



CITY OF HURON  
CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

June 18, 2021

Matthew Lasko, City Manager

## ECONOMIC/COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**Lake Erie Parkway:** Buckeye Sports Group has submitted development plans for the last remaining 5-acre site on Lake Erie Parkway (across from Goodwill). Buckeye is a well-known recreational marine vehicle sales business – specializing in smaller boats, wave runners and kayaks. The project will be presented to the Planning Commission at their next meeting for consideration. We look forward to this project as they would be a welcome addition to the community.

**Ardagh/Sawmill Pkwy:** Staff is currently reviewing what is the last phase of the redevelopment plans. Phase 1, which is the initial addition on the western portion of the building, is nearing completion. Ardagh will be submitting a petition to the City requesting a vacation of last 300-400 feet of Sawmill Parkway to make way for the major phase of construction. OHM has been working with Ardagh's engineering group to coordinate both the Sawmill Pkwy reconstruction and acquisition of right-of-way to make way for a turnaround at the end of the road. Staff also envisions approaching council in the next meeting or two for consideration of a CRA tax abatement request from the company – following recommendation from the Tax Incentive Review Council.

**Rye Beach TIF:** The City has submitted the required DTE-24 Forms to the Erie County Auditor's Office for review and hopeful approval. The County Auditor's Office is finalizing its review of the recently adopted TIF legislation. We anticipate this review to be completed soon and for the documents to be sent off to the State of Ohio Department of Taxation for finalization and approval. The City has also sent documents to the Ohio Development Services Agency for recognition of the revised TIF through their department as well.

**ConAgra:** On May 6, the City officially released the Request for Qualifications and Preliminary Development Proposals (collectively referred to as the "RFP") for ConAgra. As of noon on June 21, the City had received four (4) responses to the RFP and may receive additional responses. Staff and consultants, Montrose Group, will begin reviewing the responses in early July and undertake interviews with a short list of firms in hopes of providing a recommended firm or firms to Council and the community for presentations.

**Community Housing Impact & Preservation Program (CHIP):** Great Lakes Community Action Partnership has confirmed that the Program Year 2021 Erie County CHIP application has officially been submitted to the Office of Community Development with the State of Ohio. If successful, this will result in the award of approximately \$300,000 in funding to the City of Huron to help income qualifying residents and property owners with critical home repairs and renovations. We will keep Council and the community apprised of the results of this funding.

**New Businesses:** On behalf of the City and Council, we want to extend a warm welcome to two (2) new businesses who have recently opened in the City. Romeo's Pizza has opened in Commerce Plaza at 414 Cleveland Road. Additionally, When Pigs Fly – By the Lake has also opened up at 509 Main Street – and hosted a great grand opening and ribbon cutting on June

11<sup>th</sup>. We want to thank both of those businesses for their investments in Huron and addition to the dining and retail options in town.

## 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 – on April 19<sup>th</sup>, the Controlling Board of the State of Ohio approved a \$1,000,000 grant through Jobs Ohio and the Development Services Agency – 629 Roadwork program. The City executed grant paperwork on May 17, 2021 and submitted the same to the State of Ohio Development Services Agency for final approval.
- 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. As of May 21, the application was still being reviewed by their architectural and engineering teams.

**Berlin Road Waterline:** Crews have placed updated signage along the corridor in anticipation of the start of construction this week. In addition, flyers have been placed on all doors along the corridor. Crews hope to finish major construction works and road resurfacing by early August in hopes of completing all necessary restoration work (grading, seeding, strawing) by the end of August.

**Route 6 Phase I/II:** Staff, in coordination with the team at OHM, have completed a design package and presentation documents highlighting the proposed striping modifications along the US 6 corridor. Those documents have been posted to the city's website and a story regarding the plans was included in this weekend's edition of the Sandusky Register.

Please follow this link to review the full design package: <https://bit.ly/3yFFGcW>

OHM continues to undertake traffic studies related to Phase I and will continue to collect data through July 4<sup>th</sup>. ***The public information/feedback meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday July 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM. The meeting will be held at McCormick prior to the Council meeting.***

**Broadband:** As part of the State's biennial budget, the Senate approved a provision that would place significant restrictions on the creation of a municipal broadband system. The bill restricts service territories to those currently unserved (meaning no access to any broadband provider), restricts service to being within the municipal boundary, restricts ability to utilize outside funding sources (particularly federal funds), and eliminates the ability to earn a return on funds invested (any profit must be refunded). This provision has been sent to the House for review and will be subject to the Governor's signature should the House approve it.

## ZONING/CODE/PLANNING

**Masterplan Update and Visioning:** The materials discussed at our work session on May 25<sup>th</sup> were presented to the Planning Commission the following evening. The administration plans to present the draft plan in more detail at an upcoming meeting prior to Council's final consideration. Tentatively, presentation of the first draft of the updated plan is planned for July 13<sup>th</sup>, contingent on staff and City architecture having draft content, financials, and renderings (where applicable) and maps ready. If this date changes, staff will keep Council apprised.

## PARKS AND RECREATION

**Safety Town:** The first week of Safety Town is complete and has been very successful. Huge thanks to all departments involved and for the Schools for the continued partnership.

**Summer Programming:** Since the last update, the Parks Dept. was able to add an additional concert event at the Boat Basin. The event will be this Saturday. In addition, staff is exploring moving forward with the fireworks show typically done in conjunction with Riverfest.

**Fireworks:** A reminder that there will not be fireworks on July 4<sup>th</sup> this year. However, there will be fireworks on Saturday July 10<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10:00 PM – which will be set off from the former ConAgra Property.

**Fish Huron Ohio:** A reminder that Fish Huron is hosting the National Walleye Tour in Huron this Thursday and Friday. There are currently over 120 teams registered. A big welcome to the anglers who are traveling from all over the county for this event and wishing everyone good luck.

## FINANCE

**Monthly Financial Report:** The monthly financial report for May was sent to Council and the Finance Committee. Please let the Finance Director know if you have any questions with the report or are interested in seeing additional information in the monthly report going forward.

**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. This number has not been confirmed. Here is what we know as of June 18<sup>th</sup>:

- The State is expected to receive the funds in June and has 30 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. Total allocations to cities under 50,000 in population is not final as of June 18<sup>th</sup>.
- The City will have until December 2024 to commit these funds to a purchase/project, and December 2026 to expend the 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 was released for entitled cities (Cities over 50,000 in population). Most, if not all, of this guidance is expected to apply to non-entitled cities (under 50,000 in population). Staff is preparing plans and analysis using the most recent guidance from the U.S. Treasury.

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 confirmed by the Federal and State governments.

## WATER DEPARTMENT

### Active Projects:

- New hire Alex Hoyt successfully completed training and is now on his own shift.
- Simonson Construction had the low bid of \$2,496,000 at the bid opening for the Huron Water Treatment Plant Tube Settler Project – legislation to award the bid is on Council's agenda for June 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Reminder - Berlin Road water main replacement work began in earnest June 21<sup>st</sup>. 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 – tentatively planned for June 21 – August 9. People accessing homes will be permitted through along with emergency vehicles. Signs will be posted in advance alerting people of the closure along with detour signs where applicable.
- 12" Sawmill Parkway water main was partially abandoned at the Ardagh site late last week.
- Jim's Pizza Box final top coat of blacktop has been completed.
- Insert valve for failed fire line at Commerce Plaza has been repaired.

## STREETS DEPARTMENT

N/A

## PERSONNEL

**Police Department:** New full-time police officer Jason Chaffee will be starting with the department on June 27<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to his start with the police force and wish him the best of luck as he begins his full time position.

## 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)
  - Staff has met with Huron Township regarding renewal of the above agreement. It was a very fruitful conversation with both jurisdictions verbally coming to agreement on multiple mutually beneficial changes to the new agreement – which will be either a two- or four-year agreement to not have this contracts expiration coincide with the expiration date of the fire bargaining unit contracts. Staff and legal counsel will be completing a red line update to the agreement for Huron Township review in hopes of brining a new contract to Council for consideration at an upcoming meeting.
- Seeley, Savidge, Ebert & Gourash Co., LLP (Law) **Completed.**
- 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 beginning of Q3 to have a better understanding of any COVID related impacts (or lack thereof) to the City's budget.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### June

**Council Meeting:** Tuesday, June 22, 2021 at 6:30pm in Council Chambers.

**Planning Commission/Design Review Board:** Wednesday, June 23, 2021 at 5:00pm in Council Chambers.

### July

**Utilities Committee Meeting:** Wednesday, July 7, 2021 at 5:00pm in the main conference room.

**Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting:** Monday, July 12, 2021 at 6:30pm in Council Chambers.

**Council Meeting:** Tuesday, July 13, 2021 at 6:30pm in Council Chambers.

**Council Work Session:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 at 5:30pm in Council Chambers.

**Council Meeting:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 at 6:30pm in Council Chambers.

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