



CITY OF HURON  
CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

April 24, 2026

Stuart Hamilton, City Manager

## DONATIONS

### ECONOMIC/COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The developer requested the second, and last available 60-day extensions to complete due diligence on the site. This period will expire March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026.

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

The developer has completed their acceptance agreement with KHOV and is progressing in finalizing their agreement. We are currently working on the development agreement with them and then we will move to close. The final unit count will be 95 units with the rest of the development staying as passed by Planning Commission and Council.

### INFRASTRUCTURE/STREETS/UTILITIES/IT

**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 went out to out to bid on April 6th.

**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 15<sup>th</sup>, 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 last week 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 10, 2026 regarding inspection of the shoreline. The owner did not appear for the Feb. 10 court date; a warrant has been issued. Court has requested Zoning provide a status report on the conditions of the property on May 4, 2026.

- 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. Follow-up inspection of this property is on the list for May.

#### Tall Grass and Weeds:

- Corporate Park and Sawmill Parkway - In the past, grass/weed growth on vacant parcels within Corporate Park and Sawmill Parkway were handled by internal policy that varied throughout the years when dealing with vacant lots in these Industrial areas. Lots were recommended to be cut a couple times a year and/or just cut back from the right-of-way 3' or 4'. Some of these lots are thick, dense vegetation and small trees that will require more than just mowing. The city recently received a complaint on a property in Corporate Park which prompted an internal discussion of past practice, the current code, and the desire to establish a consistent practice of application with these properties. The applicable code is located within General Offenses- Chapter 557-Grass, Weeds, & Vegetation. This code is based on the International Property Code language with the municipality setting the parameters for heights, time to remedy, and process for abating. The code does not distinguish between any zoning district- it is a blanket regulation for grass/weeds. Letters have been issued to all properties within Corporate Park and Sawmill Parkway that are in violation of this code. Follow-up inspections will be required for compliance verification.

**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. Staff have provided the draft to the Planning Commission on March 25, 2026 to begin review. The first work session meeting to commence the plan review will be held on May 6, 2026 at 5pm - the consultant will be providing an overview of the amendments. Subsequent work sessions will be scheduled to review specific sections each meeting.

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 and addressing the issue of owners performing work in the ROW themselves. The draft amendment was reviewed by Administration and Legal. This amendment has been adopted by City Council and will take effect 30 days from the adoption date. Staff is now editing/updating the application and the zoning software program to reflect the changes.

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. Legal has reviewed and obtained comparables from other municipalities. Collaboration will continue to address sections in General Offenses, Traffic Codes, and the Zoning Code to add needed language, enforcement powers, and penalties.

**Transient Rentals:** Zoning is handling all monitoring, application data entry, enforcement, certificate issuance and inspection appointments of transient rentals. The Huron Fire Department is now conducting all inspections, providing the completed reports back to Zoning.

We presently have 17 applications on the Wait List. The database of registered properties and the wait list database are posted on the website ([City Of Huron](#)).

#### Consults and Commercial Improvements:

Firelands Scientific Expansion – Preliminary Site Plan was approved, Stormwater and SWPPP Plan review are underway. The Final Site and Design Plan (landscape, lighting, elevations, signage) review will be held at a future Planning Commission meeting before the permit process can commence.

Huron Harbor – Variations to the General Development Concept Plan (GDGP) - minor variations to the GDGP that included a reduction to the number of units, enlargement to the width of the smallest units, and the addition of buffer areas between structures were presented and approved by the Planning Commission on April 15, 2026.

Marconi's Expansion of Outdoor Dining Patio – Preliminary Site Plan was approved by the Planning Commission on April 15, 2026. Final Plans with complete Design Review Plans are to be reviewed at a special meeting of the Planning Commission on April 29, 2026.

Old Mill Harbor – Temporary signage announcing their upcoming Grand Opening and temporary signage for the new business is being proposed while preparing for permanent signage applications. In an effort to expediate and accommodate the proposed Grand Opening signage, this application is anticipated to be in the special meeting agenda of the Planning Commission on April 29, 2026.

Trabel's Bagels – New permanent wall signage is being proposed above the entrance to their unit in North Port Plaza. This application will be placed on the April 29, 2026 special meeting of the Planning Commission.

Myers Brothers Butchering – The new owners of the business contacted the City regarding proposed improvements to the site. During staff research, it was found that the operation (slaughterhouse) is a nonconforming use as the zoning is R-1 and the property is surrounded by R-1. The only zoning that allows this use is I-2. Staff is currently researching the code for regulations, options and processes. Legal has been contacted, as well, for their opinion on current language in the code and what may be allowed.

We currently have nine (9) active/open inquiries for research and preliminary zoning reviews and/or consultations comprised of residential and commercial projects.

### PARKS AND RECREATION:

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 Pier project has been completed. We would like to thank the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Ryba Marine for their communication and efforts with us as the local stakeholder on this 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.

**Red White and Blues:** The City will be hosting our usual night of fun, food and music on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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

**Sensory Bags:** The police department is now equipped with sensory bags which were provided by the Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities so our officers can assist citizens or visitors with disability or sensory needs. These bags are designed to support interactions with individuals who have developmental disabilities. Each bag includes noise-reducing headphones, sunglasses, a few fidgets, a whiteboard with marker and eraser, and simple picture-based communication boards.

**Autism and Special Needs Registry:** The police department has also started a voluntary Autism and Special Needs Registry for our citizens. This information will assist our officers who come into contact with citizens with Autism or special needs with personal information, emergency contacts, medical needs or allergies, safe places, behaviors when unhappy or upset, places where the missing person might be found, likes and dislikes, places they like to go or hide, and soothing and calming techniques. The form will be located on our website and is voluntary only.

**Surveillance Camera Registration:** The police department has started a voluntary Surveillance Camera Registration program for our citizens. This information will assist our officers with investigating criminal behavior where home surveillance camera video may be of assistance. This is not access to citizen's video system but only a database of who has video cameras installed to be more efficient instead of going door to door. The form will be located on our website and is voluntary only.

**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.

**Spoil Site Controlled Burn:** The burning of the spoil site on Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> went perfectly. A big thank you to Burn Boss Ben Blodgett and his crew for a safe and successful burn.

**Fireboat Deployed:** The fireboat has been placed in the water and is ready for the boating season.

**Fire Department's "New" Ladder Truck:** The new-to-the-Department ladder truck has arrived! Crews have been mounting equipment and training on its driving and operations. The truck is currently being serviced at Valley Truck Center, and once it has back at Station 1, the team will install the last few items it needs before being placed into service. Residents will be able to see the ladder truck in all its glory at the Huron Fire Department Open House on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at Station 2.

**Fire Department's Open Houses:** The Fire Department hosted an open house on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at Station 1, which was a great success with interactions with citizens and many children. There is a second Open House scheduled for Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> from 1-4pm at Station 2. Residents can come visit the station, meet the crew members and see the equipment. They will be able to ask any questions about the upcoming Levy on May 5<sup>th</sup>. There will be activities for kids and refreshments provided.

## FINANCE

**Income Tax:** Income tax receipts through March total \$846K, trailing 2025 results 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 tax revenue has been more in line with budgetary expectations and from a year-to-date perspective current results are in line with 2024 revenue levels.

**Marijuana Tax:** The City received \$44K in Adult Use Marijuana Tax Revenue in April, these collections had been accruing and held by the State since August of 2024. The expectation going forward is roughly \$2,000 monthly (\$24,000 annually) of tax revenue generation to the General Fund.

**Updates:** The US Rte 6 Phase II Project bond bids closed at 11am est on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, the lowest bidder was Robert W. Baird & Co., Inc. at 3.82%. Baird is a previous bond bid winner for the City. Initial estimates were in the 5.5% range, but due to the improved market conditions and the City's recent release of a continued Aa2 credit rating from Moody's, the City was able to win a competitive interest rate.

**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.

<b>True Market Value</b>	<b>Assessed Value 35%</b>	<b>1.5 Mill Fire Levy Annual Impact (Market Value x .35 x 1.5)/1000</b>	<b>Cost per Month</b>
\$ 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 (March): <https://stories.opengov.com/huronoh/published/EspcnhaFk>

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

## WATER DEPARTMENT

### Recent Activity:

- 81.453 MG raw water treated in March.
- 76.749 MG finished water produced in March.
- 2.277 MG wash water required in March.
- Erie County usage for March was 43.8 MG.
- March average plant capacity 72.8% (3.4 MGD Plant Rating)
- Staff members will be attending the Lake Erie Group AWWA meeting in Lorain, OH on 5/7/2026. This will provide training for contact hours towards Ohio EPA water licensure.
- Distribution staff will be attending Mueller fire hydrant training on 4/23/26.
- Greg Kushner has been hired as a Water Plant Operator. Mr. Kushner has over 12-years of experience and possesses a Class 3 Water Supply License. Welcome to Huron, Greg!
- The shaft and impeller were recoated on High Service Pump #2 and have been reinstalled.
- The Water Filtration Plant completed additional PFAS sampling on 4/20/2026 as part of a class action lawsuit. PFAS, or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances are a group of synthetic chemicals known for their water and grease-resistant properties. These are known as "forever chemicals" due to their inability to break down over time. These chemicals have been used in cookware, clothing, cosmetics, and firefighting foam. The results from these samples are expected to be received in the coming weeks.
- 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.
- Electric Rotork valve actuators have been sourced for the surface sweep filter valves at the WFP. These will be ordered pending council approval, and will complete the actuator replacement program.
- Distribution staff is actively working on restoration work as relates to watermain breaks over the winter. This includes lawn grading/reseeding and asphalt repairs.
- Water distribution staff made a repair to the water main on Buckeye Road on 4/15/26. The main was cracked all the way around and was repaired live with a clamping sleeve.
- Staff is exploring installation of flow meters at representative points in the distribution system. This would include the installation of a vault and a cellular antenna to gather flow data and reduce time spent searching for watermain leaks.

### Active Project Updates:

**Alternate Intake/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. 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. Numerous grants have been applied for as related to this project and the city is still navigating financing options.

**West Side Water Tower:** The most recent bi-weekly construction meeting was held on 4/16/26. The project is on schedule and vertical concrete pours have been completed. The dome phase of the project including concrete pours will be completed between 4/21 – 4/25. The fabrication of the steel bowl has begun and will be ongoing for the next several months. The steel bowl is expected to be craned into place in September 2026. A total of 3 disbursements has been requested from the Department of Development. Two of the three disbursements have been received and the city and project engineer are currently reviewing the pay application for April. 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:** 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 Water Superintendent has received 3-quotes for the RMP. The city received a stamped Basis of Design Table and stamped chemical pump approval on 12/16. The Water Superintendent submitted this information to the EPA on 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. The most recent follow-up email was sent on 4/21/26. This project is nearing completion and the city is hopeful the rerating will be granted in the near future.

## STREETS DEPARTMENT

### Projects: Current Projects:

- Staff are starting to send out curtesy letters to properties abutting open stormwater infrastructure, politely reminding these residents that per Huron Codified Ordinances that they are responsible for maintaining the functionality of these assets. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to the City at 419-433-5000.

**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:** Invoices have been mailed to residents. Residents will have 30 days to pay the invoices. Any unpaid invoices will be certified to the County Auditor for collection over a 4-year period.

**District 3:** Invoices have been mailed to residents. Residents will have 30 days to pay the invoices. Any unpaid invoices will be certified to the County Auditor for collection over a 4-year period.

**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 per the Resolution adopted by Council at the April 14, 2026 meeting. These letters will provide residents 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:** Certified letters will go out to residents living in District 3 per the Resolution adopted by Council at the April 14, 2026 meeting. These letters will provide residents 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 1:** District 1 sidewalks were inspected in March, with courtesy letters mailed to residents on March 27, 2026.

### HURON PUBLIC POWER (HPP)

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

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

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

**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 16<sup>th</sup>. 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

**Part Time Zoning Inspector:** We are currently advertising for a Part-Time Zoning Inspector. This would be a great position for retirees looking for part-time work (maximum 24 hours per week/schedule TBD). The main responsibilities in this position would be zoning plan reviews, zoning permit issuance and zoning inspections. Code enforcement elements include site inspections, issuing violation notices and related follow-ups and re-inspections.

**Service Manager:** There is an open position for a Service Manager to manage the day-to-day operations of our service departments. If interested, please visit our website on the Employment tab.

## 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.

All the entities involved agreed on verbiage for a RFQ to solicit vendors to assess feasibility. It was requested we release this so it is not tied to both water and sewer, rather allowing companies who specialize in each to submit individually. We will keep Council informed on release dates and due dates. Scoring and selection would be carried out by all entities involved.

**531 Berlin Road:** The City has taken possession of this property. We will proceed to sell this property FSBO. The City has invested ~\$24,000 in this property and will be looking for offers over this amount.

**Hometown Heroes:** This project continues to move toward completion. This project was brought to the City by Grant Bauer, a local student, to recognize our local Heroes. We will be adding banners to the streetlights (sidewalk side) from Berlin Road to Center St. The City agreed to purchase the mounts and have our staff mount the banners. Grant through some great fundraising efforts and partnerships with the Loins Club and Loris Printing will be finding the heroes and supplying the banners. We would like to thank everyone involved in this project! We are hopeful to have all of this in place by Memorial Day. Additionally, we will be adding American Flags to the street side. We would like to thank the Lions Club for their donation of these flags.

## AGREEMENTS/CITY MANAGER APPROVALS

### PROJECTS OUT FOR BID

**South Main Street Streetscape:** The South Main Street Streetscape Project went out to bid on April 6, 2026, with a prebid meeting schedule for April 15<sup>th</sup> and bids due by 2:00pm on April 29, 2026.

## CONTRACTS

- **HJRD Annual Agreement (Res 9-2025) – Expired 12/31/25.**
- Building Official – Service Agreement (Res 43-2021) - **Expires 7/25/26.**
- School Resource Officer Township (Res 32–2024) – **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.**
- Seeley, Savidge, Ebert & Gourash Co., LLP (Res 33-2026) – **Expires 6/3/27.**
- School Resource Officer School (Res 82-2025) **Expires 6/30/27.**
- 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

### April 2026 Meetings:

- City Council Meeting – Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in Council Chambers.
- Planning Commission/DRB Special Meeting – Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm in Council Chambers.

### May 2026 Meetings:

- HJRD – Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in Council Chambers;
- Planning Commission Work Session - Wednesday, Ma 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm in Council Chambers;
- Utilities Committee Meeting – Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm in the Main Conference Room;
- BZA – Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm in Council Chambers;
- Finance Committee Meeting – Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm in Council Chambers;
- City Council Meeting – Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in Council Chambers;

- Planning Commission Meeting – Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm in Council Chambers;
- City Council Meeting – Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in Council Chambers.