

THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO
Proceedings of the Huron City Council
Regular Meeting Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

The Mayor called the regular meeting of Huron City Council to order at 6:33pm on Tuesday, May 12, 2020 via Webex teleconference. The Mayor called for a moment of silence. After the moment of silence, the Mayor led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll. The following members of Council answered present: **Christine Crawford, Mark Claus, Monty Tapp, Sam Artino, Joe Dike, Trey Hardy and Joel Hagy.**

Staff participating in the Webex teleconference: Interim City Manager Mike Spafford, Finance Director Cory Swaisgood, City Engineer Doug Green, Parks and Recreation Operations Manager Doug Steinwart and Executive Administrative Assistant and Clerk of Council Terri Welkener.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. Claus that the minutes of the work session of April 28, 2020 be approved as printed and received. The Mayor asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being none, he directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Claus, Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hardy, Hagy, Crawford (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being more than a majority voting in favor of the motion, the motion passed.

New Business

Resolution 2020-28

Motion by Ms. Crawford that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 2020-28 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF HURON TO THE OHIO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY PUBLIC ASSISTANCE GRANT FUND) be placed upon its first reading.

The Mayor asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of the Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Crawford, Claus, Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hardy, Hagy (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 2020-28 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Spafford provided background information regarding Resolution No. 2020-28. Mr. Swaisgood said that, to date, the City has spent about \$15,000 on COVID-related expenses, most of which relates to hand sanitizer, PPE, and other Parks & Recreation expenses. We are coding all of these expenses so that when the time comes to ask for reimbursement, we will have a good accounting of these expenses.

The Mayor asked if there was any further discussion on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the final adoption of Resolution 2020-28. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Crawford, Claus, Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hardy, Hagy (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 2020-28 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution 2020-29

Motion by Mr. Tapp that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 2020-29 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE GRANT AWARD AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH ENBRIDGE FOR A GRANT OF FUNDS FOR THE HURON FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF RADIO EQUIPMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF TWO THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED EIGHTY AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$2,780.00)) be placed upon its first reading.

The Mayor asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of the Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hardy, Hagy, Crawford, Claus (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 2020-29 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Spafford explained this was a grant opportunity in getting much needed equipment replaced. We received an initial \$2,800 to replace radio equipment. We will have additional hand-helds to replace next year. Kudos to the guys for going after grant applications and they have been very successful. We are looking at additional grant opportunities on the horizon as well.

The Mayor asked if there was any further discussion on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the final adoption of Resolution 2020-29. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hardy, Hagy, Crawford, Claus (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 2020-29 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution 2020-30

Motion by Mr. Claus that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 2020-30 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH THE ERIE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN AND THE NPDES SMALL MS4 PERMIT APPLICATION TO THE OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY IN THE AMOUNT OF THIRTY-ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED FIFTY AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$31,250.00)) be placed upon its first reading.

The Mayor asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of the Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Claus, Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hardy, Hagy, Crawford (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 2020-30 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Spafford said this follows up on the prior work session regarding historical operations of our Storm Water Management Program. This would to give the City's storm water management plan be completely compliant. We are very excited to have this in place. One of the benefits is using utilizing our partnership with the County to obtain GIS full-scale electronic mapping, which can be used for financial planning,

This will help future planning and bring the City into full compliance. Anticipated cost for year one would be \$32,000, year two \$32,000 and as the program is put in place, that cost would likely reduce to \$15,000-\$20,000/year.

Mr. Green said that staff and the street department met with Melissa Feliciano to walk our street facilities building back behind the water plant to look at existing housekeeping procedures.

The Mayor asked if there was any further discussion on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the final adoption of Resolution 2020-30. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Claus, Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hardy, Hagy, Crawford (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 2020-30 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Ordinance 2020-9

Motion by Mr. Hardy that the three-reading rule be suspended and Ordinance 2020-9 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2019-27, ADOPTED DECEMBER 10, 2019, TO PROVIDE FOR ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE GENERAL FUND AND OTHER FUNDING SOURCES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY) be placed upon its first reading.

The Mayor asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of the Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Hardy, Hagy, Crawford, Claus, Tapp, Artino, Dike, (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Ordinance 2020-9 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Motion by Mr. Hardy that Ordinance 2020-9 be placed as an emergency measure.

The Mayor asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll placing the ordinance as an emergency measure. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Hardy, Hagy, Crawford, Claus, Tapp, Artino, Dike (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, Ordinance 2020-9 was placed as an emergency measure.

Mr. Swaisgood explained that this is related to Resolution 2020-30. This is an increase in budget expenditure in the Storm Water Fund 605 related to the Erie County Soil and Water storm water management contract. It was not included in the initial budget, so we are increasing the appropriations here to be able to cover the funds to pay them. Mr. Chojnacki asked if the reference to the ordinance was incorrect in the caption to the legislation. The caption is correct.

The Mayor asked if there was any further discussion on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the final adoption of Ordinance 2020-9. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Hardy, Hagy, Crawford, Claus, Tapp, Artino, Dike (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Ordinance 2020-9 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution 2020-31

Motion by Ms. Crawford that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 2020-31 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE GRANT AWARD FROM THE ERIE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION TO BE USED FOR THE PURCHASE OF A WATERING UTILITY VEHICLE IN THE AMOUNT OF THREE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$3,500.00)) be placed upon its first reading.

The Mayor asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of the Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Crawford, Claus, Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hardy, Hagy (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 2020-31 placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Steinwart said that this is a grant applied for through the Erie County Community foundation. Ultimately, the funds are coming from the Dorn Foundation Charitable Impact Fund. Grow Huron was also awarded their grant in the amount of \$3,500. We have combined those two grant opportunities together to purchase a Cushman cart, which is a glorified Gator. Carmeuse has agreed to help out as well. There will be no cost to the City of Huron in this grant opportunity. The Mayor asked Mr. Steinwart to thank those organizations. This is one more step in Grow Huron's effort to help the community. Mr. Claus asked if the Parks & Recreation staff would be responsible for the watering. Mr. Steinwart said yes, his department would be responsible for the watering and would provide the maintenance for the vehicle.

The Mayor asked if there was any further discussion on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the final adoption of Resolution 2020-31. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Crawford, Claus, Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hardy, Hagy (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 2020-31 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

City Manager's Discussion

Mr. Spafford highlighted the work session that covered a lot of topics. We had a discussion of timeline and project proposals for the US-6 Phase II project. Based on the financial timing of things, we will be discussing with ODOT the possibility of delaying the project for one year. Council and staff also discussed the Huron Public Power operations and we will continue to work toward the presentation on June 28th at the joint work session of Council and Finance Committee. Regarding summer programming, Riverfest and Huron Rotary Fest have been cancelled, as well as the City's Red, White & Blue event. Nickel Plate Beach will be opened on June 1, 2020, which is a week later than the typical open date of Memorial Day weekend.

Mr. Spafford asked if Council had any questions relating to the Management Report.

Mr. Dike asked if public bathrooms at Lakefront Park will be opened. Mr. Steinwart said that they are closed now, but they might look to open them in June. We don't have any seasonal part-timers back. Our seasonal dockage is strong, so we will need to bring some back at the marina, and as the Governor gives us more clarity on sports, athletics and recreational sports leagues, we will open Fabens restrooms, and then Lakefront. We are working with the State at the boat ramp. While the State of Ohio owns the boat ramp, we manage and maintain that. We are working with the State – one of their guidelines is that they have gone to a port-a-potty system, while we would rather have the regular restrooms open. Right now, the boat basin restrooms are open. The marina is fully open and operational, and we welcome anyone into the building to answer questions.

Mr. Dike asked if US-6 Corridor Phase I is on hold. Mr. Spafford said that the first phase is not on hold and will start on May 26th. With regard to the substation assets, he is looking forward to hearing from other individuals or communities who have done this. He is no expert, but would like to hear more from them to hear about the pros and cons of going with this.

Mr. Tapp asked Mr. Hardy if there is anything new to know about timelines? Mr. Hardy said that outside seating at restaurants is going into effect Friday. Next week will be hair salons and tattoo parlors. The State has really not said much about parks, pools or beaches. There's a lot of stuff going forward – graduation ceremonies, wedding receptions, etc. There will be lot coming out over the next couple of weeks with the Stay at Home Order expiring at the end of the month.

Mayor's Discussion

Nothing – things were discussed at the work session.

For the Good of the Order

- Ms. Crawford – Mr. Spafford and Steinwart did a great job of going over what we went over at our most recent Joint Parks and Recreation District meeting. Parks has been hard at work. Tom Solberg, Jr. has accepted the position of Committee Chair. Doug, great job on the grant – we are really excited about what that does for the community. Not too late to fill out the 2020 Census. Thanks to Gretchen, our Management Assistant, for all of her social media posts. Thanked the community through this COVID-19 crisis with support to restaurants, taking care of neighbors. The residents of Huron are great people and she wants to thank them for being great people.
- Mr. Claus – thank Mike and Cory for the great job with financial information, and the great presentation of his report to the Finance Committee to be real time with the activities related to COVID, etc.

- Mr. Tapp – nothing.
- Mr. Dike –nothing.
- Mr. Hardy – nothing.
- Mr. Hagy – convey thanks to Mike and his entire staff for looking to the future, and looking forward to the future with the transmission assets and Phase 2.

Executive Session

The Mayor said there will be an executive session, and that there may or may not be action afterwards.

Motion by Joel Hagy to enter into executive session for the purpose of consultation with legal counsel regarding a pending or imminent court action and to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of a public employee or official, and invited Mr. Chojnacki to join the meeting, and yielded to the Mayor for others to be invited.

The Mayor asked Mr. Chojnacki if anyone else should be invited. Mr. Chojnacki suggested that they may want to invite the Interim City Manager to the meeting, but suggested that they adjourn with just Council and legal counsel, and if Council then deems it necessary to invite the City Manager, we can do so at that time.

The Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Hagy, Crawford, Claus, Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hardy (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, the motion passed.

Council moved into executive session at 7:08pm.

Return to Regular Session

Council returned to regular session at 8:36pm.

Motion by Mr. Claus to ask the Mayor to secure independent legal representation for the City to address and offer an opinion regarding a letter received letter received by the City from an attorney representing Stacey Hartley, et al.

YEAS: Claus, Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hardy, Hagy, Crawford (7)
NAYS: None (0)

With a majority of Council voting in favor of the motion, the motion passed.

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Tapp to adjourn the meeting.

The Mayor asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being none, he directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hardy, Hagy, Crawford, Claus (7)
NAYS: None (0)

There being more than a majority voting in favor of the motion, the Mayor declared the meeting of May 12, 2020 adjourned at 8:39pm.


Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council

Adopted: 09 JUN 2020

Upon approval by the City Council, the official written summary of the meeting minutes will become a permanent record, and the official minutes shall also consist of a permanent audio recording, excluding executive sessions, in accordance with Section 121.01(III) of the Administrative Code.