



CITY OF HURON
CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

April 21, 2023

Matthew Lasko, City Manager

ECONOMIC/COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

USGS/Harbor Point Marina: The next phase of the Harbor North revitalization is underway. Crews are currently hard and fast at work constructing the approximately 2,500 square foot Harbor Master Building. The entire framing of the facility is completed at this point.

ConAgra: The development team presented to the Planning Commission on Wednesday December 14th for consideration of their conceptual site plan. There was good conversation and the developer left with some suggestions and will return with updated conceptual soon – in March of 2023.

Main Street Parking Lot: The City has received preliminary plans from a developer interested in developing the vacant parking on Main Street that currently sits across the street from Comfort Inn. The preliminary plan calls for the construction of 14 townhouses. This project will first be presented to BZA in December as a handful of variances are needed. We will keep Council apprised as this project progresses.

Two Rivers: Developers and architects presented their Phase I PUD to the Planning Commission on February 15th. The request was conditionally approved. Phase I plans call for the buildout of the remaining single-family lots on Sheltered Brook – which total 27 houses in all. Later phase plans will be submitted near the completion of Phase I.

Related, we anticipate presenting a development agreement to Council in the upcoming weeks related to the development. Moving forward, the City would like to start requiring developers to enter into development agreements which include assurances for construction and completion of roadways, utilities, sidewalks, streetlights, etc....and creates the ability for the City to intervene through bonding to complete the work if needed. It also will create safeguards to ensure any public infrastructure eventually being dedicated to the City is designed to our specification and subject to our inspections.

Lemmy's: During the week of March 20th, the City met with the new owners of Lemmy's restaurant who also purchased the residential structure just west of the restaurant. The owners are looking to make a significant re-investment in the property and the potential exists to construct a new commercial baking facility in Huron to serve all their bakeries throughout Erie County. As part of the process, the owner will be seeking a lot consolidation and rezoning of the site from residential to business. We look forward to this process and their investment in Huron.

Norfolk Southern Holdings: The City hosted Solomon Jackson during the week of March 20th who leads Norfolk Southern's real estate division. We reviewed and talked through future plans with all their Huron Holdings. Long-term the company desires to decommission the N/S rail line along River Road leading into the Carmuese property to partner with the City in converting this to a recreation amenity. Additionally, Norfolk Southern will be meeting with representatives of Carmuese in April/May to determine their long-term plans on the site. All details from this meeting will be shared with the Council as soon as communicated to us.

INFRASTRUCTURE/STREETS/UTILITIES/IT

Rt 6 Phase II: Staff and Council hosted a second work session related to the second phase of Route 6. This work session aimed to finalize the preferred conceptual design of engineers and City staff as well as reviewing the possible options that were considered and will cover rough costs for certain options. Regardless of the preferred option, and final design decision will need to be approved by ODOT District 3 based on results of traffic studies and past precedence.

Sawmill Parkway: The contractor has remobilized. We are installing a temporary road just to the south of the Parkway to keep traffic flowing and minimize congestion. Once this is complete, traffic will be routed over this temporary road allowing us to reconstruct the roadway at the intersection of Sawmill Parkway and Rye Beach Road. Constructing this portion of the roadway all at once will really minimize congestion on both roads as we will not have to be reduced to single lane traffic at the intersection. The contract is simultaneously starting reconstruction at the east end of the Parkway.

There has been a slowdown in construction on the west end of the Parkway. There is a low hanging Frontier cable crossing the temporary road that needs to be raised. The City and Smith Paving are working with First Energy and Frontier to find resolution which we expect in the next week or so. On the east end construction continues to move along as planned.

Sidewalks: The City has executed the design contract with OHM Advisors to commence design work on the new sidewalk installation project which will travel from Gateway Boulevard inside the City limits to Huron Green subdivision in Huron Township. Design will take several months, and both the city and the Township will continue to explore funding opportunities to construct the approximate \$600,000 project. To date, the project has secured \$25,000 from Huron Township and just over \$120,000 from Erie County Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Staff has sent easement documents for review to the four (4) property owners positioned between Anchorage and Gateway. To date, 3 of the 4 needed easements have been executed. Easements are needed to install and maintain this sidewalk connection. The City is also awaiting the results of a \$650,000 funding application made to ODOT Central office for the project. Results of that funding request are slated for April or May of this year.

Pavement Condition and 2023+ Resurfacing: OHM are currently in the design phase of this project. Core samples have been taken in multiple problem areas to discover any possible base issues and are currently being reviewed by staff and OHM.

Bike Lane Repainting: The City is getting ready to issue a bid to repaint the US6 phase 1 bike lanes. These lanes are ready for refreshment, and with a change in product we believe we will gain better longevity. The intent is to change the paint across the bridge deck to be more minimal as any application here will not have a long life due to it being such a harsh environment.

This project will go out to bid on April 24th, 2023 and will close May 11th, 2023.

General: Reminder, there will be a lot of utility work over the summer months, and we wanted to alert our Residents. We will have two fiber internet providers starting to install their fiber for their "Fiber To The Home" (FTTH) offering. This is a wonderful expansion of service providers for the city giving Residents not only choice, but also hopefully driving down the cost. The two companies are OmniFiber and Frontier.

We will also see our OHM partners throughout the city for the remainder of the year collecting our Stormwater asset inventory.

If you have any questions regarding ongoing Utility work in your neighborhood, please reach out to Stuart Hamilton at 419-433-5000 x1104 or email stuart.hamilton@huronohio.us.

Huron Public Power Third Transformer: On January 17th, 2023, an RFP was released to purchase, deliver, ramp up and test this third 69kV transformer. Bids will close February 28th at 2PM EST. We do not expect to be in possession of this unit until the Fall of 2024. This RFP will only cover the purchase, installation and ramp-up of the transformer itself. Once we have a good delivery date, we will issue a second RFP for services to bring it online and provide new controls and switching equipment.

The RFP closed, and we received a single respondent. We have issued a request for clarification on some technical details, and if these are answered satisfactorily, we will bring back legislation to award it to the Council soon.

Legislation will be presented to Council at the April 25th meeting for approval to purchase from Niagara Power Transformer. The bid price was \$1,039,837.00, with 10% due at time of order, 40% due on approval of final plans and 50% due upon installation.

Huron Public Power Expansion: The City is getting close to bidding out our first expansion project for Huron Public Power. This project will allow Huron Public Power to be extended northward down Rye Beach Road, under the railroad tracks and across the entrance to Sawmill Parkway. By doing so, the City will be able to pick up additional customers along Sawmill Parkway on a case-by-case basis should property owners be interested in switching their power provider to Huron Public Power.

Republic Trash Collection Contract: Our current agreement expires on June 30th, 2023, after exercising a one-year extension on the original contract. Staff attempted to negotiate within the current contract to manage costs but could not come to an agreement. This means we will issue a new Request for Proposals. This RFP will take a tiered and options approach allowing the city to compare pricing options and service levels to contain escalating costs. Staff do believe we will see higher pricing than we currently have.

This RFP was issued on April 1st, 2023 and will close on April 28th, 2023. It is available on our city website under the Bid Notices and Tabulations area.

ZONING/CODE/PLANNING

Coastal Management Assistance Grants: On February 22, the City was notified of the results of our grant applications to the Office of Coastal Management of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The City's request for capital dollars to help install a public pathway to the beach behind the water plant was denied. However, we did receive notification that our grant request for Showboat/Wall Street/Lakefront Park planning has been advanced in the process. The application has been sent to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for review to ensure compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. Final notification will be made in May or June.

Main Street Corridor Plan: A joint Planning Commission / Council work session was held on Wednesday April 19th. At the meeting, OHM Advisors presented recommended land uses, improvements and streetscape enhancements based on community and steering committee feedback. Based on this work session, OHM and the Steering Committee will be reviewing feedback and making alterations to the plan. We hope to present a final plan for consideration and adoption to the Planning Commission and Council in June.

Tree Assessment: The City met internally during the week of April 17th to provide one last review of a proposed tree inspection and assessment ordinance that will streamline the process and make it easier for property owners and the City to remove dead, dying and diseased boulevard trees. We are hoping to present the ordinance to Council for a first reading in May.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Fish Cleaning Station: The final electrical work has been completed, the lighting controls have been tested and acceptance testing has been scheduled with ODNR on April 25th, 2023. On completion of a successful test, the fish cleaning tables will remain open for use in a soft open status until an official opening can be scheduled for some time in May/June.

On Tuesday April 18th, Shores and Islands Ohio held their annual meeting at Wesley Lodge in Lakeside. At the meeting, the City of Huron and our Parks and Recreation Department was honored with the "Extraordinary Destination Enhancement" award for the Fish Cleaning Station. The project was noted as a gamechanger for the region. It was also noted that the City of Huron's application for Destination Development grant funding in 2022 was the only project of the 47 awardees to receive a perfect score. A special thank you to Doug Steinwart and their team for this achievement and recognition.

Tennis Courts: The City is reviewing final design documents prior to bidding the project. This project went out to bid April 10th with bids due May 2nd, 2023 at City Hall in the Conference room. During the bidding process, the City will also be issuing a community survey to determine which type of sport is more desired and most likely to further activate Faben's. Results of this survey

and bid will be presented at a work session on May 9th, 2023 to make a final decision on final design selection. **As of a week ago, we were already nearing 300 respondents.**

624 Berlin Road: Ed Burdue and Co. have demolished the single-family home and removed debris from the site. Crews will return to the site in the Spring of 2023 to complete final grading and seeding. After soliciting multiple proposals, the City has decided to select City Architecture out of Cleveland. An agreement has been signed with the firm to guide staff and the community through the reimagining of this space. Deliverables will include multiple stakeholder meetings, community survey, structural analysis of the barn, aerial renderings, multiple site renderings and cost estimates.

During the week of April 3rd, Ed Burdue also razed the barn structure. Additional site clearance and final grading and seeding are still required. We are also thankful to ECLRC for providing an additional \$12,000 in funding for this removal.

Fieldhouse: The next regularly scheduled fieldhouse exploratory meeting is set for Monday April 24th at 2:00 pm and the Boat Basin. At this meeting, we hope to review additional information related to potential high level cost estimates, potential programmatic layout of the space and begin to think through the fundraising strategy.

FINANCE

2021 and 2022 Financial Audits: The State Auditors completed the City's 2021 financial audit and the final report should be sent to Council within the next week. There were no reportable findings and a few management letter comments. The comments should be corrected with the 2022 audit. Please let me know if Council wants to have a post-audit conference with the auditors. The Finance Department expects to get back on schedule with the 2022 audit, which will result in the audit being released by July/August.

March Monthly Financial Report: The March financial report is available for review and linked below.

<https://stories.opengov.com/huronoh/published/Xq17hPUHk>

WATER DEPARTMENT

Recent Activity:

- March average plant capacity 73.2%
- Neptune AMR Transmitters. Actively installing Neptune AMR Transmitters on round 2.
- The Consumer Confidence Report has been finalized and posted to the City's website. Printed copies have been distributed at City Hall, Boat Bain and library, and residents will be provided an online link on their next water bill.

- A customer water service line was disrupted by the fiber company at 311 Wilbor. Staff was able to make this repair and resume water service within hours.
- The Zenner website has been down for the past week. Zenner is the former meter reading service used by the City but is still being used as the transition is made to Neptune. Zenner assures that our services will resume this week.
- All water and stormwater repairs have been made in the 60 block of Center Street. The road will be repaved in this section within two weeks.
- A routine cleaning schedule has been established for the tube settlers in the sedimentation basin. A settling basin must be taken out of the service for the tube settlers to be cleaned as they accumulate with sludge over time. Staff has done an excellent job in maintaining this new addition to the water filtration plant.
- Distribution maps have been provided to ODOT for city water mains on Rye Beach Rd. From Cleveland Rd. To Sawmill Parkway. This includes the water main that crosses Route 2 along Rye Beach Rd. This is in preparation for the roundabout project.

Active Project Updates:

- Primary Intake. Legislation is on the agenda for the April 25th Council meeting to approve the proposal of Lake Erie Diving to clean the primary intake as a sole source contractor. The hope is to have this cleaning project completed in June of 2023. Lake Erie Diving has an intimate knowledge of the intake and has performed work for the City for decades. This cleaning has been budgeted in the water capital improvement upgrades for this year.

South Main Street Watermain Replacement: The proposed improvements for this project include:

- Portions of South Main (south of Valleyview) approx. 775'
- Portions of Huron Avery from the Mudbrook to city limits, approximately 1300'
- Portions of Mudbrook Road approx. 650'
- Full replacement on Forest Hills, Valleyview, and Hickory Drive – approximately 2332'
- Full replacement on Mill Street approx. 342'
- Partial replacement on Huron Street approx. 605'

The City will also be exploring whether any road resurfacing should be included in this project as well and under the same contract to secure efficiency in work and potential cost savings. Staff and OHM personnel have submitted one funding application already and are in the process of completing one additional funding application for imminent submittal. OHM are currently in the design phase of this project. A has been scheduled with OHM on April 28th to review the design plan progress.

Secondary Water Intake Project: On January 17th, 2023, an RFQ was issued to choose a partner to design and bid this project. The city received two responses to this RFP. After scoring these responses, Kleinfelder (formerly Poggemeyer) has been selected to negotiate design and bidding

services with. Once agreement has been reached, this proposal will return to Council for consideration.

The City successfully applied for grant monies through Congresswomen Kaptur's office totaling \$2M for this project via the FY 2024 Community Project Funding Appropriations Request.

West Side Water Tower: The City was notified on March 22nd that it is continuing in the process for our \$5M grant request to the Ohio Department of Development. This request is seeking a portion of a recently allocated \$250M statewide for water and wastewater infrastructure projects. The City submitted additional information to the Ohio Department of Development in advance of the March 31, 2023 deadline. We will keep the Council apprised as the grant continues to be reviewed at the State level.

PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATION

Police Department: The Police Department has posted both the promotional process for consideration of a new Sgt. To replace Chief Graham and has also posted the employment opportunity for a new patrol officer to replace the promoted Sgt. We hope to wrap up these hirings in the next 1-2 months.

Zoning Inspector: Mr. Jeff Fantozzi began working as our new Zoning Inspector on April 11th.

AGREEMENTS

HPD Handguns: The Huron Police Department is purchasing twenty (20) department owned handguns for each officer in the department including all full-time and part-time officers. The cost of this project is \$21,186.40 and Atwell's Police & Fire Equipment in Painesville, Ohio, was selected as the vendor due to the lowest of three quotes. Officers have been purchasing their own handguns since 1988. Due to not having departmental handguns and allowing officers to purchase their own weapons, our agency has a multitude of different make and model of handguns, different calibers, a wide array of age of handguns, and different holsters with different types of retention levels. The new holsters will also have an "automatic activation" device installed which will automatically activate their Body Worn Camera and any other Body Worn Camera within 30 feet, if any are not already activated, when the handgun is removed or drawn from the holster. This feature will protect the city and the officer from potentially forgetting to activate the Body Worn Camera under the stress of an event. By purchasing this departmentally owned equipment, the weapon, the caliber, and the holster will be standardized which will provide efficiency in training and purchasing ammunition. Additionally, recruiting of part-time officers has been strained due to them having to purchase their own handgun. By having departmental handguns, this should increase recruiting of part-time officers. Each officer will receive specialized training with this new equipment from highly credentialed instructors. Finally, this project will provide our officers with the best and newest technology available to perform their jobs to the best of their abilities.

CONTRACTS

- Seeley, Savidge, Ebert & Gourash Co., LLP (Law) – **Expires 6/3/23**
 - The City is proposing to renew the contract for another 12 months. We hope to present a proposal to Council at one of the May Council meetings for consideration.
- Republic Services – **Expires 06/30/23**
- Bricker & Eckler – HPP Legal Services (Law) – **Expires 9/30/23**
- OHM Advisors (Engineering) – **Expires 12/31/23**
- HJRD Annual Agreement (Recreation) - **Expires 12/31/23**
- Dispatch Agreement – Erie County Sheriff – **Expires 12/31/23**
- City Prosecutor Employment Agreement – expires **12/31/23**
- Personnel Officer Employment Agreement – expires **12/31/23**
- Erie Soil and Water Conservation District (Engineering) – **Expires 1/31/24**
- Dynegy Electric Aggregation Agreement – expires **7/30/25**
- School Resource Officer – **Expires 8/31/26**

UPCOMING MEETINGS

April Meetings:

- City Council Meeting – Tuesday, April 25th at 6:30 in the Council Chambers.

May Meetings:

- HJRD – Tuesday, May 2nd at 6:30pm in Council Chambers;
- Utilities Committee – Wednesday, May 3rd in the Main Conference Room;
- BZA – Monday, May 8th at 5:30pm in Council Chambers;
- Finance Committee Meeting – Tuesday, May 9th at 5:30pm in Council Chambers;
- Council Meeting – Tuesday, May 9th at 6:30pm in Council Chambers;
- Planning Commission – Wednesday, May 17th at 5:00pm in Council Chambers;
- City Council Meeting – Tuesday, May 23rd at 6:30pm in Council Chambers.