



CITY OF HURON
CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

March 20, 2026

Stuart Hamilton, City Manager

DONATIONS

K-9 Fund Donation: A donation to the Huron Police Department K-9 Fund in the amount of \$5,000 was received from the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

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.

The developer was granted an extension to the due diligence period until August 3rd 2026. The developer has been informed that this will be the final extension.

The final road Plat was signed and received back from ODNR. This will go to the Planning Commission on the 25th of this month for review.

INFRASTRUCTURE/STREETS/UTILITIES/IT

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 was completed 3/6/2026. We will proceed and close these projects down.

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 was completed 3/6/2026. We will proceed and close these projects down.

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.

This project is scheduled to go out to bid in April.

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.

A pre-construction meeting was carried out 3/18/2026. We expect a more detailed schedule to enable us to start communicating outward to stakeholders.

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.

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.

This project is tentatively scheduled to take place in April, weather dependent.

ZONING/CODE/PLANNING

Code Enforcement:

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. The owner did not appear for the Feb. 10 court date, a warrant has been issued.

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. We received the revised draft and are giving it a once-over before we get it out to Planning Commission members to start review.

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. This amendment is at the City Council level going through three readings.

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: Planning & Zoning and Fire are working together to eventually transition all Transient Inspections (New, Renewals, Transfers, Re-Inspections) to be conducted by the Fire Department rather than Zoning. Fire brings a new perspective to the inspections with their safety expertise. One of the best examples of an issue discovered during our collaboration is the following language in the Transient Code for Inspections: *1369.06 J. Check for presence of accessible dry chemical fire extinguishers of a minimum 5-lb. ABC class.* What this language means to most of us is purchasing a 5-lb ABC class fire extinguisher, when, in reality, the Fire Department has explained this means an ABC Class extinguisher that *contains 5lbs of chemical material.* They have provided an extinguisher type that we will include on the application information going forward and, in the meantime, once we finalize some other questions, we will get a notice out to all Transient Property owners. Some potential recommendations by Fire would require a code amendment, we are working on this as well. While we anticipate a period of adjustment with the inspections, we believe this transition will provide a valuable benefit to transient rental owners and their guests.

We presently have 16 applications on the Wait List. The database of registered properties and the wait list database are posted on the website ([City Of Huron](#)). 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. On February 3, 2026, the Ohio Chamber of Commerce notified us that this bill is not moving forward in 2026.

Consults and Commercial Improvements:

Firelands Scientific Expansion – Firelands Scientific has submitted revision #2 of site plans to incorporate additional Fire requirements. The plans were reviewed by the Fire Chief and Building Official for compliance. Firelands Scientific can now rework and submit the revised site plan to our office for the Preliminary Plan review and approval at the upcoming Planning Commission Meeting. Following that meeting, a complete SWPPP review will be required by OHM Advisors and Erie Conservation, and a Final Site and Design Plan (landscape, lighting, elevations, signage) review will be held at the Planning Commission level before the permit process can commence. The application for Preliminary Site Plan Review & Approval is on the March 25th Planning Commission agenda.

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:

Sustainable Communities Tour: The Parks & Recreation Department is hosting a Sustainable Communities Tour on Tuesday, March 31st. This Tour is sponsored by Old Woman Creek Reserve, the Erie Conservation District and the Ohio Clean Marinas Program. Participants will visit Lake Front Park, Huron Pier, Huron Boat Basin and Gathering Grounds Coffee House and learn about the sustainable actions we currently utilize, gain insight into what best practices can be implemented and learn about potential funding opportunities.

Platinum Status Award: The Huron Boat Basin Marina is proud to announce that it has been awarded Platinum Status through the Ohio Clean Marina program, the highest level of environmental certification awarded to marinas in the State of Ohio.

Platinum Status represents a significant milestone and reflects the marina's long-standing commitment to environmental stewardship, water quality protection and responsible boating practices along Lake Erie and the Huron River.

The Ohio Clean Marinas program, administered in partnership with Ohio Sea Grant and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, recognizes marinas that go above and beyond in implementing best management practices designed to protect Ohio's waterways. Platinum Status is reserved for facilities that demonstrate exemplary performance in pollution prevention, waste management, stormwater control, boater education and environmental leadership.

Huron Joint Recreation District: After conversations with both the Township and the School administration, a discussion led by staff, was carried out at the March HJRD meeting. This discussion centered around how HJRD is currently run vs. how it should be run. This issue was asked about by our auditors and prompted the need to come up with a plan for the future. The two choices would be either to put HJRD out on its own as an independent entity as it should

function, or disband the district and move to a City Parks Board. Due to the complexities and cost of HJRD functioning as an independent entity, staff's preference would be to move to a Parks Board with support from the Township and the Schools. This was supported by those present at the HJRD meeting.

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.

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.

During design of this project, working with an electrical contractor, it was discovered that the existing electrical supply was not sufficient to support the new docks. This electrical has been there since the Boat Basin was constructed and is not in good shape. There will not be enough money in the grant funding to support this electrical upgrade (~\$325K), so the City is investigating the best way to pay for these upgrades. These upgrades are essential for safety reasons.

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.

Red White and Blues: The City will be hosting our usual night of fun, food and music on the 4th of July. However, this year, we will not be doing a fireworks display, but instead, we will be joining forces with Huron Riverfest for an enhanced event the following weekend. These two events have historically competed for attendance and by joining forces we can end up with a bigger and better event to celebrate America's 250 Anniversary.

SAFETY SERVICES

Safety Services Sponsor Baseball Teams: Both the Huron Police Department and the Huron Fire Department are sponsoring baseball teams. The teams' registration costs were donated by members of each department. When the teams are scheduled to play each other this summer, members from each agency will attend to represent their respective teams.

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 nearing completion. The painting has been completed, and the truck will now go to Sutphen Service in Dublin, Ohio for graphics and some internal work before members of the apparatus committee head down to inspect it and pick it up.

Transient Rental Inspections: The fire department has taken over conducting inspections of transient rental properties (formerly conducted by Planning and Zoning Department).

FINANCE

Income Tax: Income tax receipts through Mid-March total \$846K, trailing budget by 9%. The Regional Income Authority has noticed throughout the state a higher frequency of refunds to net profit income taxpayers in January, this is driven by overpaid estimates from these businesses throughout 2025. February and March have been more in line with budgetary expectations; staff expects this gap to continue to close in the coming months.

Department Updates: 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.

The City has been named as a finalist of OpenGov's High Performance Government Awards. Huron's nomination stands out for its measurable impact, innovation, and commitment to serving the Huron community at the highest level. The recognition highlights the City's commitment to transparency, responsible financial management, and clear communication with residents about how public funds are planned and used. Award winners will be announced April 29th at OpenGov's annual conference in Chicago.

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:

- 71.898 MG raw water treated in February.
- 67.500 MG finished water produced in February.
- 2.092 MG wash water required in February.
- Erie County usage for February was 39.221MG.
- February average plant capacity 70.9% (3.4 MGD Plant Rating)
- Staff members attended the NW Ohio AWWA Spring Meeting in Willard, OH on 3/19. This will provided training for contact hours towards Ohio EPA water licensure.
- The Filter-to-Waste actuators have been wired in and are now communicating with the PLC and can be operated remotely.
- Interviews are being conducted for the position of Water Plant Operator. This process is nearing completion and an offer will be made in the coming days.
- Preventative maintenance has been completed on Low Service Pumps 1 & 2 and High Service Pump #1. The shaft and impeller on High Service Pump #2 required recoating and this work will be completed in the weeks ahead.
- The large water meters scheduled for replacement have arrived on site. This replacement work will be scheduled between June – August as 3 of the meters to be installed are for the schools.

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. The Water Superintendent is reviewing revised drawings sent over from Kleinfelder at the end of February. Kleinfelder is also assisting the city in securing funding sources for this project. Severe winter weather and icing events at the filtration plant have highlighted the need for this project to continue.

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 3/19/26. The project is on schedule and vertical concrete pours will continue for the next couple of months. A total of 2 disbursements has been requested from the Department of Development. These are part of the \$5M grant funds. These disbursements cover all work performed from October – February. The City has been in contact with the Department of Development to ensure all funds are encumbered by the deadline. There are currently 2 change orders that have been approved by city council. The City and Ardagh are jointly working on establishing the logo for the water tower upon completion. A construction site audit will be scheduled with Kleinfelder and the Ohio EPA sometime during the month of May 2026.

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. There have been no updates on this rerating since December, despite efforts from the Water Superintendent to receive clarification from the OEPA. 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:

- Working with Franklins Jetting storm lines currently at Williams St. to Jefferson;
- Continuing to fill potholes as needed;
- Sweeping of city streets;
- Meeting with Griffin Pavement Striping for Rte 6 striping and bike lanes.

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 Apple 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.

A kickoff meeting was carried out here at the City Building where initial conversations addressing expectations and concerns about the project. In attendance were representatives from the County, City of Vermillion, City of Milan, the City of Sandusky and myself. This was an honest conversation where it was reiterated that our Residents come first and everything else is secondary. The next meeting is scheduled for March 30th.

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

March 2026 Meetings:

- Planning Commission Meeting – Wednesday, March 25th at 5:00pm in Council Chambers;
- City Council Meeting – Tuesday, March 24th at 6:30pm in Council Chambers;
- Records Commission Meeting – Thursday, March 26th at 9:00am in Council Chambers.

April 2026 Meetings:

- Utilities Committee – Wednesday, April 1st at 5:00pm in Council Chambers;
- HJRD – Tuesday, April 7th at 6:30pm in Council Chambers;
- BZA – Monday, April 13th at 5:30pm in Council Chambers;
- City Council Meeting – Tuesday, April 14th at 6:30pm in Council Chambers;
- Planning Commission Meeting – Wednesday, April 15th at 5:00pm in Council Chambers;
- City Council Meeting – Tuesday, April 28th at 6:30pm in Council Chambers.