



CITY OF HURON  
CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

May 21, 2021

Matthew Lasko, City Manager

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Ardagh:** The Planning Commission approved the site plan for all 3 phases of future development of Ardagh. The Design Review Board approved phase 1, with a broader design package anticipated for phases 2 and 3. Phase 2 and 3, which is the major addition, is contingent upon a vacation of ROW request from the developer to the City. They have requested, and we have begun evaluating, a request to vacate roughly 350-450 ft. of Sawmill Parkway. This will ultimately require review and approval of Council. In addition, the City is exploring the installation of a cul-de-sac at the end of the Parkway for emergency vehicle purposes.

From a construction standpoint, site clearance has commenced on the additional seventy (70) acres of land along with removal of western portions of the parking lots in front of the existing loading docks.

The City also is in receipt of a Community Reinvestment Area tax abatement request which is currently being reviewed for completeness. Upon verification of completeness, the request will be considered by the Tax Incentive Review Council.

**USGS/Harbor North:** The Design Review Board officially approved the design and landscape package for the new USGS facility. The project is currently under construction. Anticipated completion date is still slated for middle to late-summer 2021.

**Stride Mobility:** The company continues to move forward with construction activities on its new facility on Sawmill Parkway. Construction is on schedule and is anticipated to be completed in the upcoming months. Their ribbon cutting celebration is scheduled for September 2nd.

**ConAgra:** On May 6, the City officially released the Request for Qualifications and Preliminary Development Proposals (collectively referred to as the "RFP") for ConAgra. Responses are due to the City no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 21. Upon receipt, the City will move forward with a selection process that will include internal team review and scoring of proposals and developer qualifications, development team interviews, and also public/council presentations with either a proposed finalist or group of finalists. The City hopes to identify a chosen development partner in late summer or very early Fall. The RFP was proactively sent to a list of nearly fifty (50) firms and interested parties. A copy of the RFP can also be found on the City's website under the "development" tab as well.

The City has been responding to questions and document requests since the release of the RFP. Those questions and documents will be circulated to the entire list of entities who received the RFP to ensure all parties have access to the same information.

## INFRASTRUCTURE/STREETS/UTILITIES

**Cleveland Road Street Lighting:** Pre-bid meeting was held on May 18<sup>th</sup>. No bidders attended; however, our records show 4 contractors have pulled plans. We have not received any clarifying questions which is a good sign. The administration intends on bringing forth legislation to purchase the lights and necessary equipment in advance of the contract in the upcoming weeks. This will permit for quicker installation of the lighting.

**Sawmill Parkway:** The City continues to finalize the financing and funding plans for Sawmill Parkway prior to finalizing construction drawings and ultimate bid documents. Based on all the funding streams involved and ultimately seasonality of the roadwork construction season, the project is anticipated to occur in Spring of 2022. A summary of the funding thus far for the approximate \$3.4-\$3.5M project include:

- \$412,500 from OPWC which has already been awarded (just waiting on final agreement with OPWC)
- \$1,000,000 from Jobs Ohio – on April 19<sup>th</sup>, the Controlling Board of the State of Ohio approved a \$1,000,000 grant through Jobs Ohio and the Development Services Agency – 629 Roadwork program. The City executed grant paperwork on May 17, 2021 and submitted the same to the State of Ohio Development Services Agency for final approval.
- The City has executed a \$250,000 grant agreement with ODOT Jobs and Commerce for grant funding as of April 23, 2021.
- The City has formally responded to EDA's Letter of Further Clarification and provided all required/requested additional documentation to date. The City hopes to hear back on potential final funding determination in the upcoming weeks. As of May 21, the application was still being reviewed by their architectural and engineering teams.

**Pump Station and Force Main Project:** The construction component of the Erie County force main project that has been ongoing along Cleveland Road/Route 6 is substantially completed. Contractors have begun the restoration phase of the project including but not limited to, grading, and seeding, concrete walk repair, drive apron repair, etc...The timing of this project has resulted in a delay to the City and its engineers completing the Route 6 Phase 1 punch-list walkthrough. This will be completed as soon as the County's contractors have completing their restoration to any disturbed areas. The contractors are on site this week commencing restoration activities.

**Speed Limit Radar Signs:** Radar signs for the High School and McCormick Junior High were installed on Thursday of this past week. We are coordinating with both Ohio Edison for removal of the old signs as well as the School's operations staff to coordinate and calibrate the system.

The additional beacons have been installed as well to alert drivers pulling out in the middle of the signs that school zone speed limits are in place.

**Route 6 Phase I/II:** Staff, in coordination with the team at OHM, have completed a design package and presentation documents highlighting the proposed striping modifications along the US 6 corridor. Those documents will be posted to the city's website and a story regarding the plans was included in this weekend's edition of the Sandusky Register.

Please follow this link to review the full design package: <https://bit.ly/3yFFGcW>

Additionally, crews were out during the week of May 17<sup>th</sup> completing a refresh to the temporary striping. It is anticipated that this will last through the duration of the summer until a final striping plan has been decided upon.

## ZONING/CODE/PLANNING

**Masterplan Update and Visioning:** City Architecture sent out the latest update in anticipation of the upcoming work session on Tuesday May 25<sup>th</sup>. The package includes a list of initiatives as prioritized by staff and scored based on their connection to the guiding principles and funding potential. Staff also anticipates providing a summary of progress made to date to the Planning Commission on May 26<sup>th</sup> as well.

**Zoning Code Modification:** The Planning Commission has asked staff to add a discussion topic to the meeting scheduled for Wednesday the 25<sup>th</sup> related to zoning regulations for single family development in beachfront neighborhoods. The concern is there may be a potential mismatch between the city's standard R-1 development standards and the existing circumstances based on lot sizes and structure, both of which were implemented prior to the city's incorporation. The administration will keep Council posted of the discussion and if there is anything to further to come of it. Any modifications to the zoning code are subject to multiple meetings and ultimately Council approval, but we felt Council should be aware of the discussion.

## PARKS AND RECREATION

**Fish Cleaning Station:** Staff is working with engineering and ODNR officials on a potential agreement for a fish cleaning station that would come before Council. One of the next steps will be working with the Erie County Sewer District to determine how to handle waste. ODNR is working on a preliminary draft for review.

**Safety Town:** The City has started taking reservations for Safety Town. This year, Safety Town is divided into two sessions to allow us to serve children entering Kindergarten and 1st Grade who missed last year during the pandemic. Safety Town will be held at Shawnee Elementary June 14-

17 and June 21-24. Registrations for "extended camp" are full for the first session and are limited for the second session.

**Prom:** Huron High School will be hosting its prom outdoors at Nickel Plate Beach this weekend (Saturday from 8 – 10 PM). All activities have been planned and scheduled in advance with all pertinent city departments.

**Summer Programming:** In light of recent rollbacks of State public health regulations, the city is moving forward with a number of our planned summer events, albeit less than a typical year. Unfortunately, events planned for earlier in the summer had to be scrapped in the event regulations were still in place. Staff is exploring the opportunity to bring back some of the events that had to be cancelled, but it is subject to the availability of various vendors. As of this writing, the summer event schedule will kick-off in earnest July 14<sup>th</sup> with the first "Movies by the River". The schedule can be viewed here: <https://bit.ly/3bN6GNA>.

## FINANCE

**Permissive Tax Enhancement (UPDATE):** The additional \$5 per license permissive tax was presented and discussed at the Finance Committee meeting on Monday, May 10. All members agreed on deferring further consideration of the tax until 2022.

**American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA):** The \$1.9 trillion bill was approved and signed into law on March 11. The City is estimated to receive approximately \$1.35 million. Here is what we know as of May 21<sup>st</sup>:

- The State is expected to receive the funds in May and has 60 days to disburse funds to the local governments. The City is expected to receive 1 of 2 disbursements by July (50% of total award). The second disbursement will not be received until 12 months after the first disbursement. Total allocations to cities under 50,000 in population is not final as of May 20<sup>th</sup>.
- The City will have until December 2024 to commit these funds to a purchase/project, and December 2026 to expend the funds.
- The Auditor of State's Office released accounting guidance on proper recording of the funds. The Office recommends creating a separate special revenue fund, like the accounting used for the CARES ACT funds.
- Official U.S. Treasury guidance was released for entitled cities (Cities over 50,000 in population). It is not clear whether that guidance can be used for non-entitled cities (under 50,000 in population). Although, many government associations believe this guidance will be used for all. Staff is preparing plans and analysis using the most recent guidance from the U.S. Treasury.

Staff will keep the finance committee and council apprised of Huron's final allocation, along with a listing of eligible uses when official guidance is confirmed by the Federal and State governments.

## WATER DEPARTMENT

### Active Projects:

- New Employee Alex Hoyt is in his second week of training.
- Filtration Plant pipe repainting project underway – currently on filter gallery.
- Sidewalk repairs are underway from winter water main breaks.
- Tube Settler bid opening is scheduled for Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am.
- Completed Capability Assessment Plan screening through OPEA for 0% funding opportunities on May 18<sup>th</sup>.
- All employees went through MS4 training session on May 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Per UII, work on Berlin Road Water Main Replacement to start in June.

## STREETS DEPARTMENT

N/A

## PERSONNEL

**Water Plant – Maintenance Worker III:** Alex Hoyt started work on May 10<sup>th</sup> and is in his second week of training.

**Huron Police Department:** Conditional offers have been extended to two (2) candidates. Currently, both individuals are in the process of completing pre-employment psychological and physical exams and hope to join the police force in the upcoming weeks.

## CONTRACTS:

2021 will be busy with renegotiation of several multi-year agreements/contracts that expire this year. Agreements/contracts to be reviewed and renegotiated for 2021 include:

- OHM Advisors (Engineering) – **Completed.**
- Erie Soil and Water Conservation District (Engineering) – **Completed.**
- Chief Building Official and Inspection Services (Building)
- Prosecutor (Court) - **Completed**
- HJRD Annual Agreement (Recreation) – **Completed.**
- Huron Township Fire Protection Agreement (Fire)
- Seeley, Savidge, Ebert & Gourash Co., LLP (Law) **Council Consideration 5/25/21.**

- FOP – Patrol Officers (Police)
- FOP – Sergeants (Police)
- IAFF (Fire)
- AFCSME

It should be noted we are likely to hold off on consideration and negotiation of both FOP agreements, IAFF and AFCSME until end of Q2 to have a better understanding of any COVID related impacts (or lack thereof) to the City's budget.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### May

**Extended Council Work Session:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 from 5:00pm to 6:30pm in Council Chambers.

**Council Meeting:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 at 6:30pm in Council Chambers.

**Planning Commission/Design Review Board:** Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 5:00pm in Council Chambers.

### June

**Utilities Committee:** Wednesday, June 2, 2021 at 5:00pm in main conference room.

**Council Meeting:** Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 6:30pm in Council Chambers.

**Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting:** Monday, June 14, 2021 at 6:30pm in Council Chambers.

**Council Work Session:** Tuesday, June 22, 2021 at 5:30pm in Council Chambers.

**Council Meeting:** Tuesday, June 22, 2021 at 6:30pm in Council Chambers.

**Planning Commission/Design Review Board:** Wednesday, June 23, 2021 at 5:00pm in Council Chambers.