THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO
Proceedings of the Huron City Council
Work Session Meeting Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

A work session of the City Council of the City of Huron, Ohio was called to order by Mayor Sam Artino on Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 5:32p.m. via Webex teleconference.

The Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll. The following members of Council answered present: **Mark Claus, Monty Tapp, Sam Artino, Joe Dike, Trey Hardy and Joel Hagy.** Member absent: **Christine Crawford**.

Note: Mr. Hardy was having audio problems, and joined the meeting at 5:33.

Staff present: Interim City Manager Mike Spafford, Law Director Benjamin Chojnacki, Finance Director Cory Swaisgood, City Engineer/Zoning Inspector Doug Green, Executive Administrative Assistant and Clerk of Council Terri Welkener.

Also present: Melissa Feliciano of Erie County Soil and Water.

Old Business

ConAgra Easement/Land Swap

Mr. Chonjacki provided background regarding the ConAgra Land Swap/Easement with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. He explained that we are waiting on ODNR's green light on the access easement part of the agreement, which essentially is a walking easement that would allow access up to the northernmost The second piece is the easement up to the northernmost pint of the ConAgra property for a width of 50'. ODNR had originally proposed that the City assume all responsibility for maintenance and improvements throughout the remaining life of that land. That is a considerable amount of liability to assume in light of the fact that we are providing ODNR and the public in general with access to it. We have proposed that ODNR agree to assume some financial responsibility, if not all, depending upon which version of the documents you look at, for what we are calling capital improvements, which would be anything other than routine maintenance. After our conversations last week with the Mayor, City Manager and Vice Mayor, he reached out to ODNR once again to advise them that the City is anxiously waiting to get this buttoned up since it has been so long. This afternoon, he was fortunate enough to receive a response that they met and reviewed the terms of the easement once again, and that they should be providing him with a signature-ready draft in "near future." He doesn't know what the near future is, but this is closest we have come to getting a response to putting the last nail in the coffin that is this land transfer set of documents. Mr. Chojnacki welcome any questions, and asked if there was anything else Council would like him to expand upon, he is available, but we are subject to the whims of the state and that is the cause for the considerable delay.

Mr. Tapp asked how long it will take for this one hold-up. In light of the representations he received in an e-mail today, Mr. Chojnacki thinks it can be done in the next month. Any minor changes made are anticipated to be insignificant and he is optimistic that it could be wrapped up in a month.

Mr. Claus asked the status of OHM's engineering for getting utilities to the sight. Mr. Spafford said that we are two weeks away from having a version that is ready to use to coordinate with all of the various utility companies that would be involved – hopefully, early May. We have reached out to the County to start that conversation regarding sanitary sewer. Mr. Green said that assuming none of the utility companies throw us any curveballs, we are looking at July. In response to Mr. Tapp's question asking if

he has spoken with the County, Mr. Spafford said that there have been discussions with Dave Moyer, who is the Erie County's Director of Environmental Services.

Mr. Artino asked if there was anything else.

New Business

Storm Water Management Program

Mike Spafford provided an update to the MS4 Storm Water Management Program (SWMP) and updates to that system. He said that we are at a point now where the SWMP need modifications and updates. We are at a point now where the system needs revitalization. We reviewed some options, discussed some things with OHM and met with Soil and Water as well and felt that this is a very strong program and wanted to give Council the opportunity to understand the history of this a little more and to understand some of the regulatory items that are out there, and to allow Melissa a chance to highlight some of the operational enhancements with going with their program. Mr. Spafford asked Mr. Green to run down a quick history for Council. Mr. Green said that back around the time he first started, the City was on the County's program for the monitoring of the MS4 program, which is a separate municipal storm sewer system. Every city is responsibility to maintain stormwater management practices through MS-4 as mandated by the EPA. Back then, the City decided to get off the program with the County that manages on a region-wide level for not just Huron, but Vermilion, Sandusky and all of the towns in Erie County. Back when Gene Esser was around, he offered to take care of that for no additional cost under the terms of their annual contract. What's been done is the annual report which is mandated by the EPA. Since that, the EPA has changed its n the yearly OHM contract. What was done is the annual report to the EPT. Since then the EPA has changed its requirements to include GIS mapping of all public and private stormwater sewers (including development ponds and outflows), public outreach including not only mailings, but also rain barrel workshops, additional sampling and additional training of staff. The soil and water folks have developed a program that is very successful. They currently manage all other cities/town in the County with very few exceptions, if any. Mr. Green feels that is would be advantageous to join back in with the County group. Mr. Green would be working with Melissa and advising as needed to help with that process. The County has laid out a scope of work that is very thorough. There is a decent price tag up front due to the physical mapping of all City and private storm sewers, which would be handy for the street department and City Engineer. The EPA has now started auditing communities – Vermilion was recently audited. Mr. Green invited Melissa Feliciano to explain what they do.

Ms. Feliciano said that her main job at the Soil &Water Conservation District Office is the storm water program all the regulated MS4's in Erie County which includes Sandusky, Vermilion, Perkins Township, Margaretta Township, Bay View and the County Engineer's Office is also part of this program. Huron was part of the group 10 years ago that established her position, and the county is all on one permit. Each community has to comply with all requirements separately. Huron went on its own some time ago, and she has been working with Doug Green with a goal to get Huron back on board. The permit from the Ohio EPA is a 5-year permit. Therefore, they usually do a 5-year contract but since they have not worked with Huron for so long, they should do a year-to-year contract. They will work with OHM to determine where we are at this time. The EPA has been focusing their audits on illicit discharge and also post-construction.

The contract would not only create a map of our system, but will also inspect our system. The Health Department will do some of the outfall monitoring, but she will work directly with the health department to get Huron on the same map and use the same type of monitoring, which will include private and public storm water systems, catch basins, etc.

Mr. Green said that the outfall screening that the health department does is done through an annual contract. They will continue to do the monitoring , but through Soil and Water. The contract is front-loaded because of the amount of initial work that has to be done in mapping the system. After that is complete, the contract will normalize to around $15,000-$20,000/year. Billing is based on work performed.

Mr. Spafford said that he worked with OHM to look at scope of work. OHM's proposal exceeded what the Conservation District was able to offer. In addition to that, the regional collaboration piece if this desirable. Mr. Spafford thanked Ms. Feliciano for her presentation. If Council is in agreement, legislation will be prepared for the next Council meeting.

Republic Services
Mr. Dike asked if Republic Services was back to normal services, which Mr. Spafford confirmed. They are on a 5-year contract running through June of 2022.

AMP Ohio
Mr. Dike asked if there are any updates regarding water rates. Mr. Spafford said that the Finance Department was looking at the matter, and we can have a bigger discussion on water rates at a later date.

Mudbrook
Mr. Dike said that he was asked by people at Mudbrook if they can get No Wake signs. Mr. Spafford said he will coordinate with Keith Lobsinger to get that information passed along.

US 6 Phase II
Mr. Spafford said US Phase II community outreach has been delayed due to COVID-19. We want to bring this up to Council one more time, and all presentation materials are being prepared for discussion in the next work session for a final review to confirm a few things. It is probably something that, if we are not able to meet in person, we can have packets printed.

Departmental Meetings re: COVID-19 Impact
Meetings have been scheduled with all departments. Mr. Spafford believes that the City will be able to weather the storm, but are going to have to make, potentially, some hard decisions. Staff will report to Council and Finance Committee regarding status.

Health Department
Mr. Dike asked that as businesses reopen, will the City be sharing Department of Health information. Mr. Spafford said that information will come directly from the Health Department, and we will share that information on the City's webpage as much as possible. Mr. Hardy said that they meet with State every other day. They are working with the State to come up with more understandable ways to interpret the the Orders. The existing Order expires May 1st, new order Restart Ohio starts on that date. Anyone can call the Health department between the hours of 8:00am and 6:00pm at. They also have their Environmental Health Team in the communication, who worked with Doug Steinwart on signs were made for the boat ramps regarding people coming in from out of state are required to self-quarantine for 14 days. There is a wealth of information both on the website and through the Call Center. Mr. Dike asking how people would determine occupancy for a business, and who they should call. Mr. Hardy said the ruling is whatever the building was certified for through the Building Inspector on the Occupancy Permit, and then it would be ½ of that. You will have to go through the local Building Inspector. There should be more guidance coming in the next several days.

Mr. Dike asked if Erie County has had a large outbreak. Mr. Hardy said there have been a couple of hot spots, but thankfully there haven't been too many nursing home issues and no institutional issues at the jails like some other parts of Ohio are experiencing. We were predicted to have a surge rate of 400-500 on a daily basis, and that has been reduced to 20-25 – and we are well under that.

Joel Hagy asked, with phased rollouts coming in the next few weeks, whose responsibility is it for enforcement. Mr. Spafford said that the Police Department has enforcement powers. Some of the guidelines are still fluid. To date, we have had very little to no overtime with the Police Department, but as things start to open, this may add a few more complexities. Mr. Hardy said that the Health Commissioner has jurisdiction to do some of this - not trying to penalize, just educate. Sandusky police have gotten involved in a few situations, but they are trying to avoid that. Police will be used as a last resort. There is a lot of confusion now, but hopefully there will be more clarification by Friday. As more places are able to open up, we will be able to eliminate a lot of the confusion.

Mr. Artino said that he had received an e-mail from a person regarding the condition of the trailer park on the west end. He said that he and Mr. Spafford are going to get together in the next few days to try to come up with a plan to work with Trey at the Health Department and the State to start addressing some of these issues. Mr. Hardy said it has been 2 years since there has been action. There was a managing entity in Columbus that was in charge back. Mr. Spafford said that the commission was abolished and it was passed to the Department of Commerce. The last time we interacted with them, it was sometime in the spring of '18-'19, they said that they were in a transition process. We actively participated in rules and regulations revisions. We were looking for local oversight and authority, but Mr. Spafford was unsure if that was written into the rules. Mr. Artino said it was turned over to the Commerce Department under the Fire Inspectors. We met with some of those folks, but haven't done much for a year or so. The Health Commissioner was given some direction. Mr. Green reinspected the park in early 2019, after working back and forth with the State to determine which violations could be enforced on our end. The State said that as long as it doesn't conflict with any of their codes, that we could go ahead and enforce it. We sent enforcement letters to 14-16 trailers in the park. Mr. Green made contact with Day and walked through with him twice. He was able to address some of the issues at the trailers. The City can't enforce placement of trailers, but holes in siding, trash in yards, etc. we can go after. Mr. Day was able to address most of those items. Mr. Green's plan is to revisit this again this year, with or without the park owner, and walk through and address any additional issues that have arisen since then and continue on that basis, other than specific complaints. Mr. Green will look through records to see what can be enforced. We were given a lot more authority on the property maintenance side.

Monty Tapp asked if Mr. Green has been in contact with the Fire Department regarding life safety codes. Mr. Green has never gone through with the Huron Fire Department, but did walk through John Zimmerman and he addressed some electrical issues with the feeds to the trailers that got taken care of through the building code authority. Mr. Artino said that he, Mr. Spafford and Mr. Green would get together to address this.

Mr. Claus asked if Council would be having any discussion regarding the search committee. Mr. Artino said that would be addressed at the executive session during the regular meeting.

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Tapp to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Artino asked if there was any discussion on the matter. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hardy, Hagy, Claus

NAYS: **None.**

There being a majority of votes in favor, the motion to adjourn passed.

At 6:12 pm, Mr. Artino adjourned the meeting.

Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council

Adopted: 12 MAY 2020

Upon approval by the City Council, the official written summary of the meeting minutes will become a permanent record, and the official minutes shall also consist of a permanent audio recording, excluding executive sessions, in accordance with Section 121.01(III) of the Administrative Code.