

**THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO**  
**Proceedings of the Huron City Council**  
**Special Meeting Saturday, July 27, 2019, at 6:30 p.m.**

A special meeting of the City Council of the City of Huron, Ohio was called to order by Mayor Trey Hardy on Saturday, July 27, 2019, at 6:30p.m. in the Council Room of City Hall, 417 Main Street, Huron, Ohio.

The Mayor called for a moment of silence. After the moment of silence, the Mayor led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, and then directed the Clerk to call the roll. The following members of Council answered present: **Rick Schaffter, Christine Crawford, Trey Hardy, Joe Dike, and Sam Artino. Members absent Glen Ginesi.** Also present: City Manager Andy White. \* Note: Mr. White served as Clerk during the meeting. Also in attendance, applicants for the vacancy on City Council: William Biddlecombe, Mark Claus, Sharon Gallagher, Joel Hagy, John Jones, and Julie Spitzley.

Mayor Hardy referenced the purpose of the meeting was to conform with the Charter's 100 day rule to appoint a member to fill the vacancy on City Council until the November General Election at which time the unexpired term would be on the ballot. Brief discussion ensued as to Council preference of utilizing executive session or the open meeting to discuss the appointment. Members chose to conduct review and discussion in the open meeting.

**New Business**

Mayor Hardy announced Council would interview applicants beginning with Mr. Biddlecombe and asked remaining applicants to exit the room to be called in individually. Council Members invited each applicant to make a statement if they had one, and asked each a series of questions including: their reason for applying, their strengths, weaknesses, and what essential attribute they believe is needed in a Council member.

- **William Biddlecombe:** Spoke of his involvement with River Fest for 12 years, serving as President for 4 years, and being a member of the H-Team for 10 seasons, noting the logical progression was to get involved with the city and referencing his desire to give back to the community. Attributes of a Council member: Dedication to the city with no personal agenda. Strengths: Referenced the population in Huron getting older and decreasing, stating that he believes being younger he may be able to bring new forms of idealism to keep younger people in the area. Weakness: inexperience serving on City Council. Mr. Dike thanked Mr. Biddlecombe for applying and encouraged him to run for office.
  
- **Mark Claus:** Read a brief statement expressing his interest in serving the citizens to represent their best interests, noted his regular attendance at meetings over the last 19 months, and being well informed of city matters. He referenced the submission of his petition to the Board of Elections, noting he is working on his campaign and stating he would be open minded, fair and professional, and would listen to all sides. He stated he would make the effort to become well informed on Sunshine Laws and take the training and would learn the inner workings of Council and protocol. Attributes of a Council member: Being open minded, consider all sides of issues, and be transparent. Weakness: inexperience serving on City Council, would not want to make any presumptions. Mr. Dike congratulated on Mr. Claus on running for office and wished him luck.

- Sharon Gallagher: Explained now that she is retired from teaching, she has time to dedicate and give back to the community. She explained her reason for interest was due to the atmosphere in the nation and the friction that exists currently, stating she would like to try and dispel this. Essential attribute of a Council member: Flexibility. Strengths: problem solving skills and the ability to think outside the box and consider alternate options. Weakness: inexperience serving on City Council, noting there will be a learning curve, but stating she is willing to learn. Mr. Dike thanked Ms. Gallagher asking if she is considering running for office; Ms. Gallagher noted she is considering running. Mr. Dike wished her the best of luck.
- Joel Hagy: Referenced his plans to run for the four year term in November and the opportunity to serve on council now and learn more about the Council. Strengths: Experience and background in working with organizations in making difficult decisions and working with those with differing opinions. Weakness: inexperience, there would be a learning curve. Essential attributes of a Council member: care about the community above all else. Mr. Dike thanked Mr. Hagy for his interest and in plans to run for office.
- John Jones: Referenced looking forward to an opportunity to learn more about city operations and to contribute as a proactive citizen. Strengths: positive outlook, interest in how the city moves forward, dedication. Mr. Dike recognized his work on various committees; Mr. Jones provided background on his work with Abbey Rose Foundation, Board of Health, and Friends of the Library. Mr. Dike inquired if Mr. Jones will run for office; Mr. Jones replied he was undecided at this time. Weakness: Inexperience with procedures of Council. Essential attributes of a Council member: honesty, focus, willingness to move the city forward.
- Julie Spitzley: Explained she would do a good job if appointed and in response to why she applied, she referenced the talk around town, noting she does not have a personal agenda and would like to see that throughout the city. She stated she is good at hearing both sides of issues. Essential attributes of a Council member: listen more than speaking, be upfront and honest when dealing with questions/inquiries. Strengths: being familiar with the community, service on several boards/committees over the years and currently, ability to work with people, open-mindedness. Weakness: Time, adding that she views this as a civic duty and is willing to step up and make the time to serve.

With the completion of the interviews, all applicants were invited back into the meeting. The Mayor thanked the staff and Council members for pulling together and accommodating this special meeting. He advised pursuant to the Charter, a majority of Council, (four votes), are required for the appointment of an individual. Mayor Hardy explained with an appointment made, there would be a separate ballot item specific to the unexpired term in addition to the three regular four-year term seats on the November ballot. Mr. Artino stated he appreciated the interest from all applicants and provided comment on his philosophy relative to the importance of the election process and the qualities he would be looking for in a candidate: strength, representation of all citizens equally, willingness to fight for the city, open mindedness, and the ability to listen and be flexible. He commented that if a candidate considers citizens who challenge Council being enemies, this is not the place for you. He also noted the importance of experience with service on other boards/commissions and showing interest by attendance at council meetings. Mayor Hardy thanked all applicants and asked Council members that when making motions in support of a candidate to please explain the reasoning for support or the reason for not supporting the candidate.

**Motion by Ms. Crawford to appoint Ms. Spitzley to fill the current vacancy in the position of council member and to serve until a successor is elected at the regular municipal election to occur on Tuesday, November 5, 2019, as provided in Section 2.05 of the Charter. The Mayor asked if there**

was discussion on the motion. Ms. Crawford referenced Ms. Spitzley's comments on the importance of listening, noted her involvement on various boards/committees in the city, her family's history of service on Council and being a local business owner. Mr. Dike explained his position, noting he would not be supporting the appointment as he would be supporting the two individuals that have already submitted their petitions to run for office to the Board of Elections. Mr. Artino explained he would not be supporting the appointment, referencing his previous statement of wanting to see interest by being in attendance at meetings and interest in going through the political process to serve on City Council. Mayor Hardy referenced his review of all applications, and his support of the appointment referencing Ms. Spitzley's comments on bringing back civility and in having no personal agendas. There being no further discussion, the Mayor asked the Clerk to call the role on the motion. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS: Schaffter, Crawford, Hardy**

**NAYS: Dike, Artino**

There being less than four votes in favor, the motion failed.

**Motion by Mr. Dike to appoint Mr. Claus to fill the current vacancy in the position of council member and to serve until a successor is elected at the regular municipal election to occur on Tuesday, November 5, 2019, as provided in Section 2.05 of the Charter.** The Mayor asked if there was discussion on the motion. Mr. Dike referenced his previous comment in support of those who have already committed to running, noting Mr. Claus was the first of the two who have submitted documentation to the Board of Elections. Mayor Hardy commented that Mr. Claus is very organized and believes he would bring many attributes to the city, but explained his reasoning is opposite that of Mr. Dike; in that, he would not be looking at those already running for office as they will be chosen by the public. Ms. Crawford recognized all applicants for their interest and commitment in serving, but agreed with Mr. Hardy regarding those that are already running and allowing constituents to make the choice as they have already filed petitions and are already running for office. Mr. Schaffter stated he did not agree with Mr. Hardy and Ms. Crawford as he believes consideration for appointment should be on a case by case basis. He expressed his appreciation to all who have applied, noting the turbulent times in city and encouraging all applicants to consider running. Mr. Artino referenced support of Mr. Claus, referencing the effort and interest he has shown by being in attendance at numerous Council and committee meetings and his interest in learning about city operations. Mr. Dike referenced the comments made by Mr. Hardy and Ms. Crawford regarding their positions in not being in support of those already running, stating he assumes they would take the same action if he would make a motion for Mr. Hagy. Mr. Hardy noted for the record that this is his personal position on the matter. Mr. Dike noted for that reason he would not be making any motions, stating he would vote yes for any other motion for appointment made in order to move on and approve an appointment. There being no further discussion, the Mayor asked the Clerk to call the role on the motion. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS: Dike, Artino**

**NAYS: Schaffter, Crawford, Hardy**

There being less than four votes in favor, the motion failed.

**Motion by Mr. Schaffter to appoint Mr. Hagy to fill the current vacancy in the position of council member and to serve until a successor is elected at the regular municipal election to occur on Tuesday, November 5, 2019, as provided in Section 2.05 of the Charter.** The Mayor asked if there was discussion on the motion. Mr. Schaffter proponent of the military, noting Mr. Hagy's military service, attendance at council meetings. There being no further discussion, the Mayor asked the Clerk to call the role on the motion. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS: Schaffter, Dike, Artino**  
**NAYS: Crawford, Hardy**

There being less than four votes in favor, the motion failed.

**Motion by Mr. Schaffter to appoint Mr. Jones to fill the current vacancy in the position of council member and to serve until a successor is elected at the regular municipal election to occur on Tuesday, November 5, 2019, as provided in Section 2.05 of the Charter.** The Mayor asked if there was discussion on the motion. Mr. Schaffter noted Mr. Jones' attendance at Council and committee meetings and his care of the community. Mayor Hardy referenced Mr. Jones' service on the Board of Health stating that as a matter of full disclosure that he (Mr. Hardy) is an employee of the Health Department. He noted Mr. Jones' attendance at council and committee meetings, attendance at community events, involvement with the school, and being active within the community. The Mayor asked the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS: Schaffter, Crawford, Hardy, Dike**  
**NAYS: Artino**

There being four or more votes in favor, motion passes, and Mr. John P. Jones appointed to fill the council vacancy through the November General election.

**Resolution 2019-43**

**Motion by Mr. Dike that the three reading rule be suspended and Resolution No. 2019-43 (A RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF HURON AN ELECTION TO FILL A VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER FOR AN UNEXPIRED TERM.) be placed upon its first reading.** The Mayor asked if there was any discussion on the motion. The Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of the Council voted as follows:

**YEAS: Schaffter, Crawford, Hardy, Dike, Artino (5)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being five votes or more in favor of the motion, the Mayor declared the motion passed. The Mayor directed the City Manager to read the Resolution by its title only. The Mayor asked if there was any discussion. Mr. White explained adoption of the legislation is a conservative effort in addition to the appointment, and another step to verify the process has taken place; certifying the opportunity to place this as a special election for the unexpired term. Mayor Hardy summarized: this allows the city to advise the Board of Elections to open up the two year seat and place this unexpired term on the election in November, noting there would be three 4-year seats and one 2-year seat on the ballot. There being no further discussion, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the final adoption of Resolution 2019-43. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS: Schaffter, Crawford, Hardy, Dike, Artino (5)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution No. 2019-43 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

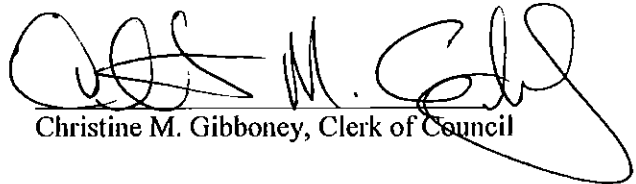
Mayor Hardy referenced email correspondence from county Attorney Gary Gross of the Board of Elections Gross who advised the following: all candidate petitions are due August 7 at 4:00pm at the Board of Elections office, anyone with interest in running for the new 2 year position needs to go to

Board of Elections and get their petitions and follow protocol as required by the Board of Elections with submission of petitions due by the deadline of August 7. Mayor Hardy noted the city will continue to work with the Board of Elections and referenced the petitions and the need for candidates to specify the term they are running for, advising candidates to consult the Board of Elections. He noted per Mr. Gross that compliance with requirement lies solely with the candidates. Mayor Hardy asked administration to post this information on the website and social media venues.

In response to a question from Mr. Dike, Mr. White confirmed that Mr. Moore of the Huron Joint Port Authority has been asked to attend the next regular City Council meeting on August 13.

Members thanked all the applicants and audience members for their attendance and congratulated Mr. Jones on the appointment.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the Mayor declared the special meeting of July 27, 2019, adjourned at 7:22p.m.



Christine M. Gibboney, Clerk of Council

Minutes prepared from audio of the meeting.