filtration Plant towards Rye Beach Road.

City of Huron will flush all fire hydrants beginning July 21st and this process will last several weeks. Flushing will begin at the Water Filtration Plant and proceed eastward through the Old Plat neighborhood. Fire hydrant flushing is performed annually to improve the condition of the pipes and ensure that the fire hydrants are working properly. The flushing process moves water through the water mains at a high velocity to loosen any deposits within the system. Customers may experience reduced pressure and temporary discoloration during this process and our staff will, as always, do their best to keep this inconvenience to a minimum. Updates will be provided to notify customers of which neighborhood staff will be working in. For any questions or concerns, please contact Water Superintendent Jack Evans at 419-433-9502.

- Staff met on 8/6/25 to evaluate the water rates for the next 3 years. All capital projects, assets and planning are being reevaluated as part of this process.
- A cyber security assessment was conducted on the Water Filtration Plant in coordination with the Ohio EPA on 8/29/25. The city will be reviewing and implementing recommendations from this assessment.
- A valve leak was discovered at Dayton Ave. and Cleveland Rd. W. on Wednesday last week. Staff excavated and replaced the gaskets on the valve. Water service was isolated on Dayton Ave. during this repair and bacteriological testing indicated that no contamination of the water supply occurred. The boil alert was lifted on Friday 9/5/2025.
- A budget meeting was conducted on 8/15/25 for the 2026 budget year. The main focus of this meeting was to improve tracking of capital assets and reevaluating replacement timelines of these assets.

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. 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.

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 current start date for site work is 8/25/25, but this date will be pushed back until the City has officially obtain title to the property. The City received a commitment from the title company and a closing date will be established soon. Once the property is officially obtained by the City, work may begin. The contractor has been made fully aware of the schedule and the funding deadlines for the City.

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.

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 Water Superintendent is currently reviewing the response drafted by Kleinfelder received on 8/15/25. The City is actively working to resolve these questions with Kleinfelder as the plant rerating is of the utmost importance.

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

The Street Department has finished another round of street sweeping of the city streets.

Projects: Current Projects:

- South McKinley Ave resurfacing (Legislation).
- Oakhurst Ct concrete repair (Collecting quotes)
- Nickelplate Drive Entrance storm, raising and resurfacing (collecting quotes).
- Nickelplate Drive resurfacing within the park (collecting quotes).

General Maintenance: Staff have moved on to storm maintenance and crack sealing. Please remember to slow down and give crews plenty of room.

Storm Line Jetting: We continue working with Franklin Sanitation on jetting storm lines that showed slow downs during the last storm.

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 6th.

HURON PUBLIC POWER (HPP)

Residents Questions: Some residents have asked why their tax dollars are supporting our electric utility while they struggle with their electric costs. We just wanted to assure our residents that Huron Public Power is a fully self-sustaining utility, and that no tax dollars go to supporting this utility.

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 for initial review on February 5th and was presented to the Utilities Committee one final time on May 7th for consideration. The Committee recommended the proposed rate increase, and legislation will be drafted and brought before Council for consideration for three readings in June.

3rd Transformer: The City participated in a bond ratings call with Moody's during the week of March 31st as a leadup to the bond issuance for the 3rd transformer. A follow up call was held on April 9th 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.

We have had to postpone the expected delivery of the third transformer due to problems with compaction on the substation site. AMPT are working through these issues and once remediated, we will be able to reschedule delivery.

We finally managed to get the pad for the transformer poured last week. The pad has a 30 day cure period, Once this has finished curing and passes all inspections, we can schedule the delivery of the transformer.

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

Expansion Under the Tracks: This project is progressing well. Electrical cable is still to be pulled, along with dome final restoration work to be completed. This will allow HPP to provide electric service to Sawmill Parkway, with our first new customer expected to join HPP in May of this year.

We completed the final connections and testing on the expansion project. Our contractor will ensure restoration work is completed prior to demobilizing. This is an exciting time for this Utility.

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

Union Negotiations: The healthcare contract re-opener have been concluded and the emended contracts are expected to be presented to Council at the next meeting. All three Unions agreed to the same terms:

- A 3% wage increase in 2026 and a 3.25% increase in 2027.
- Agreed to the new terms of the Healthcare offered by the City.

Water Plant Operator: The second swing shift operator position has been offered to and verbally accepted by Michael Leonardi. We are excited to add this extra position to improve scheduling and maintenance schedules.

AGREEMENTS/CITY MANAGER APPROVALS

PROJECTS OUT FOR BID

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

September Meetings:

- City Council Meeting – Tuesday, September 9th at 6:30pm in Council Chambers;
- Joint Planning Commission/Council Work Session on Sign Code – Thursday, September 11th at 5:00PM in the Council Chamber.
- Planning Commission Meeting – Wednesday, September 17th at 5:00 in Council Chambers
- City Council Work Session – Tuesday, September 23rd at 5:30 in Council Chambers.
- City Council Meeting – Tuesday, September 23rd at 6:30 in Council Chambers.