



CITY OF HURON
CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

April 7, 2023

Matthew Lasko, City Manager

ECONOMIC/COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Firelands Scientific: Due to pending legislative changes in Columbus, expansion activities are currently on hold until any changes are finalized.

USGS/Harbor Point Marina: The next phase of the Harbor North revitalization is underway. Crews are currently hard and fast at work constructing the approximate 2,500 square foot Harbor Master Building. The entire framing of the facility is completed at this point.

ConAgra: The development team presented to the Planning Commission on Wednesday December 14th for consideration of their conceptual site plan. There was good conversation and the developer left with some suggestions and will return with updated conceptual soon – in March of 2023.

Developers will be present at the Planning Commission meeting on April 19th to review the most recent updates to the conceptual site plan. Updates recommended included unit staggering, rear loading some units and increasing off street parking.

Warren Slag Property: As of March 10, 2023, the City has officially closed on the purchase of the property and has accepted title. The City will now move to the next step in the process of layout out potential designs for the site along with getting more detailed utility and infrastructure cost estimates for improvements. A kickoff call with EDA was held during the week of March 13th to talk through the grant award and next steps with completion of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Erie and Huron Counties. Next steps will include issuing an RFP in April to select a consulting firm to complete the CEDS study and report.

Main Street Parking Lot: The City has received preliminary plans from a developer interested in developing the vacant parking on Main Street that currently sits across the street from Comfort Inn. The preliminary plan calls for the construction of 14 townhouses. This project will first be presented to BZA in December as a handful of variances are needed. We will keep Council apprised as this project progresses.

Two Rivers: Developers and architects presented their Phase I PUD to the Planning Commission on February 15th. The request was conditionally approved. Phase I plans call for the buildout of the remaining single-family lots on Sheltered Brook – which total 27 houses in all. Later phase plans will be submitted near the completion of Phase I.

Related, we anticipate presenting a development agreement to Council in the upcoming weeks related to the development. Moving forward, the City would like to start requiring developers to enter into development agreements which include assurances for construction and completion of roadways, utilities, sidewalks, streetlights, etc....and creates the ability for the City to intervene through bonding to complete the work if needed. It also will create safeguards to ensure any public infrastructure eventually being dedicated to the City is designed to our specification and subject to our inspections.

Lemmy's: During the week of March 20th, the City met with the new owners of Lemmy's restaurant who also purchased the residential structure just west of the restaurant. The owners are looking to make a significant re-investment in the property and the potential exists to construct a new commercial baking facility in Huron to serve all their bakeries throughout Erie County. As part of the process, the owner will be seeking a lot consolidation and rezoning of the site from residential to business. We look forward to this process and their planned investment in Huron.

Norfolk Southern Holdings: The City hosted Solomon Jackson during the week of March 20th who leads Norfolk Southern's real estate division. We reviewed and talked through future plans with all their Huron Holdings. Long-term the company desires to decommission the N/S rail line along River Road leading into the Carmuese property to partner with the City in converting this to a recreation amenity. Additionally, Norfolk Southern will be meeting with representatives of Carmuese in April/May to determine their long-term plans on the site. All details from this meeting will be shared with the Council as soon as communicated to us.

INFRASTRUCTURE/STREETS/UTILITIES/IT

Rt 6 Phase II: Staff and Council hosted a second work session related to the second phase of Route 6. This work session aimed to finalize the preferred conceptual design of engineers and City staff as well as reviewing the possible options that were considered and will cover rough costs for certain options. Regardless of the preferred option, and final design decision will need to be approved by ODOT District 3 based on results of traffic studies and past precedence.

Sawmill Parkway: The contractor has remobilized. We are installing a temporary road just to the south of the Parkway to keep traffic flowing and minimize congestion. Once this is complete, traffic will be routed over this temporary road allowing us to reconstruct the roadway at the intersection of Sawmill Parkway and Rye Beach Road. Constructing this portion of the roadway all at once will really minimize congestion on both roads as we will not have to be reduced to single lane traffic at the intersection. The contract is simultaneously starting reconstruction at the east end of the Parkway.

Sidewalks: The City has executed the design contract with OHM Advisors to commence design work on the new sidewalk installation project which will travel from Gateway Boulevard inside the City limits to Huron Green subdivision in Huron Township. Design will take several months, and both the city and the Township will continue to explore funding opportunities to construct the approximate \$600,000 project. To date, the project has secured \$25,000 from Huron Township and just over \$120,000 from Erie County Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Staff has sent easement documents for review to the four (4) property owners positioned between Anchorage and Gateway. **To date, 3 of the 4 needed easements have been executed.** Easements are needed to install and maintain this sidewalk connection. The City is also awaiting

the results of a \$650,000 funding application made to ODOT Central office for the project. Results of that funding request are slated for April or May of this year.

Pavement Condition and 2023+ Resurfacing: OHM are currently in the design phase of this project. Core samples have been taken in multiple problem areas to discover any possible base issues and are currently being reviewed by staff and OHM.

Stormwater Management: The stormwater management plan phase 1 kickoff meeting was held with internal staff and the OHM Stormwater team. Everyone is excited to get this project rolling. The discovery phase will be very manual as staff will need to digitize old as built plans etc. This digitization needs to be done regardless, so this is a good means to prioritize this task. This project is expected to last eight (8) months to a year and will deliver a visual stormwater inventory to take us into the future. During the time this project is active, you will see OHM staff around the city collecting data. If anyone has any questions or concerns, please contact Stuart Hamilton at 419-433-5000 x 1104 or email at stuart.hamilton@huronohio.us.

Body Worn Cameras: The body worn cameras and tasers have now been ordered. We are anticipating receipt in the next few weeks.

Bike Lane Repainting: The City is getting ready to issue a bid to repaint the US6 phase 1 bike lanes. These lanes are ready for refreshment, and with a change in product we believe we will gain better longevity. The intent is to change the paint across the bridge deck to be more minimal as any application here will not have a long life due to it being such a harsh environment.

General: Reminder, there will be a lot of utility work over the summer months, and we wanted to alert our Residents. We will have two fiber internet providers starting to install their fiber for their "Fiber To The Home" (FTTH) offering. This is a wonderful expansion of service providers for the city giving Residents not only choice, but also hopefully driving down the cost. The two companies are OmniFiber and Frontier.

We will also see our OHM partners throughout the city for the remainder of the year collecting our Stormwater asset inventory.

If you have any questions regarding ongoing Utility work in your neighborhood, please reach out to Stuart Hamilton at 419-433-5000 x1104 or email stuart.hamilton@huronohio.us.

Huron Public Power Third Transformer: On January 17th, 2023, an RFP was released to purchase, deliver, ramp up and test this third 69kV transformer. Bids will close February 28th at 2PM EST. We do not expect to be in possession of this unit until the Fall of 2024. This RFP will only cover the purchase, installation and ramp-up of the transformer itself. Once we have a good delivery date, we will issue a second RFP for services to bring it online and provide new controls and switching equipment.

The RFP closed, and we received a single respondent. We have issued a request for clarification on some technical details, and if these are answered satisfactorily, we will bring back legislation to award it to the Council soon.

Huron Public Power Expansion: The City is getting close to bidding out our first expansion project for Huron Public Power. This project will allow Huron Public Power to be extended northward down Rye Beach Road, under the railroad tracks and across the entrance to Sawmill Parkway. By doing so, the City will be able to pick up additional customers along Sawmill Parkway on a case-by-case basis should property owners be interested in switching their power provider to Huron Public Power.

Republic Trash Collection Contract: Our current agreement expires on June 30th, 2023, after exercising a one-year extension on the original contract. Staff attempted to negotiate within the current contract to manage costs but could not come to an agreement. This means we will issue a new Request for Proposals. This RFP will take a tiered and options approach allowing the city to compare pricing options and service levels to contain escalating costs. Staff do believe we will see higher pricing than we currently have.

This RFP was issued on April 1st, 2023 and will close on April 28th, 2023. It is available on our city website under the Bid Notices and Tabulations area.

Huron Port/West Pier: The City was recently notified that the U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers was recently approved to undertake \$11.5 million worth of work in the Huron River and on the West Pier. \$1.5 million is dedicated to dredging and \$10.0 million has been dedicated to West Pier maintenance. The City is still in talk with the USACE to understand the final scope of work for the West Pier. As soon as this is detailed, we will alert Council and the public. This award was one of the largest awards to any port in the great lakes region. A very big thank you to U.S. Representative Marcy Kaptur for all her advocacy in helping secure this critical funding.

ZONING/CODE/PLANNING

Coastal Management Assistance Grants: On February 22, the City was notified of the results of our grant applications to the Office of Coastal Management of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The City's request for capital dollars to help install a public pathway to the beach behind the water plant was denied. However, we did receive notification that our grant request for Showboat/Wall Street/Lakefront Park planning has been advanced in the process. The application has been sent to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for review to ensure compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. Final notification will be made in May or June.

Main Street Corridor Plan: There will be a joint Planning Commission / City Council meeting on April 19th at 5:00 p.m. regarding plan updates. OHM will be present to talk through suggested land uses, street scape designs and suggested improvements based on survey feedback and to solicit feedback from the planning commission and council.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Spring City-Wide Clean-Up Green-Up Event: This event is scheduled for Saturday, April 29th from 9am-11am at the Huron Parks & Recreation Office at 110 Wall Street. Participants will receive a Clean-Up Green-Up assignment and sent out into the community in small groups. The Erie Conservation District and the Erie County Solid Waste District GREEN Bean Clean-up Trailer will be on-site and equipped with the tools and necessary equipment for a successful clean-up event. New this year, Huron Parks and Recreation will be partnering with Grow Huron, a local non-profit, to help with the event. Grow Huron committee members will be participating and available to discuss their "green" efforts in the community. Take pride in Huron by taking part in the Clean-Up Green-Up efforts of Huron's beautiful parks and public spaces. The event is open to the public. Refreshments and doughnuts will be offered. For further details, please contact the Parks & Recreation Office at 419/433-8487.

Fish Cleaning Station: The tables have been installed, with the electrical work to follow soon, and testing to take place in April once the water has been turned on. ODNR is looking toward an official ribbon cutting in mid to late May, but a soft opening will take place prior to this and after testing is complete to make the station accessible to the public prior to the state ribbon cutting. Final electrical work will be completed this week, with the final step being a delivery acceptance test once the water can be turned on again.

The final electrical work has been completed, the lighting controls have been tested and acceptance testing has been scheduled with ODNR on April 25th, 2023. On completion of a successful test, the fish cleaning tables will remain open for use in a soft open status until an official opening can be scheduled for some time in May/June.

Tennis Courts: The City is reviewing final design documents prior to bidding the project. This project will go out to bid April 10th with bids due May 2nd, 2023 at City Hall in the Conference room. During the bidding process, the City will also be issuing a community survey to determine which type of sport is more desired and most likely to further activate Faben's. Results of this survey and bid will be presented at a work session on May 9th, 2023 to make a final decision on final design selection.

624 Berlin Road: Ed Burdue and Co. have demolished the single-family home and removed debris from the site. Crews will return to the site in the Spring of 2023 to complete final grading and seeding. After soliciting multiple proposals, the City has decided to select City Architecture out of Cleveland. An agreement has been signed with the firm to guide staff and the community through the reimagining of this space. Deliverables will include multiple stakeholder meetings, community survey, structural analysis of the barn, aerial renderings, multiple site renderings and cost estimates.

During the week of April 3rd, Ed Burdue also razed the barn structure. Additional site clearance and final grading and seeding are still required. We are also thankful to ECLRC for providing an additional \$12,000 in funding for this removal.

Huron Joint Recreation District: Staff will be seeking Council approval of the annual HJRD financial contribution at the April 11, 2023, meeting. If approved, the Township will be considering and hopefully approving their contribution at their May 2023 Trustee meeting.

Fieldhouse: A second fieldhouse exploratory meeting was held on January 9th at the Boat Basin. Attendees included the City, Township, School District, Boosters, and HJRD. Enthusiasm remains high. Action steps include securing operations expense comparisons from other like facilities and developing a community survey to determine what amenities initially are most desired by the community and student athletes. Initial conversations occurred regarding potential facility locations which include Fabens Park or spaces around Woodlands and McCormick. The group hopes to meet in the next month to review progress.

FINANCE

2021 and 2022 Financial Audits: The City should receive a draft audit report for 2021 in the coming weeks. The council will receive the audit report before it is released. There has been no indication of any reportable findings for 2021. The Finance Department expects to get back on schedule with the 2022 audit, which will result in the audit being released by July/August.

March Monthly Financial Report: The March financial report is available for review and linked below. The City maintains an unencumbered General Fund Balance of \$1.6 million, or 29% of annual expenditures. Income tax revenue is 8% higher than March of 2022, which can be attributed to the Ardagh expansion and new revenue from Sawmill Creek Resort. Interest earnings doubled through the first three months of 2023 compared to 2022. Although better than expected increases in revenue are a good sign, we continue to struggle with inflationary increases as we implement the 2023 budget.

<https://stories.opengov.com/huronoh/published/Xq17hPUHk>

(email sent to Council on 4/7/2023)

WATER DEPARTMENT

Recent Activity:

- March average plant capacity 73.2%
- Neptune AMR Transmitters. Actively installing Neptune AMR Transmitters on round 2.
- The Consumer Confidence Report has been finalized and posted to the City's website. Printed copies will be distributed around the City, and residents will be provided an online link on their next water bill.

- A customer water service line was disrupted by the fiber company at 622 Center Street. There was some difficulty locating the tap at the main, but the service line was capped at the leak was stopped. Center Street should be opened to 2 lanes next week.

Active Project Updates:

- Primary Intake. Actively communicating with Pat Murphy at Lake Erie Diving Inc. To establish scope of the project, which will also include wet well cleaning. All chemical and air lines in the intake are of age to be removed and replaced. This cleaning must be completed this year, as the intake is reduced from 36" to 12" with sediment in certain spots.
- Low Service #3. The contractor attempted to replace the swing check valve. There was a failing gate valve on the suction side of the pump that isolates the water from the wet well. A replacement butterfly valve and parts have been priced. These items will be ordered, and Lake Erie Diving will be contracted to dive and plug the pipe from the wet well to allow the valve to be replaced.
- Plant Re-Rating – Kleinfelder (Poggemeyer) applied for a plat rerating at 4.94 MGD. Approval from the EPA is still pending.

Sewer Shutoffs: The City has received final comments from Erie County on a potential agreement. We are currently reviewing these comments. This agreement, if approved, would be combined with a water rate increase agreement with Erie County. Related to that agreement, the City has received final comments back from Erie County and has approved the content. We are now waiting for Erie County to legislate and vote on the agreement.

South Main Street Watermain Replacement: The proposed improvements for this project include:

- Portions of South Main (south of Valleyview) approx. 775'
- Portions of Huron Avery from the Mudbrook to city limits, approximately 1300'
- Portions of Mudbrook Road approx. 650'
- Full replacement on Forest Hills, Valleyview, and Hickory Drive – approximately 2332'
- Full replacement on Mill Street approx. 342'
- Partial replacement on Huron Street approx. 605'

The City will also be exploring whether any road resurfacing should be included in this project as well and under the same contract to secure efficiency in work and potential cost savings. Staff and OHM personnel have submitted one funding application already and are in the process of completing one additional funding application for imminent submittal. OHM are currently in the design phase of this project. A pre-design walk through has been scheduled with City staff and we hope to have this project ready to bid by March 2023.

Secondary Water Intake Project: On January 17th, 2023, an RFQ was issued to choose a partner to design and bid this project. The city received two responses to this RFP. After scoring these responses, Kleinfelder (formerly Poggemeyer) has been selected to negotiate design and bidding services with. Once agreement has been reached, this proposal will return to Council for consideration.

The City successfully applied for grant monies through Congresswomen Kaptur's office totaling \$2M for this project via the FY 2024 Community Project Funding Appropriations Request.

West Side Water Tower: The City was notified on March 22nd that it is continuing in the process for our \$5M grant request to the Ohio Department of Development. This request is seeking a portion of a recently allocated \$250M statewide for water and wastewater infrastructure projects. The City submitted additional information to the Ohio Department of Development in advance of the March 31, 2023 deadline. We will keep the Council apprised as the grant continues to be reviewed at the State level.

PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATION

Police Department: The Police Department has posted both the promotional process for consideration of a new Sgt. To replace Chief Graham and has also posted the employment opportunity for a new patrol officer to replace the promoted Sgt. We hope to wrap up these hirings in the next 2-3 months.

Zoning Inspector: The City has offered the position to Mr. Jeff Fantozzi. He will commence employment with the City during the week of April 10th.

AGREEMENTS

Huron 5K Series Banners: The City received and approved the annual request from Angie Edwards and the Huron 5K Series to place banners on both sides of the pedestrian bridge on US-6 for its 7 events scheduled for 2023. Each banner would be 4' x 8' in size and they would hang the banners up approximately one month prior to the first race in June the dates for each of the races in the series are as follows:

- June 17 – Liberating Hope 5K
- July 8 – River Fest 5K
- July 22 – Beulah Beach 5K
- August 12 – Abbey Rose Trail Run 5K
- September 16 – Huron PTO 5K
- October 28 – St. Peter School Spooktacular 5K
- November 2 – Judi Lively Memorial Annual Turkey Dash 5K

Huron Garden Club Signage: The City received and approved the Huron Garden Club's annual request to place signage in the median strip for its Plant Sale to be held on May 20, 2023. The sign (1' 6" x 2' 8") will be put up on Sunday, May 13, 2023, and will be removed on Saturday, May

20th after 12:00pm. The money they raise from this sale helps to purchase decorations for the Huron Library Christmas Trustee, as well as gardening books and magazines and flowers for Lake Front Park garden. In addition, the Garden Club makes an annual \$100 contribution to the McBride Arboretum on the Firelands BGSU campus.

CONTRACTS

- OHM Advisors (Engineering) – **Expires 12/31/23**
- Erie Soil and Water Conservation District (Engineering) – **Expires 1/31/24**
- Republic Services – **Expires 06/30/23**
- HJRD Annual Agreement (Recreation) – **expired 12/31/22**
 - Approval being considered at the 4/11/2023 Council meeting
- Dispatch Agreement – Erie County Sheriff – **Expires 12/31/23**
- Seeley, Savidge, Ebert & Gourash Co., LLP (Law) – **Expires 6/3/23**
- School Resource Officer – **Expires 8/31/23**
 - Approval being considered at the 4/11/2023 Council meeting.
- Bricker & Eckler – HPP Legal Services (Law) – **Expires 9/30/23**
- City Prosecutor Employment Agreement – expires **12/31/23**
- Personnel Officer Employment Agreement – expires **12/31/23**
- Dynege Electric Aggregation Agreement – expires **7/30/25**

UPCOMING MEETINGS

April Meetings:

- BZA – Monday, April 10th at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers;
- City Council Work Session – Tuesday, April 11th at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers;
- City Council Meeting – Tuesday, April 11th at 6:30pm in the Council Chambers;
- Joint Planning Commission/Council Work Session – Wednesday, April 19th at 5:00pm in Council Chambers;
- City Council Meeting – Tuesday, April 25th at 6:30 in the Council Chambers.