



CITY OF HURON
CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

April 27, 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. Anticipated completion date is still slated for early to mid-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: The City will be moving forward with issuing a Request for Qualifications and Proposals in the upcoming weeks for the site. To broaden the marketing strategy and to reach a deeper developer pool, the City anticipates partnering with The Montrose Group, LLC out of Columbus – a highly respected and proven economic development consulting firm. The City hopes to release the RFP official during the first week of May.

INFRASTRUCTURE/STREETS/UTILITIES

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 – the City has received a conditional offer letter from Jobs Ohio and submitted a formal application for funding. We are hoping to get State Controlling Board approval in April.
- 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.

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 tentatively scheduled to conclude near the end of April. Once construction is completed, the County's contractors will then begin 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 punchlist walkthrough. This will be completed as soon as the County's contractors have completing their restoration to any disturbed areas.

Speed Limit Radar Signs: The two additional sets of radar signs to be installed in front of the High School and Middle school are anticipated to occur the first or second week of May. Along with this installation, additional beacons were ordered to alert drivers pulling out in the middle of a school zone if the reduced speeds applied.

Ohio Edison Tree Trimming: Ohio Edison has commenced its annual tree trimming as of mid-April. This work, being completed by Nelson Tree Service will continue through the fall. Ohio Edison is usually able to cover the entire City on a 4-year cycle. A list of streets to be maintained this year (along with maps) have been included in this report in case questions arise.

Route 6 Phase I/II:

- OHM Continues to collect traffic study data on the road diet striping plan and will continue to do so through mid-summer. Based on this data, coupled with community feedback, it is anticipated a decision will be made on the final striping plan shortly thereafter in hopes of completing final striping in September.
- The City continued to finalize the bid package for the lighting package for Route 6 and hopes to go out to bid shortly on that project.
- OHM continues to collect data on Route 6 Phase II.

- OHM continues to develop renderings of what formalized bike lanes could look in a final stripping plan along with instruction on how to utilize the bike lanes appropriately.

ZONING/CODE

N/A

PARKS AND RECREATION

Paddle Shack LLC/Scooter Ding Ding: Doug Steinwart is working with the Law Department on agreements with Paddle Shack LLC and Scooter Ding Ding. Paddle Shack LLC is a local company that leases a storage building at Nickel Plate Beach and rents out beach-related gear, and Scooter Ding Ding is an electric scooter business looking to have presence at the Huron Boat Basin and Nickel Plate Beach.

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.

FINANCE

Water Bill Update: The moratorium on water shutoffs was not extended for the current billing cycle (2nd quarter bills). To provide an update on the 1st quarter bills, 24 accounts remain delinquent (down from 39 delinquent accounts from two weeks ago), totaling \$6,305 in outstanding bills (1% of total billed). Although no customers have been interested in setting up a payment plan, staff will continue to offer a payment plan to prevent shutoffs. Staff will notify Council if delinquent accounts are higher than average during the current billing cycle (2nd quarter bills). As of April 22nd, there are 382 accounts unpaid which is average at this point in the billing cycle. Second notices will be sent out next week.

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 April 22nd:

- 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.
- The City will have until December 2024 to use these 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 has not been released on permissible uses. Although the bill generally defined allowable uses for the funds (e.g., revenue loss and economic assistance), Treasury guidance will provide a better roadmap for the City as a local ARP strategy will be developed. The Office of Budget and Management is hosting a spring webinar series beginning on April 29th to provide more information on ARPA.

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 released.

WATER DEPARTMENT

Active Projects:

- Engineering blueprints for the tube settlers are expected this week. Once completed, the City will move forward with advertising for bids for the construction of the project. We anticipate this to occur in the upcoming weeks. The project is slated to be completed near the end of the calendar year.
- Rye Beach water tower repair schedule for 5/3/21.
- Roadway repairs are underway from winter water main breaks.
- Filtration plant pipe repainting is underway.
- Initial meeting with Erie County/Poggemeyer regarding potential increase of water sales to the County was held on April 22nd. This conversation is being made possible by the tube settle project which will allow the water plant to produce an extra, approximately 2.4 MGD above current plant capacity. We will continue to keep council apprised of these conversations as they progress.

PERSONNEL

Water Plant – Maintenance Worker III: First and second round interviews have been completed for new plant operator. We anticipate extending an offer to one of the candidates shortly.

Planning and Zoning Manager: We welcomed Erik Engle on board as our new Planning and Zoning Manager. Erik started on April 19th and will be sharing the zoning office with Christine Gibboney.

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)
- 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

April

Utilities Committee: Monday, April 26, 2021 at 5:00pm in the main conference room.

Planning Commission/Design Review Board: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at 5:00pm in Council Chambers.

May

HJRD: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 6:30pm in Council Chambers.

BZA: Wednesday, May 10, 2021 at 6:30pm in Council Chambers.

Council Meeting: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 6:30pm in Council Chambers.

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.