

THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO
Proceedings of the Huron City Council
Work Session Meeting Tuesday, August 27, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

The work session meeting of the City Council of the City of Huron, Ohio was called to order by Mayor Trey Hardy on Tuesday August 27, 2019 at 5:30p.m. in the Council Room of City Hall, 417 Main Street, Huron, Ohio.

The following members of Council were present: **John Jones, Christine Crawford, Trey Hardy, Joe Dike, Sam Artino, and Glen Ginesi.** Members absent: **Rick Schaffter.**

Staff present: City Manager Andy White, Law Director Aimee Lane, Assistant to the City Manager Mike Spafford, Management Services Coordinator-Clerk of Council Christine Gibboney.

New Business

Invocation at Council meetings

Mr. White commented that an invocation was once included on Council agendas and referenced the recent inquiry from Councilman Ginesi as well as the legal review and draft legislation previously distributed to Council by the Law Director. Mr. Ginesi referenced his discussions with local clergy over a year ago regarding civility and public discourse commenting that discussion of adding an invocation to meetings were one of the topics mentioned. Mr. Ginesi recognized Reverend Michael Floyd of Christ Episcopal Church who was in attendance.

Ms. Lane recapped items of note from the legal review on the matter:

- An invocation is for the benefit of the public body, not the audience.
- Once instituted, the opportunity to participate has to be available to everyone.
- Invocation is to be at the beginning of the meeting – before agenda items
- No person is compelled to participate.
- There can be no review/approval of the invocation ahead of the meeting. Invocations should not promote or disparage one religious belief over another- this would need to be specified in a policy and communicated to those providing the invocation.
- Policy to include: Non-discriminatory process for scheduling, point person designated to manage and schedule.

Ms. Lane reviewed case law, sample ordinance, and policy recommendations previously provided. Discussion ensued as to how often to add an invocation with the consensus of members suggesting one meeting per month. Discussion ensued relative to management with regard to policy details including a designated person or a committee who would set the 12 month schedule as well as the need to identify local churches and/or churches outside the area that residents of the city may attend if they wished to be included. Members discussed having a policy in place first which needs to include a point person or committee to manage the schedule. Ms. Lane noted she would look at making changes to the policy based on the discussion. Mr. Ginesi asked if it was appropriate to motion to order in legislation. Reverend Floyd commented that he would like to further discuss the matter with religious leaders in the community at their next regular meeting and would then provide feedback and input to the city. Mr. Ginesi noted he would await information from the religious leaders before making any motion relative to legislation on the agenda.

Old Business

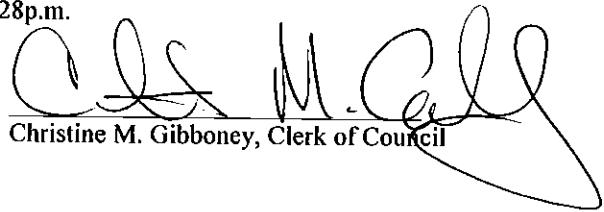
City Council Training

Mayor Hardy referenced training for city officials through the state that citizens have been asking to have coordinated, noting he would like to have something scheduled this year. Mr. Dike suggested all members do annual training. Ms. Crawford mentioned she was under the impression that Ms. Hartley was going to set up training through the Attorney General's Office. Members discussed various other trainings available including the Ethics Commission Training. Members expressed the need to have Ethics Training as well. Orientation programs for newly elected officials were noted to be available through the Ohio Municipal League and other organizations as

well as several other types of trainings available. Mr. White and members referenced the handbook and the legislative process and procedures which should also be reviewed and explained in-depth to provide members with the reasoning behind the legislative protocol. Members agreed that training through the Attorney General's office is the preferred training authority for the Sunshine Laws Training. Discussion ensued on when to schedule training. Mr. White noted that the training can be done on-line as well, and then pull together a training in January or early spring for all members. Ms. Lane also shared on line training information through the Ethics Commission for members to participate in. Members discussed making specified training (s) an annual requirement by the city for all members implementing this by formal motion or resolution.

Ms. Lane continued training of Public Records Law, including the definition of a public record, public records policy, public records requests, retention schedules, and records such as texts and emails. Members discussed texts and emails and discussion ensued as to formats to retain these.

The work session meeting of August 27, 2019 adjourned at 6:28p.m.



Christine M. Gibboney, Clerk of Council