

Infrastructure/Streets

US 6 (Phase II): The City will be holding a work session on potential corridor layouts for the second Phase of Route 2. The work session will be held at 5:30 on February 9th in the Council Chambers. Representatives from OHM Advisors will be present share design options for the second Phase with the public and Council. The main discussion will be to review the steps for creating an intersection for Jim Campbell and US 6 near the Michigan left (break in the limited access). The proposed project exhibits are included in the work session packet.

School Zone Radar Signs: As discussed with the Safety Committee, Council will have legislation to purchase two (2) additional sets of the school zone radar signs on its upcoming meeting. These will be installed on Ohio Street to serve McCormick Junior High School and Cleveland Road West to serve the High School. These will be funded and maintained by the City with the Schools handling the day-to-day operations/programming.

Sawmill Parkway: Based on the feedback from the previous Council meeting, staff is preparing a financial plan to initiate the full reconstruct of Sawmill Parkway. Staff is currently re-working a grant application to re-apply for the EDA grant that was unsuccessful last fall based on feedback received from the EDA. This grant, if successful, would award \$2 million towards the project. In addition, staff and ECEDC have made official requests to both JobsOhio and ODOT Jobs and Commerce for additional funding. Depending on the feedback from JobsOhio and ODOT Jobs and Commerce, the City may be requested to make formal application in the next week or two. If so, staff will approach council for permission to make those grant applications. As a reminder, a little over \$400k has already been committed to the job through OPWC.

Snow Plowing: I just want to give a big thank you to Steve Didelot and our entire Streets Department for their work plowing and salting the street last week during the winter storm. It was a long lasting storm and the team put in a tremendous number of hours making the roads safe. My office received many calls from residents wanting to express their gratitude for the crews and the car they took. Great job.

Economic Development

Firelands Scientific Dispensary: The Design Review Board approved the overall design package and signage for the dispensary building. Construction is underway and is anticipated to be completed this summer.

Ardagh: Initial site plans have been submitted for the first phase of development. These are slated to be on the next Planning Commission and Design Review agenda with hopes of beginning construction in March. The Design Review Board approved signage updates for the existing facility.

ConAgra:

- Tax Increment Financing: The City adopted a TIF by ordinance in 2011 that incorporated the ConAgra parcel as well as the bulk of the downtown area north of US 6. The ordinance established a 30-year TIF with proceeds to be utilized to reconstruct specific projects. To-date, this TIF has not been active. The City has engaged Bricker and Eckler, LLP (with the blessing of SSE&G) for a legal review of the existing TIF and potential modifications. Based on the review, I would anticipate legislation forthcoming in the early part of 2021. Prior to moving forward with the infrastructure at ConAgra, the TIF needs to be firmly in place to ensure reimbursement of City funds/expenses.

Economic Development Plan: Staff is currently negotiating a proposal with City Architecture, the firm that authored the Vision 2020 Master Plan, on a process to facilitate finalization of our economic development plan and a refresh of the Vision 2020 Master Plan. The scope of services will be to facilitate guided discussion with Council and to prepare a plan with updated renderings for Council approval. We anticipate this to be a 2-3 month process that will result in development of a list of project priorities for the next 3-5 years.

Zoning/Code

Transient Rental: The transient rental working group met Friday to discuss next steps in the review process. Staff has reached out to the various neighborhoods to get estimations of the number of transient rental properties in each neighborhood. Fridays were set as the standing meeting time until the legislation is completed. The next meeting of this working group is slated for February 12.

Parks and Recreation

ODNR Public Fish Cleaning Station: Staff continues to discuss the potential to partner with ODNR for the construction of a public fish cleaning station at the Boat Launch facility. Staff presented some quick renderings for proposed locations. Based on those drawings, ODNR asked for us to compile rough cost estimates. ODNR re-confirmed that they have a budgetary green light to move forward with at least one, if not two, facilities on Lake Erie (preferably Erie/Ottawa Counties) with Huron and Port Clinton being the two primary locations based on anticipated utilization. The cost for construction would entirely be borne by the State, but maintenance would occur locally, similarly to the Boat Launch facility.

Utilities

Sale of Transmission Assets: Since adoption of the final documents at the previous Council meeting, the transaction has closed, and the funds have been deposited into the City's account. We'll be providing an update to the Finance Committee on Monday to discuss the impact of the sale on the City's debt capacity, as the funds will be utilized to make a principal pay-down on the existing substation debt.

Mucci Power Supply: Staff is working with AMP to finalize a new 3-year power supply purchase for Mucci's load. The power market continues to stay very low and its proving to be an excellent opportunity to help Mucci further control and reduce its costs. The likely rate from AMP is expected to be lower than what was originally acquired from the market in 2018 when Mucci first came on board. Reminder, this is only the energy portion of their rate and not Huron Public Power's distribution charge added on top.

Finance/Budget

Finance Committee Meeting: The 1st Quarter Finance Committee Meeting will be held on Monday, February 8th @ 5 pm in Council Chambers. Here is a link to the financial summary created through the City's newly purchased software, OpenGov: <https://stories.opengov.com/huronoh/published/4uyxzLKzI> We are planning to use OpenGov for monthly financial reports to Council, as well.

January Income Tax: January income tax collections were up by approximately \$10,000, or 5%, compared to 2020. This appears to be a good sign for the local economy as we begin 2021.

Personnel:

OHM Advisors: We have been notified that Doug Green of OHM Advisors will be leaving OHM, and no longer serving as our Community Rep. Doug has been with the city since 2010. He was integral member of the team and extremely dedicated. We're going to miss him but wish him the best in his future endeavors. He will remain on through the end of the month while we explore various options for service replacement.

Water: In 2021, the Water Plant is anticipated to move towards 24/7 operation, which has long been a goal of the City. To do so, this will require the addition of one more employee. The City has closed the advertising process and is in receipt of several applications/resumes. Interviews are anticipated to occur over the upcoming weeks with the goal of having a new employee on board in March.

Police: The City is working with the National Testing Network to administer the testing process for potential candidates to be considered for officers of the Huron Police Department. The testing process has begun with candidates likely to be identified hopefully by March of this year. The City is planning to hire two (2) full-time police officers – 1 of which is backfilling a recent retirement and 1 of which is an additional new officer.

Zoning/Planning: The City has closed the advertising process and is in receipt of several applications/resumes. Interviews are anticipated to occur over the upcoming weeks with the goal of having a new employee on board in March/April.

Agreements

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)
 - o The City’s current agreement with the Erie Soil and Water Conservation District expires on January 31, 2021. The City is currently in conversations with the District about entering into another one (1) year agreement to assist with the City’s stormwater management activities. Both parties are awaiting issuance of the new MS4 Permit Improvement plan (likely in February or March) to inform the scope of work that should be included in the next agreement between the City and the District. The District has committed to continue working on compliance matters with the City until a new agreement is entered into – which we greatly appreciate. The 2021 budget does include an allowance for stormwater management services.
- Chief Building Official and Inspection Services (Building)
- Prosecutor (Court)
- HJRD Annual Agreement (Recreation)
- Huron Township Fire Protection Agreement (Fire)
- Seeley, Savidge, Ebert & Gourash Co., LLP (Law)
- 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 so as to have a better understanding of any COVID related impacts (or lack thereof) to the City’s budget.