



CITY OF HURON
CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

February 20, 2026

Stuart Hamilton, City Manager

DONATIONS

K-9 Fund Donation: An anonymous \$20.00 donation was received by the K-9 Fund.

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.

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 3rd, 2026.

The developer requested the second, and last available 60-day extensions to complete due diligence on the site. This period will expire March 3rd, 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 419-433-5000 x 1102.

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.

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.

This project is complete, with a final ODOT walk through scheduled for Friday January 16th . (postponed), Friday 30th, (postponed), 2/13/2026 (postponed), March 6th, 2026.

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.

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.

This project is complete, with a final ODOT walk through scheduled for Friday January 16th. (postponed), Friday 30th, (postponed) , 2/13/2026 (postponed), March 6th, 2026.

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 were submitted at the end of October.

The final PS & E package has been submitted to ODOT (12/18/25) and we are awaiting comment.

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.

The City received Federal authorization to proceed on this project. This project will go out to bid the first week of December, with bids due January 15th, 2026

Two bids were received in the amounts of \$2,742,143.44 (DL Smith) and \$2,951,088.00 (Smith Paving). Bids have been reviewed for correctness and legislation will be presented to Council for approval. Engineers estimate was \$4M.

An RFQ was issued for Inspection Services for this project. Three responses were received and OHM was selected. A proposal will be forthcoming and will be brought before Council at a future date.

This project will require an (up to) 60-day full closure of Rt6 west of Center St. Once we have a project plan in place we will ensure all parties are fully informed.

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.

An ODOT site walkthrough was conducted on 1/28/26 and a final Scope of Services has been agreed upon. Staff are getting ready to issue an RFQ for design services for this project. With ROW/easements being required to install this pathway, we do not anticipate the construction starting until 2027.

This project will go out to RFQ for Design and Bidding Services on Monday 23rd February, closing March 10th 2026.

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

Code Enforcement: A property on First Street was revisited by the Zoning Inspector after their BZA variances had expired. The property is one that Zoning & Building cited in 2024, which resulted in the owner submitting plans for a full interior remodel, addition to the rear yard, and the addition of additional stories to the existing structure. The proposed improvements required variances, which were granted by the BZA in Feb. of 2025, however, no permits were ever pulled. BZA variances are good for a period of 1 year and construction must be underway before the expiration date. The owners have been doing clean up and removal on the interior but have not addressed the exterior property maintenance issues. Property owners were advised the exterior conditions must be addressed at this time, regardless of their intentions in the near future to re-submit applications for improvements. The owners took care of the issues within the week.

Cases at the Prosecutor/Municipal Court Level:

- Wheeler Drive- (exterior conditions): Owner has made progress in clearing the grounds of this property and has kept in contact with the Zoning Inspector. Owner has met the first deadline set for December 10th regarding inspection of the shoreline. Owner has a follow-up date of Feb. 10th. The owner did not appear for the Feb. 10 court date; a warrant has been issued.
- Ashland Ave: (exterior, roofs, drainage, debris): Owner has pled guilty; he has been ordered to remediate the debris issues by February 2026 and the remaining issues to be determined. The Zoning Inspector performed a site visit to confirm that the debris on the property has been cleared, and the remaining issues will be addressed and monitored as the weather conditions allow.

RFP- 2026-2027 Property Maintenance/Code Enforcement Program. A Request for Proposals was drafted, distributed, and posted on the website in December, seeking contractors to submit proposals for seasonal mowing, trimming, debris removal associated with code violation cases. Submissions are due by February 2, 2026. Details and proposal forms are posted on the Bid Opportunities page of the website. Staff reissued the RFP and extended the deadline to March 2, 2026. We have received a few proposals to date.

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:

Sign Code Amendments- The prepared draft has been reviewed internally by Staff, Administration and Legal. Responses/comments from Zoning, Administration and Legal have been submitted to the Consultant. An internal follow-up meeting is anticipated to address any questions. The consultant will then prepare the final draft which will be reviewed again for distribution to the Planning Commission. We anticipate several work session meetings at the Planning Commission level before a final recommendation is made to Council. A follow-up conference call between Planning & Zoning and the Consultant has been completed. Consultant is working to incorporate all changes and comments, with a final internal meeting and/or review to follow.

Chapter 1321- Building & Zoning Fee Schedules - Staff is researching the current fees charged for Zoning Permits, Signage, Planning Commission Applications, BZA Applications in comparison to other municipalities. Staff has completed municipal comparisons, and in our research of our own code have found multiple references to fees for appeals throughout various chapters, these chapters will have to be amended to remove the stated fee and insert a reference to the fee section. In other instances, fees are mentioned in the code, but are not identified with a dollar amount, and do not appear in the fee schedule either. Staff anticipates the proposed Zoning fee schedule amendment to be completed by the end of February. Ideally, we would want to wait for Huron Township to provide the city with their recommended changes to the Building permit fees in order to present all changes to Chapter 1321 at one time, if possible.

Staff will also be researching the entirety of the Codified Ordinances to locate fees (specifically those types currently managed by Planning & Zoning) that appear in other Sections of the codes. For example permits/fees for: right-of-way, peddlers licenses, temporary stores, transient rentals, and contractor registration fees are all in separate chapters of the code. The city desires to have all fees across the board reflected in one comprehensive code section. This will mean that all code sections with fee references will eventually need to be amended to refer to the new comprehensive fee section and would affect all respective departments. This part of the project is going to take considerable time and not anticipated for 2026.

As time allows, the following Chapters/Sections need to be reviewed, researched by comparison with other municipalities, and collaboration with legal:

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. Draft amendment has been prepared, discussion and city preference on language regarding owners performing work themselves anticipated with Administration and possibly Legal. Draft has been received from Legal; staff will prepare the final exhibit for an upcoming City Council agenda.

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" however, this code section does not provide Zoning any means of enforcement efforts. Research has been finalized and submitted to Legal for review and recommended amendments.

Transient Rentals: We presently have 19 applications on the Wait List. The database of registered properties and the wait list database are posted on the website. Staff continues to receive inquires quite often regarding the program and interest in the transfer process for properties up for sale that have Certificates.

As mentioned at recent Council meetings, S.B. No. 104, is currently pending at the Senate Local Government Committee level. The proposed bill limits the authority of local governments to regulate short-term rental properties. Legal will continue to monitor the progress of this bill.

Consults and Commercial Improvements:

Firelands Scientific Expansion – A lot combination needed for a proposed expansion was approved by the Planning Commission on 2-18-26. Firelands Scientific is preparing revision

#2 of site plans to incorporate additional fire lanes in their proposed plans. Once these revisions are made and verified for compliance by Fire and Zoning, the site plans can be taken to the Planning Commission for preliminary plan approval.

Additions/New Builds – With spring around the corner, staff is seeing an uptick in inquiries regarding additions and new builds. Staff has met/talked with several property owners to discuss zoning and lot requirements and permitting processes.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

Huron Pier Project: The lighthouse up lighting is working and the project on the west pier continues with a projected mid Dec. completion. We want to thank Ryba Marine Construction, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Coast Guard for their cooperation.

Ryba Marine Construction has completed about 65% of the concrete work on the pier, backfilling behind the new sheet pile wall. They need above 40 degree temps moving forward to complete the concrete portion of the project. Ryba will be finishing up misc. items in the next few weeks and demobilizing to the railroad property (slip 2) for the winter. Once temperatures are above 40 degrees for a week period they will finish the concrete work. Estimated time needed for completion is about 2 weeks.

Ice Rink: The ice rink is set up and ready for mother nature to bring in some consistent below-freezing temperatures to allow for safe skating. Please follow our social media channels and website for updates and more information on when the rink will be open and safe for public use.

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. 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. KS & Associates is finalizing details on Stage 2-Final Construction and bidding documents and we are working with ODNR to initiate the agreement process to bring to Council for consideration.

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.

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.

Marinas.com Elite Status: The Huron Boat Basin team's hard work and commitment to excellence were recently recognized with **Elite Status** from **Marinas.com**, a prestigious designation based on outstanding boater reviews. The Huron Boat Basin was **one of only three marinas in Ohio** to earn this recognition, highlighting the pride our staff takes in customer service, facility quality, and creating a marina experience that keeps boaters coming back year after year.

SAFETY SERVICES

Body Worn and In-Car Camera Public Records Requests: The Police Department has seen a substantial increase in the number of public records requests specifically involving body worn camera and in-car cruiser camera videos. To properly provide appropriate and legal video and audio redactions, it usually takes between two and three times the length of the recordings to provide this service. In short, a significant amount of time has to be dedicated to provide these public records. H.B. 425, which was passed in April of 2019, changed part of Ohio's public records law (Ohio Revised Code 149). This law significantly restricts the general rule that in-car camera and body worn camera recordings are public record. This law declares that "restricted portions" of the recordings are not public records (i.e. victims, juveniles, protected health information, etc.). Ohio Revised Code 149.43 (B)(1) states, a state or local law enforcement agency or a prosecuting attorney's office may charge a requester the actual cost associated with preparing a video record for inspection or production, not to exceed seventy-five dollars per hour of video produced, nor seven hundred fifty dollars total. As used in this division, "actual cost," with

respect to video records only, means all costs incurred by the state or local law enforcement agency or a prosecuting attorney's office in reviewing, blurring or otherwise obscuring, redacting, uploading, or producing the video records, including but not limited to the storage medium on which the record is produced, staff time, and any other relevant overhead necessary to comply with the request. The police department is proposing charging a \$75.00/per hour fee (maximum \$750 per incident) for this service.

Fire Department's "New" Ladder Truck: The new-to-the-Department ladder truck is coming along. They are painting all the doors now. The cab will be getting painted next week. Once they have a good day weatherwise, they will do the turntable and cylinders. When painting and reassembly has been completed (in 3-4 weeks), it will go to Sutphen Service in Dublin, Ohio to have more work completed. We are hopeful of receiving delivery in March sometime.

PALS Training: The Huron Fire Department completed their required PALS (Pediatric Advanced Life Support) training through University Hospitals on February 16th.

Ice Rescues: The Huron Fire Department has completed several practice ice rescues on the Huron River.

FINANCE

Income Tax: January income tax receipts total \$279K, trailing budget by 27% and January 2025 results by 25%. The Regional Income Authority has noticed throughout the state a higher frequency of refunds to net profit income taxpayers, this is driven by overpaid estimates from these businesses throughout 2025. Staff will closely monitor income tax revenue trends in the coming months to determine if any action is necessary. Through mid-February, receipts are positively trending towards budgetary expectations.

Update: 2024 financial statements have been completed and filed with the state auditor's office, auditors were on site the 3rd week of February to finalize testing of the 2024 financial statements. Audited statements are expected to be complete the first week of March.

The City's accounting system has been upgraded to a cloud version, this update will allow for stronger security and more affordable long-term storage of data. The connection between our accounting system and the OpenGov budgeting and reporting tool was broken during this upgrade, the reintegration of these two platforms is underway and expected to be back online in April. This will cause the regular monthly financial stories to be temporarily impacted. During these next few months, while the OpenGov system is down, please feel free to reach out to the finance staff with any questions or financial report requests.

Fire Levy: With the help of the County Auditor, the potential impact of the proposed fire levy can be seen below for various home values. Residents can also go to the County Auditors website and see the estimated impact based on their home. The estimated cost to the City to place the levy on the May 2026 ballot is ~\$500.00.

True Market Value	Assessed Value 35%	1.5 Mill Fire Levy Annual Impact (Market Value x .35 x 1.5)/1000	Cost per Month
\$ 100,000	0.35	\$ 52.50	\$ 4.38
\$ 150,000	0.35	\$ 78.75	\$ 6.56
\$ 200,000	0.35	\$ 105.00	\$ 8.75
\$ 250,000	0.35	\$ 131.25	\$ 10.94
\$ 300,000	0.35	\$ 157.50	\$ 13.13
\$ 350,000	0.35	\$ 183.75	\$ 15.31
\$ 400,000	0.35	\$ 210.00	\$ 17.50
\$ 450,000	0.35	\$ 236.25	\$ 19.69
\$ 500,000	0.35	\$ 262.50	\$ 21.88
\$ 550,000	0.35	\$ 288.75	\$ 24.06
\$ 600,000	0.35	\$ 315.00	\$ 26.25
\$ 650,000	0.35	\$ 341.25	\$ 28.44
\$ 700,000	0.35	\$ 367.50	\$ 30.63
\$ 750,000	0.35	\$ 393.75	\$ 32.81
\$ 800,000	0.35	\$ 420.00	\$ 35.00
\$ 850,000	0.35	\$ 446.25	\$ 37.19
\$ 900,000	0.35	\$ 472.50	\$ 39.38
\$ 950,000	0.35	\$ 498.75	\$ 41.56
\$ 1,000,000	0.35	\$ 525.00	\$ 43.75
\$ 1,050,000	0.35	\$ 551.25	\$ 45.94
\$ 1,100,000	0.35	\$ 577.50	\$ 48.13
\$ 1,200,000	0.35	\$ 630.00	\$ 52.50
\$ 1,250,000	0.35	\$ 656.25	\$ 54.69
\$ 1,300,000	0.35	\$ 682.50	\$ 56.88

Note: If you want to see the estimated impact on your house, go to the Erie County Auditor's Website - (Auditor.eriecounty.oh.gov)

Step 1 Click Real Estate arrow (3rd item in Blue Bar)

Step 2 Click Property Levies and Taxes (first item right column)

Step 3 Click

Monthly Financials (December): <https://stories.opengov.com/huronoh/published/rmd90RdC0>

2026 Budget Book: <https://stories.opengov.com/huronoh/published/Bb4uXP8eV>

WATER DEPARTMENT

Recent Activity:

- 75.179 MG raw water treated in January.
- 70.733 MG finished water produced in January.
- 2.137 MG wash water required in January.
- Erie County usage for January has not yet been calculated.
- January average plant capacity 67.1% (3.4 MGD Plant Rating)
- Quotes for fence replacement around the sludge lagoon are being procured. The shoreline needs to be restored on the east side of the property. However, this property is considered wetlands and must be delineated by the Army Corp of Engineers. This process may take up to 1-year and it would be ill advised to install a new fence before the shoreline is restored. Options are currently being explored to expedite this process.
- Main break on JCB between Ohio and Stowe on 2/19/26. This was repaired with no boil alert needed.

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. This project may be tabled due to lack of funding and budgetary restraints. The Water Superintendent met with Kleinfelder on 12/3/25 to answer questions as related to this project. The city met with Kleinfelder on 12/10/25 to discuss this project.

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.

The city executed the second part of the engineering and design agreement with Kleinfelder that allows for construction observation and specialty tank inspections from Nelson Tank and was approved by city council on 12/9. The city met with Kleinfelder on 12/10/25 to discuss this project and establish expectations going forward. The Water Superintendent will provide updates on construction as necessary.

The most recent bi-weekly construction meeting was held on 2/5/26. The first two pours on the pedestal will be on 2/11 and 2/18. Landmark has been preparing the site to perform this work. The city is hopeful that the harsh winter weather will not delay this work. The city is awaiting disbursement of the first 2 pay applications from the Department of Development. These are part of the \$5M grant funds. The City has been in contact with the Department of Development to ensure all funds are encumbered by the deadline.

Plant Re-Rating: A response was received from the Ohio EPA on 11/4/2025 requesting clarification. Clarification was provided by the Water Superintendent and sent to Kleinfelder on 11/17/25, as this information must be stamped by a professional engineer. Additional information on the new chemical pumps was provided to Kleinfelder on 12/3/2025. The potential necessity for a Risk Management Plan (RMP) for chlorine gas was also discussed at this meeting. Due to the rerating, the city may be required to store more chlorine gas onsite, which would trigger the need for RMP. The city received a stamped Basis of Design Table and stamped chemical pump approval on 12/16. The Water Superintendent will have this information submitted to the EPA by 12/19/25. This project is nearing completion and the city is hopeful the rerating will be granted in the near future.

River Alternate Intake and Sludge Lagoon: 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. This project may be tabled due to lack of funding and budgetary restraints.

STREETS DEPARTMENT

Projects: Current Projects:

- Plow/salt truck has been cleaned and serviced and is ready for next weather event;
- Working on reinstalling signs/posts that were knocked over during bad weather;
- Salt Supply – salt bin is full;
- Street sweeper has been out for service/repairs and should be back in service soon if the weather continues to be nice.

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.

The City was awarded \$123,300, with a request to add additional lighting which would also be funded. Staff are currently looking into this and will work with ODOT on final scope. The hope will be to install this over the summer months this year. The additional lighting is estimated to be around \$44,000. This new scope has been sent to ODOT for approval. ODOT has requested we push this work until the summer of 2027 for budgetary reasons.

Tree Program –

District 2: Tree maintenance/removal went out to bid for Districts 2 and 3, with only one contractor responding (Buckeye Tree). The waiting period is running for the certified letters sent to residents and once that time has passed, Buckeye Tree will be working through spring getting the work completed.

District 3: Tree maintenance/removal went out to bid for Districts 2 and 3, with only one contractor responding (Buckeye Tree). The waiting period is running for the certified letters sent to residents and once that time has passed, Buckeye Tree will be working through spring getting the work completed.

District 4: The City is working to retain an arborist to conduct the initial tree inspections for Districts 4 and 1.

District 1: The City is working to retain an arborist to conduct the initial tree inspections for Districts 4 and 1.

Sidewalk Program –

District 2: Sidewalk repairs have been completed and invoices have been sent out to residents. The residents have 30 days to pay the invoice; if the invoice is not paid, the cost will be certified to the Erie County Auditor to be paid over the next 4 years.

District 3: Certified letters will go out to residents living in District 3 by late winter providing 60 days to complete the required maintenance work. Following that waiting period, the City will go out to bid for the concrete work with an anticipated work completion date in the fall.

District 4: Thirty-nine (39) Courtesy sidewalk maintenance letters were mailed to residents on Friday, June 6th. Follow-up certified letters were mailed on August 27, 2025 providing a 60-day time period to complete the work. District 4 will be reinspected in early spring and the City will add this work to the District 3 bid to be completed in the fall.

District 1: District 1 sidewalks will be inspected in early spring of 2026, with courtesy letters mailed shortly thereafter.

HURON PUBLIC POWER (HPP)

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.

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.

Switch Gear and Transformer Installation: The contract has been signed, and a kickoff meeting is scheduled for mid-February. Once this has been held we will be able to put together a project schedule.

A kickoff meeting with the contractor was carried out February 16th. We are waiting for a project schedule.

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 Apples to Apples ([Energy Choice Ohio - Apples to Apples](#)) will present options for Residents to sign up on their own.

PERSONNEL

Technology Manager: This position was offered to and accepted by Sean Berendt. We are excited Sean has decided to join us. He is scheduled to start March 9th.

ADMINISTRATION

Water and Sewer Regionalization: Staff received an update on this project. As we were aware, Sandusky joined the County to review this regionalization effort. Milan and the new administration in Vermillion have now also joined. While staff still do not see a benefit arising from this study, we will join the process to have a seat at the table. Our stance and opinion is still that our residents and the service thereof is our main priority. This process is starting with investigating an RFQ to a consultant to review possibilities around regionalizing Water and Sewer services. This report could come back saying there are savings to be had, or that there are not, but either way, without Councilmatic action, the report is just a report. The City will not be contributing monetarily to the cost of this report.

AGREEMENTS/CITY MANAGER APPROVALS

PROJECTS OUT FOR BID

CONTRACTS

- **HJRD Annual Agreement (Res 9-2025) – Expired 12/31/25.**
- 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.**
- Confirm City Manager Powers (Ord 2022-50) - **Council motion after 12/1/26**
- 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.**
- Erie Soil and Water Conservation District (Res 8-2025) – **Expires 1/31/27.**
- 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 GAAP Conversion (Res 10-2025) – **Expires 12/31/27.**
- Emergency Services Agreement with Huron Township (Res 9-2026) – **Expires 12/31/31.**

UPCOMING MEETINGS

February 2026 Meetings:

- City Council Meeting – Tuesday, February 24th at 6:30pm in Council Chambers.
- Records Commission Meeting – Thursday, February 26th at 9am in Council Chambers.

March 2026 Meetings:

- HJRD Meeting – Tuesday, March 3rd at 6:30pm in Council Chambers;
- Utilities Committee Meeting – Wednesday, March 4th at 5:00pm in Council Chambers;
- Public Hearing on Holiday Harbor Rezoning Application – Tuesday, March 10th at 6:30pm in Council Chambers;
- City Council Meeting – Tuesday, March 10th at 6:30pm in Council Chambers;
- Planning Commission Meeting – Wednesday, March 25th at 5:00pm in Council Chambers;
- City Council Meeting – Tuesday, March 24th at 6:30pm in Council Chambers;