

### Infrastructure/Streets

#### **US 6:**

- ***Paving:*** Paving is substantially completed.
- ***Center Island at Berlin Road:*** Crews have poured the center island at Berlin Road. During the week of November 16<sup>th</sup>, safety crews tested out maneuvering around the island in select safety vehicles. Results of these test drives were positive allowing crews to move forward with finalization of the island construction.
- ***Catch Basins:*** As of November 19, the final catch basin was being installed – near the entrance to Berlin Road. Crews will be returning to do some final pavement adjustment around this catch basin.
- ***Crosswalks:*** Crosswalk installation is substantially complete.
- ***Striping:*** Layouts for pavement stripping are ongoing with temporary layouts to be painted in the next few days.
- ***Lighting:*** Development of specifications are still underway. Those will be completed soon resulting in the City being able to finalize bid documents and bid the project. New lights are hopefully to be installed in early 2021.

**Leaf Pickup:** Leaf pickup began on October 26<sup>th</sup>. As a reminder, crews will be starting on the east side of town and heading westward. Once a full sweep of the City is completed, crews will start over on the east side. Currently, crews are completing their 3<sup>rd</sup> trip through town.

**Cleveland Road Sidewalks:** The sidewalks in front of Colonial Colony Apartments/Townhouses are in process of being replaced in line with the City's recently amended sidewalk replacement/assessment program. Contractors were on site beginning Thursday November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 to being marking the replacement area and removing concrete. It is anticipated, weather provided, that the project will be completed prior to Thanksgiving.

### Economic Development

**USGS/Harbor North:** At the end of October, the Harbor North Marina was sold. The City has held several discussions with the new owners and their contractors – as the new ownership group is looking to make significant investments into the property. Conversations centered around the plan review and building permit process. It is also anticipated that the USGS facility will also be located at Harbor North with construction hopefully commencing soon on this facility as well. The planned renovations for the project were approved by the Planning Commission on November 18, however other elements of the project, namely aesthetic ones

related to fencing and landscaping still need reviewed and considered by the Design Review Board – which will occur at a later date.

**IAC:** Staff has taken part in multiple conversations with the potential buyer of the IAC facility and their real estate broker in past weeks. The potential buyer, the name of which is still not public, is considering locations in either Ohio or Indiana – with the Huron facility high on their list. The company has inquired about potential incentives to aid in their reinvestment into the facility and are in ongoing conversations with Jobs Ohio about additional state incentives. The potential company has also been a strong supporter of the City’s efforts to reconstruct Sawmill Parkway and has provided a letter of support on behalf of the City to USEDA for grant assistance. Staff will continue to keep Council updated on this exciting opportunity and hopes to have news prior to the end of 2020.

**MOCO Boutique:** Staff held introductory calls with the owners of MOCO Boutique – currently located in Commerce Park Plaza. The company is looking to construct a new facility within Huron and are currently exploring several sites as possibilities with preference for the Sawmill Parkway area. The company is growing significantly and has outgrown its current space. The owners are seeking tax abatement incentives to offset a portion of operational real estate tax liabilities that will result from the new investment. The company presented to the Tax Incentive Review Council on November 20. There was great discussion and overall support for the project and investment. There were certain questions raised that resulted in needing additional data and analyses. Therefore, a second meeting of the Tax Incentive Review Council will be necessary prior to making a recommendation to the School Boards and City Council.

### **Housing/Real Estate Development**

**Two Rivers:** The City had several conversations with a revamped development team who are exploring developing the remainder of the Two Rivers Planned Unit Development (PUD). The previous PUD has since expired. The development team will be working to partially redesign the development and related infrastructure and will hopefully be submitting a new PUD application to the City for review in the upcoming weeks/months.

### **Zoning/Code**

**Transient Rental:** Staff and members of Council (along with great input and recommendations from the public and transient rental operators) continue to explore modifications to the existing transient rental program. In addition to modifications to the existing program, staff and Council are also exploring the creation of transient rental overlay districts that will allow customizable differences between neighborhoods based on their unique characteristics. Future work sessions will be held soon to review the most updated draft modifications and to review preliminary overlay district legislation.

## Parks and Recreation

**Winter Day on Main:** After additional consultation with the Erie County Health Department, the Winter Day on Main event has since been cancelled. This includes the planned fireworks display which could have lent itself to congregation of crowds. With that said though, we think it important to still do “something”, safely that generates thoughts of normalcy and brings smiles to people’s faces, namely children who are having to experience holidays in non-traditional ways. After consultation with the Erie County Health Department, the City does anticipate providing an opportunity for children and families to see Santa Claus in a socially distanced manner. The Huron Police Department will escort Santa Claus through town so he has the opportunity to wave and say hello to all the children and families in our community. Santa Claus will be traveling throughout town on December 5<sup>th</sup> approximately between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. This of course is always subject to change but the current plan of action as of today.

The Huron Boat Ramp will once again be at capacity this weekend with the ongoing Fall Brawl that goes from Oct. 16 to Nov. 29. More than 9,000 anglers are entered to catch the biggest walleye on Lake Erie, many of which head to Huron in the late fall. This Saturday the Huron Boat Ramp is host to the Big Water Walleye Championship-Lake Erie Walleye Trail tournament. We will be utilizing a small portion of City property for parking and the HPD is aware and can assist with traffic on Rt. 6 if needed.

## Utilities

**Sale of Transmission Assets:** The City continues to put the finishing touches on the Purchase Agreement with AMP-T. Staff is hopeful we can bring this legislation to Council in November/December of 2020 for finalization.

**Water Plant:** The City recently undertook a comprehensive cleaning of both the normal and emergency intakes. This preventative measure is aimed at ensuring adequate supply of water to customers and will mitigate the likelihood of blockages due to ice build up during the winter months.

## Finance/Budget

**2021 Budget Process:** Staff continues to present the 2021 proposed budget to the Finance Committee. To date, 4 out of 5 meetings are complete. The final presentation on Safety Services will take place at the 11/23 Finance Committee at 4 pm. The meeting will be held virtually on Microsoft Teams. If approved by the Finance Committee, the budget will be submitted to Council for discussion and approval by the end of the year. According to the City Code, Council must receive a recommended budget for the following year by December 1 and subsequently approve a budget by December 31.

**2020 BWC Dividends:** In response to the pandemic, the Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation has approved multiple dividends to Ohio employers, including municipalities. The dividends directly impact the City's General Fund and have been used to stabilize the General Fund's fund balance and allow for the City to support essential services through this pandemic. The initial 2020 Budget expected a \$30,000 dividend. As of October, the City has received 3 dividends totaling \$107,083. Ohio BWC recently approved another dividend distribution (largest in BWC history) that will result in the City receiving approximately \$161,000 by the end of the year – 2020 total to approximately \$268,083. The additional \$161,000 dividend will be unrestricted to the City's General Fund

**COVID-19 Financial Picture:** The City's overall financial picture through October 2020 is better than initially expected. Over \$450,000 in CARES Act Funds, BWC Dividends, extra spending awareness from each department, and promising income tax collections has put the City in a good financial position for 2021 and forward. As of November collections, the City's income tax collections are netting a 1.5% increase from 2019. However, Staff remains cautious on discretionary spending due to recent spikes in cases and uncertainty of future economic impacts.

#### **Personnel:**

**Water:** Contingent on passage of the final 2021 budget, the Water Plant is anticipated to move towards 24/7 operation, which has long been a goal of the City. To do so, this will require the addition of one more employee. It is anticipated that the hiring process will occur in the first half of 2021 with the goal of having the new employee trained and on board around May of 2021.

**Police:** The City is working with the National Testing Network to administer the testing process for potential candidates to be considered for officers of the Huron Police Department. Staff hopes to begin this process in upcoming weeks in hopes of making hiring decisions in early 2021.