

THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO
Proceedings of the Huron City Council
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, June 8, 2021

Call to Order

The Mayor called the meeting of the Huron City Council to order at 6:30pm on June 8, 2021 at Huron City Hall. The Mayor called for a moment of silence. After the moment of silence, the Mayor led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

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

Motion by Mr. Tapp to excuse Mr. Claus' absence from the meeting. The Mayor asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Member of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Tapp, Artino, Dike, Hardy, Hagy, Crawford (6)
NAYS: None (0)

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

Staff participating in the meeting: City Manager Matt Lasko, Assistant to the City Manager Mike Spafford, Planning and Zoning Manager Erik Engle, City Engineer Russ Critelli, Law Director Todd Schrader and Executive Administrative Assistant/Clerk of Council Terri Welkener.

Approval of Minutes

None.

Audience Comments

- **Joseph Catri, 902 Superior Drive.** Mr. Catri said his street signs – they say Superior Street instead of Superior Drive. He said that the End of School Zone sign wasn't replaced in front of St. Pete's and asked if St. Pete's is going to get a school zone sign like they got at the high school. He asked if a school zone sign will be installed on Berlin Road as well. He said he was told that there has to be 200' frontage for a school zone, but the high school doesn't even have 200'. He asked if the bike lane is temporary, why are they blowing all the money on the paint and signage to satisfy less than 1% of the population of the City. He doesn't see any sense in it. He expressed his displeasure with removal of the street light at Berlin Road – he was told by Mr. Green that it didn't meet the criteria to have a light. He said that the traffic count was taken when the drug store was doing the parking lot, which closed off Tiffin Street to the general public. They also did it in the summer when there is school traffic. If anyone has been down Berlin Road when the school is letting, you are backed up around the corner onto Cleveland Road. He asked if anything is going to be done.

Mayor Artino said Council would have some discussion either at the Mayor's Discussion or the City Manager's Discussion part of the meeting.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Resolution No. 36-2021

Motion by Mr. Hardy that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 36-2021 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH POWER LINE SUPPLY FOR THE PURCHASE OF STREET LIGHTING RELATING TO THE CLEVELAND ROAD STREET LIGHTING PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-ONE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED THIRTY-THREE AND 55/100 DOLLARS (\$151,633.55)) be placed upon its first reading.

The Mayor asked if there was any discussion 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: Hardy, Hagy, Crawford, Tapp, Artino, Dike (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 36-2021 placed on its first reading. The Assistant Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Spafford spoke regarding both Resolution 36-2021 and Resolution 37-2021, which are related. The first resolution (36-2021) relates to the purchase of the street lighting equipment to finish off the street lighting along the US-6 corridor. The following resolution (37-2021) relates to the actual work for the installation of the new lighting. The bases and the conduit and most of the underground work was done as part of the first phase of the reconstruction of US-6, with the intent being to follow up and construct the street lighting piece this summer. The benefits of the conversion are (1) the harbor style lights provide a much better aesthetic, (2) the light dispersion is greatly increased, providing nighttime safety for driving, and (3) the light itself will change from dark orange to the brighter, whiter LED lights which are much more efficient and will reduce overall electric consumption. This project is paid for predominantly out of the street lighting assessment fund, and also out of funds derived from Huron Public Power through the excise tax. The street lighting assessment fund will purchase the equipment, and there will be a short-term note that will eventually be rolled into broader bond issuance as part of the second phase of the US-6 reconstruction project. The remaining funds will be paid from the excise tax. We updated the street lighting assessment last year for the next 3 years, which reduced that assessment from 1 mil to .76 mil, acknowledging the fact that as Huron Public Power grows, the excise tax revenue generation increases. These funds allow us to continue some of the capital projects for street lighting upgrades, while reducing that assessment on the residents.

Mr. Tapp asked Mr. Spafford to confirm that while the conduit is already installed, none of the wiring is done. This project will run all of the wiring, install requisite equipment, and installs the lights themselves. Ms. Crawford asked what the timeframe will be for completion of the project. Mr. Spafford said the lights are an 8-12 week lead time, so this will probably happen sometime this fall.

The Mayor asked if there were any further question or discussion on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the final adoption of Resolution 36-2021. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Hardy, Hagy, Crawford, Tapp, Artino, Dike (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor of adoption, Resolution 36-2021 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution 37-2021

Motion by Mr. Hardy that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 37-2021 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO AWARD THE BID AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH NATIONAL LIGHT & POWER FOR LABOR AND MATERIALS RELATED TO THE CLEVELAND ROAD LIGHTING PROJECT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED THREE HUNDRED TWENTY-SIX THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$326,100.00)) be placed upon its first reading.

The Mayor asked if there was any discussion 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: Hardy, Hagy, Crawford, Tapp, Artino, Dike (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 37-2021 placed on its first reading. The Assistant Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

The Mayor asked if there were any further question or discussion on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the final adoption of Resolution 37-2021. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Hardy, Hagy, Crawford, Tapp, Artino, Dike (6)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor of adoption, Resolution 37-2021 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 38-2021

Motion by Ms. Crawford that the three-reading rule be suspended and Resolution 38-2021 (A RESOLUTION CERTIFYING UNPAID SIDEWALK REPAIR AND/OR CONSTRUCTION CHARGES TO THE ERIE COUNTY AUDITOR FOR COLLECTION) be placed upon its first reading.

The Mayor asked if there was any discussion 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: Crawford, Tapp, Artino, Hardy, Hagy (5)
RECUSE: Dike (1)
NAYS: None (0)

There being five or more votes in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 38-2021 placed on its first reading. The Assistant Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Swaisgood said this resolution certifies unpaid sidewalk repairs to the County Auditor. Back in the fall of 2020, Council approved the sidewalk program and also the work to be done in 5 parcels just off of Cleveland Rd. in the Colonial Colony area. Throughout that process, Smith Paving was hired to do the sidewalk repairs in an amount just under \$14,000. Out of those 5 parcels, 2 of them reimbursed the City for the work, leaving the 3 remaining to be sent to the Auditor to certify them on the tax duplicate beginning

next year over a 5 to 10 year period. The City will collect approximately \$10,580.00 of the remaining balance for the next 5 to 10 years, and that includes that actual cost plus overhead and interest in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code and the ordinance passed by Council. The certification to the Auditor must be done by September, and this will be an annual process as long as there is work to be done on sidewalks through the program. Mr. Hagy asked if there were only 5 properties so far. Mr. Swaisgood verified that number and said that it was very late last fall.

Mayor Artino said that we should keep a close eye on this to make sure it doesn't get out of hand.

The Mayor asked if there were any further question or discussion on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the final adoption of Resolution 38-2021. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Crawford, Tapp, Artino, Hardy, Hagy (5)
RECUSE: Dike (1)
NAYS: None (0)

There being a majority in favor of adoption, Resolution 38-2021 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

City Manager's Discussion

Mr. Lasko spoke on the following topics:

- **Rye Beach TIF**. The City has submitted the required DTE 24 forms to the Erie County Auditor's Office for review and, hopefully, approval, which is the first step in a 2-step process between the County Auditor and the State Department of Taxation. The County Auditor is finalizing its review of the recently adopted TIF legislation and we anticipate this will be completed very soon and the documents sent off to the State Department of Taxation. We have also sent the documents to the Ohio Development Services Agency for recognition of the revised TIF. Council will be kept apprised and updated as we get this finalized over the next couple of weeks.
- **ConAgra**. We are out to RFP/RFQ on the site. There is a submission deadline of June 21st at 5:00pm, which is a Monday about a week and a half away. We have been responding to questions and document requests since the release of the RFP. We will continue to answer the group that we sent the RFP out to, which is a mailing list of about 55-60 development firms. Copies of questions received and the answers are provided to all of those who have received the RFP/RFQ. He hopes to have an update shortly after June 21st in terms of which is actually submitted to the City for that development project.
- **US-6 Phase 1**. OHM continue to undertake traffic studies relates to Phase 1 and will continue to collect data through at least July 4th. Pending Council agreement, we are proposing the public meeting on the road diet and temporary striping of the bike lane on July 27th, which would be the second meeting in July. The hope would be that Council would make a final decision on the final striping plan sometime in August. That is not a firm date, but it something that staff and OHM could be prepared to speak to on July 27th, if that is Council's prerogative.

- Water Plant Expansion. This is the second phase of the water plant expansion, We had the bid opening on June 2nd. There were 2 bids received, with a low bid of just around \$2.5 Million, which is below the contractor's cost estimate of \$2.8 Million. Staff and Poggemeyer are currently reviewing the bids, in detail, in hopes of making a recommendation to Council as early as the next Council meeting.
- Berlin Road Water Main Replacement Project. Work is slated to begin on June 14th in terms of mobilization, with actual work to begin in June 21st. We submitted a copy of the proposed project schedule as part of the Manager's Report late last week. Hard construction work is anticipated to be substantially complete by mid-August with restoration work to continue through the end of August. The contractor for the project, UUI, has requested a hard closure of Berlin Road for the majority of the project schedule, which is tentatively June 21st through August 9th. People will be able to access their homes, as will emergency vehicles. Signs will be posted as soon as possible in advance of the closure. Normally, we like to have a month in advance, but we are working with OHM and UUI to get them up as soon as possible.
- Study of Additional Water Sales to Erie County. There is a joint study underway between the City and Erie County to explore avenues for the City to supply and sell additional water to the County as part of the planned expansion. Poggemeyer has been commissioned to complete the study, which will explore improvements needed to both systems to permit the additional water flow to the County. We will continue to keep Council and the public apprised of that study and its outcomes.
- Storm Cleanup. Mr. Lasko extended a special thank you to the Street Department and Parks and Recreation for the storm clean-up from the high water and winds from a week and a half ago. Also, or police and fire departments were critical throughout the day in those efforts – they responded to a number of calls throughout the day. Crews literally worked the majority of the day and throughout the rest of the weekend with downed trees, alleviating flooding and restoring public parks. We got a lot of calls thanking them for the response to those high water and high winds situations.
- Personnel. We have hired one full-time police officer – Ian Foos. He started with the City at the end of May. We are thrilled with his addition and wish him the best of luck as his career begins with our police department. We are in the final stages of adding one additional police officer, as well, which we hope will happen in the upcoming weeks.
- Upcoming Meetings. BZA – Monday, June 14th @ 6:30pm in Council Chambers; Safety Committee – Tuesday, June 15th @ 11:00am in the main conference room; Planning Commission/DRB – Wednesday, June 23rd at 5:00pm in Council Chambers.
- City Manager Absence. Mr. Lasko will be on vacation from June 13th through June 18th. Mike Spafford will be the Acting City Manager during his absence. Mr. Lasko will be available, as needed, by phone or otherwise.

Mayor Artino asked Mr. Lasko to address Mr. Catri's comments. With regard to the Superior Drive sign, he said that he would follow up with the Street Department, specifically Steve Didelot, regarding the signage issue.

Mr. Catri spoke from the audience saying the No Thru Trucks sign was also never replaced on Berlin Rd. Mr. Lasko said he would look into it. Mayor Artino said all of the signage issues will be discussed at the Safety Committee meeting.

Mayor Artino said as far as the bike lane goes, we had several people through phone calls, personal contacts and emails talk to us about a bike lane. With COVID, it was very difficult to have a public meeting/hearing where we can present options and ideas and get input from the public. We thought the next best thing would be to try a temporary setup to get some attention, and we have a hotline and we are still getting feedback on that. We will take a look at all of that information and our engineers are working on renderings of what it will look like. It is a temporary setup and we had the paint redone. Our game plan is to later on this summer to have a public meeting where study findings will be presented and public input heard. The Council will then make a decision on that one way or the other. Ms. Crawford said that we would have ended up with temporary striping, bike lane or not, because by the time they finished the US-6 project it was too late in the year to apply permanent striping. Mr. Catri said the whole this is ridiculous – this is not California. Mayor Artino asked the Clerk to give Mr. Catri the hotline number.

Mayor's Discussion

The Mayor mentioned a flyer received from Columbia Gas that they have filed an application with the PUCO to increase based distribution rates. The Mayor welcomed Officer Foes to the Police Department.

For the Good of the Order

- **Mr. Hardy** – Extended his condolences to the Klines and Macioces. From a Health Department perspective, the State of Ohio did finally hit the magic number last week of a 2-week average of less than 50 cases per 100,000. In addition to the Governor on Tuesday releasing all of the orders, the Health Department still has a lot of vaccine. This isn't something where you just go back to normal. If you haven't been vaccinated, they have plenty of vaccine left to help in that process.

- **Mr. Hagy** – Expressed his condolences to the Macioces and the Klines. Dick Kline was truly a hero. If you ever had an opportunity to read the book A Bridge Too Far, he is called out by name in a meeting he had with General Maxwell Taylor, which was a pretty funny story. He wanted to let everyone know that he is doing a town hall on the 15th of June – he put it on Facebook, but smarter people out there don't even use Facebook. It will be at 6:30pm at the Presbyterian Church. Several citizens and former citizens reached out to him asking if we were going to do anything for the 50th anniversary of the Boat Basin (he didn't even know it was the 50th anniversary). He reached out to staff and Mike Spafford and Doug Steinwart will be working on coming up with some things we can do to recognize that. It is such a big part of our community.

- **Ms. Crawford** – Extended her condolences on the passing of Mr. Kline. He was a gem for our community. She tipped her hat the Parks and Street Department. That was a humdinger of a storm. There is a Safety Committee meeting on Tuesday morning at 11:00am.

- **Mr. Tapp** – Extended his condolences to the Klines. He was a legend around Huron. He had him for a teacher. He is going to be deeply missed. He also expressed condolences to the family of John Macioce, who passed away the other day. He was too young. Thanks to the Street Department and everybody else that worked really hard during the storm.

- **Mr. Dike** – Extended his condolences to the Kline and Macioce families – he was sorry to hear about their losses. Welcome to Office Fools.

Executive Session

None.

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Dike to adjourn the meeting.

The Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Dike, Hardy, Hagy, Crawford, Tapp, Artino (6)

NAYS: None (0)

There being more than a majority voting in favor of the motion, the Mayor declared the meeting of June 8, 2021 adjourned at 6:58pm.



Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council

Adopted: 13 JUL 2021

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