

**THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO**  
**Proceedings of the Huron City Council**  
**Regular Meeting Tuesday, June 13, 2023 at 6:30pm**

**Call to Order**

The Mayor called the regular meeting of City Council to order at 6:30pm. 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.

**Roll Call**

The Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll for the regular meeting of Council. The following members of Council answered present: **William Biddlecombe, Mark Claus, Monty Tapp, Joe Dike, Matt Grieves, Joel Hagy**. Council Member not present: **Sam Artino**.

**Motion by Mr. Claus to excuse Mr. Artino's absence from the meeting.**

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

**YEAS: Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe (6)**

**NAYS: None (0)**

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

Staff in attendance: City Manager Matt Lasko, Parks and Recreation Operations Manager Doug Steinwart, Planning Director Erik Engle, Police Chief Terry Graham, Finance Director Cory Swaisgood (via Microsoft Teams) and Christine Gibboney, Acting Clerk of Council.

**Audience Comments**

The Mayor directed members of the audience having comments to approach the podium, state their name and address Council, and advised that they would have 3 minutes to make their comments.

None.

**Old Business**

**Ordinance No. 2023-12 (third and final reading)**

**Motion by Mr. Dike that Ordinance No. 2023-12 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 909 (ASSESSMENTS) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCE OF HURON, OHIO TO ESTABLISH NEW SECTIONS 909.02 (CONSTRUCTION AND/OR REPAIR OF SIDEWALKS) AND 909.03 (MAINTENANCE, REMOVAL AND/OR REPLACEMENT OF TREES)) be placed on its third and final reading.**

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

**YEAS: Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Claus, Tapp (6)**

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being more than a majority in favor, Ordinance No. 2023-12 was placed upon its third and final reading. Mr. Hamilton read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Engle explained that this ordinance essentially establishes an assessment for the construction and repair of sidewalks, as well as the removal and replacement of trees. In essence, this allows property owners to finance any of that work. As it's written now, it is under their purview to maintain all of those elements within the right-of-way. This will just add to the financing options, so to speak, over a 4-year period.

Mayor Tapp said that he wanted to make sure - lot lines and stuff – how that actually works, because he was questioned and people said that their lot pins are inside the sidewalk. That's what they pay taxes on, and he told me he doesn't know and would try to find out. Mr. Engle answered that, generally speaking, sidewalks should be within the right-of-way on the exterior of the property line. Are there instances where those lines are in dispute? Absolutely, but ultimately, they recognize that for the majority of what is there now, the existing sidewalks would fall into the right-of-way. Mayor Tapp said that he just wants to make sure, and doesn't want an issue down the road. Mr. Engle said that they (the Planning Department) will assist the residents with any questions.

The Mayor asked if there were any further questions on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on final adoption of Ordinance No. 2023-12. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS: Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Claus, Tapp (6)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Ordinance No. 2023-12 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect in accordance with Section 3.06 of the Charter of the City of Huron.

**Ordinance No. 2023-13 (third and final reading)**

**Motion by Mr. Dike that Ordinance No. 2023-13 (AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND AMENDING AND RESTATING CHAPTER 907 (TREES) OF THE HURON CODIFIED ORDINANCES) be placed on its third and final reading.**

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

**YEAS: Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Claus, Tapp (6)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being more than a majority in favor, Ordinance No. 2023-13 was placed upon its third and final reading. Mr. Hamilton read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Engle said that this ordinance mirrors the assessment language, going further into detail as to explaining the certification to the Auditor, as well as all of the caveats that are involved from a Council approval perspective. This is a 4-year assessment.

The Mayor asked if there were any further questions on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on final adoption of Ordinance No. 2023-13. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS: Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Claus, Tapp (6)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Ordinance No. 2023-13 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect in accordance with Section 3.06 of the Charter of the City of Huron.

**Ordinance No. 2023-14 (third and final reading)**

**Motion by Mr. Dike that Ordinance No. 2023-14 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 521 (HEALTH, SAFETY AND SANITATION) OF THE HURON CODIFIED ORDINANCES TO ADD A NEW SECTION 521.14 (DUTY TO MAINTAIN TREES IN TREE LAWN); REPEALING, AMENDING AND RESTATING SECTION 521.06 (DUTY TO KEEP SIDEWALKS IN REPAIR AND CLEAN) OF CHAPTER 521 (HEALTH, SAFETY AND SANITATION) OF THE HURON CODIFIED ORDINANCES; AND FURTHER AMENDING CHAPTER 521 TO ADD RELATED CROSS REFERENCES) be placed on its third and final reading.**

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

**YEAS: Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Claus, Tapp (6)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being more than a majority in favor, Ordinance No. 2023-14 was placed upon its third and final reading. Mr. Hamilton read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Engle stated that this ordinance reiterates that all property owners must maintain certain points within the right-of-way, and like Mr. Hamilton stated, they are just adding those cross references to establish the assessment process.

The Mayor asked if there were any further questions on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on final adoption of Ordinance No. 2023-14. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS: Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Claus, Tapp (6)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Ordinance No. 2023-14 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect in accordance with Section 3.06 of the Charter of the City of Huron.

**Ordinance No. 2023-15 (second reading)**

**Motion by Mr. Grieves that Ordinance No. 2023-15 (AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND AMENDING AND RESTATING SECTION 931.04 (RATES FOR COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF CHAPTER 931 (GARBAGE, RUBBISH AND RECYCLABLE MATERIAL COLLECTION) OF THE HURON CODIFIED ORDINANCES) be placed on its second reading.**

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

**YEAS: Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Claus, Tapp, Dike (6)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being more than a majority in favor, Ordinance No. 2023-14 was placed upon its third and final reading. Mr. Hamilton read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Hamilton explained that in April of 2023, the City released and received for bids for residential solid waste collection and disposal services. They received a single bid response from the current provider. At this point, they have to update their ordinances to reflect the new pricing received. This update will increase the monthly rate to \$71 per dwelling, per quarter, and as of July 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023, which will be charged as it currently is on the residential water bills. The intent, as of January 1, 2024, is to move this charge to an assessment process through the real estate taxes. Each year, a 5% increase will be realized, and the cost for each renewal will be able to go through.

Mayor Tapp asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Claus said he is assuming not only the increase, but more confusingly, the change in how it is going to get billed – we are going to have to advertise that really heavily through however many means we can. Mr. Hamilton answered that they will have a full outreach on that. There will be a lot of communication that will need to go out, especially because of it going to the homeowners. They will want the rental property owners to understand how that is going to work. They will have a full outreach program.

Mr. Swaisgood added that this quarter's water bill that they are sending out at the end of June will include an insert on this process. For customers that do not receive a bill can log in online will also see this information, if this passes its third reading next week. Mr. Claus thanked Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Swaisgood and said he figured they all had it in place, but thought he would ask on the record.

### **New Business**

#### **Resolution No. 48-2023**

**Motion by Mr. Tapp that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution No. 48-2023 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPLY TO THE STATE OF OHIO, OFFICE OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT ("OBM") FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR THE OHIO AMBULANCE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM IN THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF TWENTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$20,000.00); AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO ANY ONE OR MORE AGREEMENTS REQUIRED TO APPLY FOR THE SUBJECT GRANT FROM OBM, TO ACCEPT THE GRANT AWARD IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED TWENTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$20,000.00), AND TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH OBM SHOULD THE APPLICATION BE SUCCESSFUL.) be placed on its first reading.**

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

**YEAS: Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Claus (6)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution No. 48-2023 was placed upon its first reading. Mr. Hamilton read the Resolution by its title only.

Captain Schafer explained these funds are made available through the American Rescue Plan Act signed into law on March 11, 2021. The federal government sets aside \$350 Million for state, local and tribal governments across the country to support their response and recovery from the Covid-19 public health emergency. Specifically, it tells each fire department how much they are eligible for – ours is \$20,000. Most fire departments in the State of Ohio are the same amount. This allows them to apply for that grant and receive that money to offset some of the costs of that.

The Mayor asked if there were any further questions on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on final adoption of Resolution No. 48-2023. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS: Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Claus (6)**

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being more than a majority in favor of adoption, Resolution No. 48-2023 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

#### **Motion**

**Motion by Mr. Claus appointing Lisa Hemker to the City of Huron Finance Committee to replace outgoing member Larry Lehman.**

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

**YEAS: Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Claus (6)**

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being a majority in favor of the motion, the motion passed and Lisa Hemker was appointed to the City of Huron Finance Committee.

#### **City Manager's Discussion**

The City Manager spoke on several topics:

- Oster Mobile Home Park Purchase – We continue to work diligently with our non-profit partners to continue relocation efforts for residents and families at the park. As of the time of this meeting, we have 5 households that have been successfully relocated thus far, and we are working on several more in hopes of having imminent relocations locked up for those families, as well. We are going to continue to work over the upcoming weeks and months to ensure that there are successful relocations throughout the entirety of the park.
- Infrastructure/Sawmill Parkway – As of May 30<sup>th</sup>, the temporary roadway that was constructed is now closed and the western end of Sawmill Parkway is reopened to traffic. Crews have been taking advantage of the good weather and it is believed that they are about 55-60% done with

their construction work. For anyone that has been out there recently, it's truly transformational in terms of how that roadway looks compared to where it was pre-construction. Based on that progress, we are anticipating completion in September, dependent on weather.

- Cleveland Rd E Sidewalk Project – Following up on an email that I sent to Council on Friday, we were notified by Governor DeWine's office on June 9<sup>th</sup> that the Ohio Department of Transportation has awarded the City of Huron, and subsequently Huron Township, with \$650,000 for the east side sidewalk project. Those funds were awarded through ODOT's Highway Safety Improvement Program, and were highly competitive. These funds were not applied for by ODOT District 3 – this was truly an application at the State level. This is in addition to the previously awarded approximately awarded \$120,000 that the project received from Erie County's Metropolitan Planning Organization. In total, we secured just over \$770,000 for that project. We really believe that the multi-jurisdictional approach with our partnership with Huron Township was instrumental in the award. A big thank you to Mr. Hamilton and also OHM Advisors, who took the lead in submitting the application on the City's behalf. That project is slated to begin construction in 2024.
- Street Resurfacing - As mentioned in last meeting's report. We do anticipate having a Council Work Session at our next Council meeting on June 27<sup>th</sup>. This will be to discuss street resurfacing and repaving for Chaska Beach and the Old Homestead neighborhoods. We want to go through data that the City has collected in partnership with OHM over the last couple of months to have further discussion and talk through potential options moving forward.
- Main Street Corridor Plan – The City hosted, with our partners OHM, a public open house at the Boat Basin this evening from 4-6pm to review recommendations for the Main Street Downtown plan. There was a pretty significant group of folks that has attended throughout the 2-hour session, so we are happy that the public was able to come out this evening. Again, this is really another opportunity for the public to provide feedback on those recommendations, whether it's projects in the public realm or projects in the private realm. I do want to share a few things in that these are recommendations that are always subject to change. Any of those projects on that plan that would ultimately get implemented, whether it's a public infrastructure project or whether it's a proposed rezoning, would ultimately have to go through its own public process and come in front of this Council, so there will be many opportunities for this Council, and predominantly the public, to weigh in on each and every potential project that comes out of that plan. I appreciate everyone coming out this evening.
- Fish Cleaning Station – We had a soft opening on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. We have received nothing but positive and excited comments from folks using the station. There is going to be an official ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, which is next week, at 11:00am. There will be a short program, ribbon cutting, photo opportunity and refreshments provided. Thank you to Mr. Steinwart and your team for moving really quickly to get those invitations out to be sure that we have a great event next week.
- Fabens Park Tennis Courts Reconstruction - Also today, the City held a kickoff meeting with the contractor that's undertaking the tennis court reconstruction. My understanding is the contractor actually plans on mobilizing tomorrow, and they will start with some initial tree removal, primarily to be able to start getting equipment into the site. We are going to officially close down the tennis court on Sunday evening/Monday morning, so we will make sure that is well-documented and advertised to the public. Those will be closed for the duration of the project. As currently scheduled, that work is going to continue through the end of September, but that is always subject

to change, both finishing sooner or finishing later. We will continue to keep everyone updated as the project moves forward.

- Water Department – The Water Department continues to install the new Neptune transmitters that we brought before Council at a few meetings. Believe it or not, they are down to less than 500 that need to be installed throughout the City. We anticipate this project being completed by the end of June, which is significantly ahead of schedule. A major thank you to all the staff that has been aggressively swapping out these transmitters. Lake Erie Diving has commenced work on cleaning out the primary intake. That's expected to last another 5-6 weeks. With regard to the alternate intake, we anticipate receiving a final design proposal from Kleinfelder, who was the winning submitter from the RFP, sometime this week. We will review that proposal shortly thereafter, and hopefully, present that proposal to Council to approve that contract to begin the design process.
- Upcoming Meetings – Planning Commission on Wednesday, June 21 at 5pm in the Council Chambers; City Council Work Session on Tuesday, June 22 at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers (reminder: that will be related to street resurfacing for Chaska Beach, Old Homestead I and Old Homestead II); Council Meeting on Tuesday, June 22 at 6:30pm in the Council Chambers.
- Juneteen Holiday – City Hall administrative offices will be closed all day on Monday, June 19<sup>th</sup> in observance of Juneteenth; however, all planned Parks and recreational programming will continue as planned.

Mr. Hagy asked if the \$650,000 and \$120,000 for the sidewalks (total of \$770,00) will cover the entire project. Mr. Lasko answered that we are probably \$30,000 to \$40,000 short based on the current contractor's cost estimate. They are hoping that is a little high. Fingers crossed, but he doesn't want to overpromise, he thinks there is a chance that they get out of this project with no local funds committed by either the City or the Township. Again, he doesn't want to overpromise until the final bids come in.

Mr. Hagy asked if there was any word on the grant for the alternate intake. Mr. Lasko said they are actually waiting on two grants related to the Water Department. One is the \$2 Million grant request from Kaptur's office – they have not heard yet, nor do they know of a deadline for announcing that grant award. They also have a pending \$5 Million grant request for a new west side water tower, which would be a 2-million-gallon water tower, which is 4 times the size of what we currently have. That is through the State of Ohio Department of Development. We do not have an announcement date on that yet, so they have two big grant requests pending.

Mr. Biddlecombe said that he had asked at the last meeting about the trash along the Lake Erie Shore Electric Trail, and wondered if Mr. Lasko was willing to share what he shared with him about that. Mr. Lasko thanked the work of our Police Chief in getting some additional assistance, and not just one-time assistance, but it sounds like in perpetuity assistance. He asked Chief Graham to give a quick update on what he was able to achieve. Chief Graham said when he was at the last meeting and that complaint was brought up, he knew that the Sheriff's Office had a community service program where they bring out inmates that are on a high status (they are not in there for crimes of violence or anything like that), where they participate all over the county doing community service projects. One of the things they do is pick up garbage. He really didn't know who was going to go out there to do this, so he asked Mr. Lasko if he could reach out to the Sheriff's Office to make the request, which he did. Because that roadway relates to ODOT, they had to jump through a couple of hoops to get permission to go out there and do that – that has been done and it has been put on their work docket to get done. They are also going to put it on their

regular maintenance of picking up trash, so it might get done 2-3 times per year. This will be done as routine maintenance, because the way the winds come from Sawmill Parkway and those commercial properties, trash is coming across the highway and getting stuck on the other side. Hopefully, they will get that all picked up. Mr. Tapp said the City used to have that years ago – do we know why it ever stopped? Chief Graham said he did not know – he just thought he should jump on it, and it worked out.

### **Mayor's Discussion**

Mayor Tapp said:

I just have a couple things. The Main Street Open House was from 4-6pm – he stopped down there. Quite a few people showed up and were asking questions. Again, the people that I spoke with – come to these Council meetings. I appreciate you folks out here coming. I tell everybody – come to the Council meeting. If you want to find out something, just call, ask or come here and ask your questions. As he drives by the fish cleaning station, there's people using that. He has heard no complaints. Everything has been positive and they are keeping it clean. For the most part, it is pretty good. I want to thank Chief Graham – he invited myself and Mr. Lasko to the opening ceremonies yesterday at the OTOA. That was at Kalahari and was a huge, huge deal. I enjoyed the speaker and enjoyed the guitars from Pantera, who played the national anthem. If you want to see a lot of officers in one spot at one time, that's where you need to go. It's a first-class operation and I sent the Chief a text telling him I was honored, and I appreciated you inviting us to go. Thank you for doing that. Other than that, I do not have too much more – I just want to thank the staff and everybody's hard work. We've got a lot of stuff going on and all of the committees have a lot going on. Thanks to Council members for doing everything you do, and that is all I have.

### **For the Good of the Order**

**William Biddlecombe** – First of all, I would like to thank staff for all of their hard work, and thanks to all of the citizens who came out tonight for the Main Street Corridor Open House. I definitely enjoyed having everyone there and getting feedback – I wish I would get that kind of feedback at all of our meetings. I would like to congratulate the Huron High School Class of 2023. I got to attend Kindergarten graduation this year. I would like to thank Doug and his team for opening up the Boat Basin to the Schools – I really appreciated having it down there - it was a nice venue for that. I would like to congratulate our girls' softball team. They finished their season as Regional Runners Up, with a record of 23-6, which was the most wins in program history. Congratulations to all the athletes who participated in the State Track Meet. We had a lot of students go to that, as well, and a lot of podium finishes. Monday night, June 19<sup>th</sup> is the next School Board meeting. Parks and Rec events coming up: Safety Town going on this week June 19<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup>; Golf Camp is June 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Boat Basin events coming up: on June 17<sup>th</sup>, Rolling Out of Cleveland; and on June 24<sup>th</sup> is the Huron Rotary Festival with Wally and the Beavs. Go Tigers!

**Joe Dike** – Nothing, thank you.

**Joel Hagy** – I have nothing for the good of the order.

**Matt Grieves** – No sir, I have nothing.

**Mark Claus** – I also want to thank the community residents who came out tonight to the Boat Basin for the Main Street Open House. I came there at kind of the tail end, and saw some pictures from the



beginning. I don't know, there might have been 50 people show up. It was a good crowd and a lot of good comments and questions and input, so it's great to have that community feedback. I also want to thank Mr. Lasko, in particular, on all of his work on this Oster's stuff. We (Council and staff) has gotten a lot of heat over this project, and I don't think people really realize how much time... these community organizations/social service organizations have been doing a lot, but Matt has been working really closely with them and met with 24+ of the 29/30 residents. Anybody who was willing to has had personal meetings, and it's a tough situation. It's going to be ongoing, and Matt has committed to Council – we are all committed – to seeing this through and making sure everybody gets relocated properly and gets treated fairly. I just wanted to state that. That's all I have.

**Executive Session(s)**

None.

**Adjournment**

**Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe to adjourn the regular meeting of Council.**

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

**YEAS: Biddlecombe, Claus, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Hagy (6)**

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being a majority in favor of the motion, the regular Council meeting of June 13, 2023 was adjourned at 7:01pm.

  
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Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council

Adopted: 7/25/2023