



CITY OF HURON
CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

July 7, 2023

Matthew Lasko, City Manager

ECONOMIC/COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

ConAgra: Based on recent Planning Commission approval of the conceptual site plan, the City held another meeting with the development team to talk through next steps. OHM advisors, who have already designed a good portion of the utility work with be submitting a proposal to the City and Ridgestone to complete work needed to submit a preliminary and final plat to Planning Commission for consideration.

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: The public hearing at City Council related to the Phase I PUD has been completed. At the next Council meeting on Tuesday July 11th, Council will consider the PUD request as well as the Development Agreement for Phase I. If approved, developers can move forward with plans to commence construction on the twenty-seven (27) homes comprising Phase I. Additional Phases of the project will require Planning Commission and Council approval.

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 with be shared with the Council as soon as communicated to us.

Oster's: The City continues to work diligently with our non-profit partners to continue relocation efforts for residents at the park. We believe approximately nine (9) households have physically relocated. We will continue to work over the upcoming weeks and months with our partners to aid relocation efforts.

ECEDC: The Annual Meeting and Awards for ECEDC will be held on Tuesday August 8th at Sawmill Creek Resort – Willows Hall. I will provide all Council members with invitations at our meeting on June 27th in case they would like to attend. Arrival begins at 4:30PM and the program begins at 5:00PM. The Keynote Speaker will be Eric Wobser who was recently announced as the incoming CEO of the Greater Sandusky Partnership who will be merging organizations with ECEDC.

Residential Development: The City will be meeting this week with representatives from Triban Investment. The company specializes in land acquisition for countless national and regional home builders. The goal will be to review potential development sites for both infill and greenfield single-family projects. We will keep Council apprised with any outcomes or actions steps from this meeting.

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.

There will be a presentation at the regular Council meeting on July 11th, 2023, to update Council on this project.

Sawmill Parkway: As of May 30th, the temporary roadway is now closed, and the western end of Sawmill Parkway is reopened to traffic. Crews have fully taken advantage of the good weather and it is approximated that 70% of the roadway is complete. Based on current progress, the roadway is anticipated to be completed in September.

East Side Sidewalks: The City was notified by Governor DeWine's office on June 9th that the Ohio Department of Transportation awarded the City of Huron and Huron Township \$650,000 for the east side walk project. The funds were awarded through ODOT's Highway Safety Improvement Program and were highly competitive since it was a statewide program. This award is in addition to the previously awarded \$120,000~ from Erie County.

We truly believe our multi-jurisdictional partnership and collaboration with Huron Township was instrumental in this award. A big thank you as well to Stu Hamilton and really OHM Advisors – as OHM Advisors prepared the application. This project is slated for 2024 construction.

Pavement Condition and 2023+ Resurfacing: This project will be unfortunately postponed until 2024. After extensive investigation and due diligence, it was discovered that the Staff recommendation of concrete patching with asphalt overlay was not possible due to existing condition of the neighborhood roads. After the update presentation on June 27th, Staff now recommend a repair and patch of all three neighborhoods. It is planned to put these new project specs out to bid in early fall to enable us to award the project late fall, to get both the best pricing and priority on the construction schedule. Staff will be reaching out the relevant HOA's with an update.

Berlin Road Sidewalks: The City continues to receive requests to consider sidewalk installation on Berlin Road – south of Shawnee School. We unsuccessfully applied for Safe Routes to School funding in 2022. And with the school ceasing to exist moving forward, this source of funding is not an option. The City will look to research other funding opportunities and placement of this project in a future capital planning year. We will also need to engage the railroad to determine what hurdles exist to install a pedestrian crossing over the rail tracks.

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.

This project went out to bid on April 24th, 2023, and closed May 11th, 2023. We received two bidders, but unfortunately both were outside the 10% allowance of engineers estimate. Both bids were rejected. Staff will analyze why the delta between the estimate and bids were so wide.

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 three companies are OmniFiber, Buckeye 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, and RFP was released to purchase, deliver, ramp up and test this third 69kV transformer. 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. Legislation was presented to Council at the April 25th meeting for approval to purchase from Niagara Power Transformer. The bid price was \$1,039,837.00, with 100% due at time of receipt.

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.

City Electric Aggregation: The City contracted with Dynegy for a two-year electric aggregation program. This program is an OPT OUT program. This means that you will be automatically enrolled unless you contact Dynegy directly to remove yourself from this program.

- The opt out window will be from May 15th, 2023, through June 5th, 2023.
- First billing cycle will be June 26th, Read in July and billed in August.
- New rate is \$0.0682 per kWh.
- If you have a current contract, and your account is marked correctly, you will not receive optout materials and you will not be enrolled.
- If you do receive opt-out materials and have a current contract, presume that your account is not marked correctly, and you will need to actively opt out to stay on your current contract.
- Once your current contract runs out, you will be able to opt into the City aggregation program If you so choose.

The opt out window for the aggregation program is now closed. If you have any questions reference this program, please contact Dynegy at 888-682-2170.

Republic Trash Collection Contract: This closed on April 28th with a single respondent, who was Republic Services. The results of this bid were presented to the Council at the regular Council meeting on May 9th, 2023. The Council directed staff to proceed with the option that kept the service level the same as it currently is. This would take quarterly bills from \$63.03 to \$70.92. Staff are also looking at assessing trash bills through the County Auditor, so residents would pay them as part of their real estate taxes. This removes an administration overhead charge of about \$2 per account as we try to keep the prices down.

The new Republic Services contract was authorized by Resolution at the regular Council meeting of June 27th, 2023, along with the corresponding ordinance to change the trash rates billable to residents. The new rate of \$71 per quarter, per owner will be effective July 1st, 2023.

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. Awards will be given in June.

Main Street Corridor Plan: Staff and OHM are currently revising the final plan to incorporate some of the final feedback received from the public at our recently held open house at the Boat Basin. We hope to present a final plan to Planning Commission and Council in the upcoming weeks.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Riverfest: A big thank you to the Riverfest Committee and other organizers and volunteers for another successful and enjoyable festival. Also, thank you to our Parks and Recreation staff and other departments for all their efforts in ensuring another safe and memorable weekend.

Tennis Courts: A kickoff meeting with the contractor was held today. The contractor plans on mobilizing and commencing work tomorrow – and will begin with tree removal. The City will close the tennis courts down for the duration of the project beginning this Sunday evening June 18th. Work is tentatively slated to be completed sometime in September of this year at the earliest.

The contractor continues work on this project. The courts have been milled down to determine the extend of the base repairs. We anticipate this week the contractor commencing work on base repairs and construction of the underdrains the site. Finally, the City was notified on July 7th that Huron Township has increased its total contribution to this project to \$100,000 (increased from \$50,000). We continue to be so grateful to our partners at the Township and their collaborative efforts on this project and many others.

624 Berlin Road: Barn removal, final grading and seeding have been completed at this site. Leimeister Crane and Tree were engaged to clean up outside the park on Berlin Road and clear the scrub around the pond area. The park is really looking great. With grass seed down and fresh grading soil spread, we ask the public visiting this park to use caution and to not drive any vehicles anywhere outside of the gravel area as you enter. The public is also reminded that any fishing in the pond is catch and release only.

On May 2nd, 2023, City Architecture presented progress on the imagining process for this park to the HJR. Conceptual ideas were presented for conversation and some good feedback was received. This feedback will be incorporated as City Architecture and staff continue to move through this process. Next steps will include a joint City Council / Planning Commission presentation to review draft recommendations for improvements to the site. This has been scheduled for the August 22nd Regular Council meeting at 6:30PM.

FINANCE

Garbage Legislation: Council approved legislation on the City's new garbage rate in June. The City will increase the quarterly rate to match the proposed contract from Republic from \$65 to \$71. The City will also propose legislation to add the garbage rate to residential property tax bills, beginning in 2024. The City will continue to quarterly bill residents for garbage through December 31. Communication on this process was sent out with the June bill. Garbage rates for the July quarterly bill will remain at \$65. A retroactive charge of \$6 will be applied on the October bill for each residential unit with garbage service.

June Monthly Financial Report: The June financial report will be sent to Council and the Finance Committee during the week of July 10th.

WATER DEPARTMENT

Recent Activity:

- **Neptune AMR Transmitters.** Actively installing Neptune AMR Transmitters on round 2. There are less than 500 transmitters needing to be installed. We anticipate this project being completed by the end of June. A major thank you to all staff who have been aggressively swapping out these transmitters.
- The city received a \$10,000 equipment grant from the Ohio EPA which will go towards the purchase of a hydraulic power pack and hydraulic valve turner.
- Staff are collecting quotes for damage done to the 12' main (150 ft) on Sawmill Parkway after a semi-truck hit a hydrant. The supply loop is currently valved off, but all customers still have service.

Active Project Updates:

Primary Intake: Lake Erie Diving has commenced work on this cleaning. Work is expected to last 5-6 weeks.

Alternate Intake/Sludge Lagoon: City anticipates receiving final design proposal from Kleinfelder during the week of June 19th. Staff will review and shortly thereafter seek Council approval of the contract to begin the design process. The City 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: On June 16th, The City was awarded \$5M from Governor DeWine's Ohio BUILDS water and wastewater infrastructure grant program. This is the largest allowable grant in the State of Ohio, and we believe it to be the largest single grant the City of Huron has ever received. We are thankful to our State and Local partners that help make projects like this possible.

South Main Street Water Line Replacement: Staff recently met with designers from OHM to review progress set drawings for this project. We anticipate this project being bid in late summer or early fall.

PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATION

Police Department: Due to two (2) recent vacancies in the department, HPD anticipates making multiple hires in the next few weeks. The new officers will be introduced to the community and City Council at swearing in ceremonies in the upcoming weeks.

AGREEMENTS

N/A

CONTRACTS

- Bricker & Eckler – HPP Legal Services (Law) – **Expires 9/30/23**
- OHM Advisors (Engineering) – **Expires 12/31/23**
- HJRD Annual Agreement (Recreation) - **Expires 12/31/23**
- Dispatch Agreement – Erie County Sheriff – **Expires 12/31/23**
- City Prosecutor Employment Agreement – expires **12/31/23**
- Personnel Officer Employment Agreement – expires **12/31/23**
- Erie Soil and Water Conservation District (Engineering) – **Expires 1/31/24**
- Seeley, Savidge, Ebert & Gourash Co., LLP (Law) – **Expires 6/3/24**
- Dynegy Electric Aggregation Agreement – expires **7/30/25**
- Dynegy Electric Standard Large Stable Service Agreement – expires **08/2025**
- School Resource Officer – **Expires 8/31/26**
- Republic Services – **Expires 12/31/26**

UPCOMING MEETINGS

July Meetings:

- BZA Meeting – Monday July 10th at 5:30 in the Council Chambers.
- City Council Meeting – Tuesday July 11th at 6:30 in the Council Chambers.
- Planning Commission Meeting – Wednesday July 19th at 5:00 in the Council Chambers.
- City Council Meeting – Tuesday July 25th at 6:30 in the Council Chambers.