

THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO
Proceedings of the Huron City Council
Work Session Meeting Tuesday, March 26, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

A work session meeting of the City Council of the City of Huron, Ohio was called to order by Mayor Brad Hartung on Tuesday March 26, 2019 at 6:30p.m. in the Council Room of City Hall, 417 Main Street, Huron, Ohio.

The following members of Council were present: **Rick Schaffter, Christine Crawford, Brad Hartung, Sam Artino, and Glen Ginesi. Members absent: Trey Hardy and Joe Dike.**

Staff present: City Manager Andy White, Interim Finance Director Mike Spafford, and Management Services Coordinator-Clerk of Council Christine Gibboney. Also in attendance: Aimee Lane and William Hanna of Walter Haverfield LLP.

New Business

Law Director Services Agreement

Mayor Hartung recognized Ms. Lane and Mr. Hanna of Water Haverfield in attendance to answer questions and provide information. Ms. Lane provided review of her background and 20 years experience with municipal law and Planning /Zoning. She reviewed the scope of the proposal from Walter Haverfield, referenced the extensive specialties within the firm that would be available to the city under the agreement including but not limited to: real estate, labor and employment, tax law, environmental law and referenced their provision of Law Director Services to several other municipalities. Ms. Lane recognized Mr. Hanna noting his experience in employment law and telecommunications. Mr. Hanna provided his background and municipal experience serving as Law Director and Assistant Law Director, experience in telecommunication law, right of way issues, and liquor license experience. He spoke to the benefit to the city of having diverse expertise within the firm available. Referencing the reference to telecommunications experience, the Mayor inquired about municipal broadband, explaining the city was looking into this. Mr. Hanna referenced his work with the City of Hudson on broadband. A brief discussion on the city's current franchise agreement and interest in municipal broadband ensued. Mr. Ginesi inquired as to experience with the expansion of public utilities and the subject of conflict of interest in small towns. Ms. Lane referenced experience in expansion of electric utilities in Hudson and multi-jurisdictional experience. She explained it is common for conflict of interest issues to occur within small communities and referenced her experience with Put in Bay. She advised training sessions for Council and all Boards/Commissions, and suggested it would be best practice that if a member thinks there may be a possibility of conflict, get a legal opinion beforehand. Mr. Ginesi referenced the matter of the Council mid-term pay finding and proposed a scenario of Council members not taking legal advice; asking what she would do in such a situation. A brief discussion ensued, and Ms. Lane explained they would provide the advice to the client, but ultimately Council members have to make the decision, adding she would document the client going against the legal advice. Mr. Ginesi commented he would expect the firm to be stringent in their legal recommendations and willing to terminate their services if Council did not adhere to the advice. Discussion ensued on legislation on the agenda, as Ms. Lane noted she reviewed the agenda packet and referenced concern relative to indemnification language in the agreement for Resolution 2019-18. She explained the liability this clause could cause. Mr. White suggested that Council table this legislation to allow for review and revision.

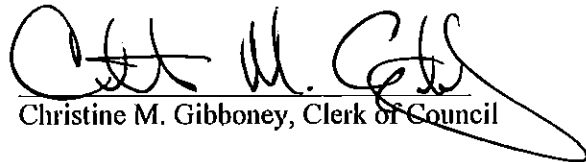
Mr. White referenced the city property that Mr. Waldock wishes to purchase and the purchase agreement to be authorized, but explaining that Mr. Waldock would like to begin clearing the city property portion at

this time. A discussion ensued as members expressed concern with liability in allowing clearing of city property until the agreement has been finalized.

In response to a question by the Mayor relative to the city moving forward with posting audio of all meetings on the website, a discussion relative to records retention, minute format requirements, and audio/video of meetings ensued. Ms. Lane referenced the process through the Ohio Historical Society-Local Government Program, and explained that she was familiar with municipalities that have gone to a summary of minutes that capture only details of meeting date, place, attendees, motions/votes, and brief information along with the full audio and/or video of the meeting which both then comprise the record of the meeting. Ms. Crawford referenced the term of 50 hours per month and the waiver of hours the first couple of months in the agreement, asking if this was a sufficient amount of time the city would be getting. Mr. White referenced splitting up functions that used to be part of the Law Director position as well as referencing the several outside legal firms the city is working with on various issues currently and noting the much higher blended costs of these firms. He referenced the budget, the RFP which did specify a 1 year contract, explaining that he asked for a 3 year fixed rate and noted the termination clause within the proposal. Discussion ensued relative to other municipalities with a Council-Manager form of government utilizing contracted Law Director Services. Mr. Ginesi referenced the fund breakdown relative to the Law Director salary; inquiring if Walter Haverfield could invoice with charges broken down relative to the departmental tasks to be charged to the specific funds. Mr. Hanna acknowledged this could be done.

Ms. Lane provided an overview of trainings for Council and Boards/Committees that could be provided by the firm including: training for newly elected members, Ethics Law, Sunshine Laws, Administrative process/protocol for BZA and Planning Commissions.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the Mayor declared the work session meeting of March 26, 2019 adjourned at 6:25p.m.



Christine M. Gibboney, Clerk of Council