



CITY OF HURON
CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

June 4, 2021

Matthew Lasko, City Manager

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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.

ConAgra: On May 6, the City officially released the Request for Qualifications and Preliminary Development Proposals (collectively referred to as the "RFP") for ConAgra. Responses are due to the City no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 21. Upon receipt, the City will move forward with a selection process that will include internal team review and scoring of proposals and developer qualifications, development team interviews, and also public/council presentations with either a proposed finalist or group of finalists. The City hopes to identify a chosen development partner in late summer or very early Fall. The RFP was proactively sent to a list of nearly fifty (50) firms and interested parties. A copy of the RFP can also be found on the City's website under the "development" tab as well.

The City has been responding to questions and document requests since the release of the RFP. Those questions and documents, on June 3rd, were circulated to the entire mailing list of potential firms. The City will continue to provide all questions received and answers provided to the entire mailing list up until the time of submittal.

INFRASTRUCTURE/STREETS/UTILITIES

Cleveland Road Street Lighting: Bid opening was held on May 27th. Four (4) bids were received, with National Light & Power coming in with the apparent low bid at approximately \$30,000 below the engineer's estimate. There are two (2) legislative items on the agenda for the June 8th Council meeting relating to this project – one for the purchase of the new light fixtures, and one awarding the bid for installation of the lights.

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 19th, 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.

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 substantially completed. Contractors have begun the restoration phase of the project including but not limited to, grading, and seeding, concrete walk repair, drive apron repair, etc...

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 will be 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 4th. Pending Council agreement, staff is proposing to hold a public hearing on Phase I and the temporary striping plan/bike lane inclusion on July 27th. In hopes of making a decision on the final striping plan in August.

ZONING/CODE/PLANNING

Masterplan Update and Visioning: The materials discussed at our work session on May 25th 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.

PARKS AND RECREATION

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.

Summer Programming: In light of recent rollbacks of State public health regulations, the city is moving forward with a number of our planned summer events, albeit less than a typical year.

Unfortunately, events planned for earlier in the summer had to be scrapped in the event regulations were still in place. Staff is exploring the opportunity to bring back some of the events that had to be cancelled, but it is subject to the availability of various vendors. As of this writing, the summer event schedule will kick-off in earnest July 14th with the first "Movies by the River" which will be Toy Story 4. The schedule can be viewed here: <https://bit.ly/3bN6GNA>.

FINANCE

Monthly Financial Report: The monthly financial report for May will be available next week for Council and Finance Committee review. 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 3rd:

- 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 3rd.
- 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 Employee Alex Hoyt training is completed.
- Filtration Plant pipe repainting project underway – currently on filter gallery.
- Repaired majority of road surfaces disrupted by water main breaks.

- Bid opening occurred for the water plant expansion on June 2nd. Two (2) bids were received with an apparent low bid of just below \$2.5M. Staff and Poggemeyer are currently reviewing the bids in detail in hopes of making a recommendation to Council in the upcoming weeks.
- CAP Screening for 0% HAB funding was successful. According to Poggemeyer, 0% loan award should be announced in July – there is no reason to suspect loan denial. This loan funds the expansion and engineering costs at 0% for 20 years.
- Sidewalk repairs are underway from water main breaks.
- Lawn repairs are underway from water main breaks.
- Berlin Road water main replacement work will begin on approximately June 14th. A copy of the proposed project schedule has also been attached to this manager's report. 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.
- A joint study is underway between the City and Erie County to explore avenues for the City to supply/sell additional water to the County. Poggemeyer has been commissioned to complete the study which will explore improvements that are needed to both systems to permit additional water to flow to the County.

Water Meter Issue: The batteries in 500 meters have failed after 5 years (should get nearly 15 years). All water department staff and Nick Zappa had a preliminary meeting with another battery provider company, Neptune Meters, on June 2nd. Neptune boasts multiple clientele in this area with water meter transmitters meeting or exceeding 20 years. Erie County utilizes Neptune, so there is potential for positive redundancy and/or backing each other's data if we transitioned. At the current pace of battery failure, we have several hundred dropping out per year. New batteries are provided, but at 40 minutes each to replace it is inefficient and we have no reason to suspect the new batteries will last any longer than the old ones. We will provide some geographic information to Neptune who can then provide cost estimates for a potential switch to their technology. A phased in approach would be the goal over several years as we can use both systems during the process - this is preliminary at this time, with more to follow once estimates are received.

STREETS DEPARTMENT

Storm Cleanup: A special thank you to all employees who aided in the cleanup for the high water and storm damage from last Friday along with our police and fire departments who were critical to providing information to residents and responding to a great number of calls. Crews worked hard throughout the majority of the weekend removing down trees, alleviating flooding issues and restoring public parks and beaches.

Berlin Rd./US-6 Island Signage: The Keep Right/Yield to Pedestrians sign was wiped out again at the intersections of Rt 6/Berlin Rd. The signs are on order and will be replaced as soon as possible.

US-6 Signage: Some of the bolt/screw sets have loosened up on some of the new crosswalk signage – contractor will check and retighten.

Speed Limit Radar Signs: The radar signs that were on Laguna Drive have been sent back for repairs as many of the lights have stopped working. Return date has not yet been determined.

High Water and Street Closures: Rye Beach Rd., Oakwood, Silvern, Rose, Woodside, West Drive and Nickel Plate were all closed due to high water last Friday/Saturday. Once the water receded, a lot of debris in the roadways was cleaned up and hauled away. A total of eight (8) trees came down blocking roadways.

PERSONNEL

Huron Police Department: One new full-time police officer, Ian Foos, started with the City of Huron at the end of May. We are thrilled with his addition to the force and wish him the best of luck as he begins his career with HPD. We are in the final stages of adding one more additional office to the force hopefully 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) **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 8, 2021 at 6:30pm in Council Chambers.

Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting: Monday, June 14, 2021 at 6:30pm in Council Chambers.

Safety Committee Meeting: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at 11:00am in the main conference room.

Council Work Session: Tuesday, June 22, 2021 at 5:30pm in Council Chambers.

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.