

Infrastructure/Streets

US 6 (Phase II): The City and Council recently held a work session on potential roadway layouts for Route 2 Phase II. The main discussion centered around the necessary steps for creating an intersection for Jim Campbell and US 6 near the Michigan left (break in the limited access) and potential closure of Jim Campbell at Center Street. Based on results of that work session and Council feedback, staff and OHM Advisors were instructed to move forward with traffic studies around these two proposals. Since the costs of the traffic studies was under \$25,000, staff executed a proposal with OHM to undertake these studies.

School Zone Radar Signs: As discussed with the Safety Committee and later approved by Council, two (2) additional sets of the school zone radar signs are on order. These will be installed on Ohio Street to serve McCormick Junior High School and Cleveland Road West to serve the High School. They will be identical to the set that is currently in front of Shawnee Elementary School. These will be funded and maintained by the City with the Schools handling the day-to-day operations/programming. Additionally, the City will purchase and install three (3) sets of flashers to be placed on the back sides of each pole. The flashers will alert drivers of an active school zone and reduced speed limit when pulling onto a road in the middle of a zone and between signs. These will be installed simultaneously with the installation of the two (2) new sets of radar signs.

Sawmill Parkway: Based on discussions and feedback from EDA, staff finalized its resubmission on Friday in anticipation to be reviewed in late February / early March. A final determination will come later, but this first review should give us a good indication as to the potential success of the application. Based on the feedback from our initial request to ODOT Jobs and Commerce and JobsOhio we are moving forward with the official application process (once authorized by Council at Tuesday's meeting). The application to EDA requested \$2 million. The amount to be requested from the State is yet to be determined, but likely near or above \$1 million.

Snow Plowing: I just want to give a big thank you to Steve Didelot and our entire Streets Department (and those other departments who assisted with snow removal) for their tireless work during the winter storm from this past week. They worked long hours over many days to ensure the roads/sidewalks were cleared and as safe as possible to travel on for those who needed access. WE are truly appreciative.

Economic Development

Firelands Scientific Dispensary: The Design Review Board approved the overall design package and signage for the dispensary building. Construction is underway and is anticipated to be completed this summer.

Ardagh: Initial site plans have been submitted for the first phase of development. These are slated to be on the next Planning Commission and Design Review agenda with hopes of beginning construction in March. The Design Review Board approved signage updates for the existing facility.

TIF Districts: The City established two (2) TIF Districts by ordinance in 2011 and 2012. One focused on the downtown area and incorporated the former ConAgra parcel. The other focused on the southwest corner of town south of Route 2 (Sawmill Pkwy / Corporate Park). Staff engaged Bricker and Eckler, LLP (with blessing of SSE&G) to do a comprehensive review of these districts and make any modifications considering recent development opportunities and upcoming Sawmill Parkway project. Based on initial review, I anticipate bring updated language to Council for modification to better fit the development environment since the initial inception of the districts.

Zoning/Code

Transient Rental: The transient rental working group has met multiple times in recent weeks to discuss next steps in the review process. Based on this, another work session will occur on February 23 to review the current draft of the legislation in hopes of introducing legislation for consideration in March along with scheduling of a public hearing to receive additional public input.

Parks and Recreation

ODNR Public Fish Cleaning Station: Staff continues to discuss the potential to partner with ODNR for the construction of a public fish cleaning station at the Boat Launch facility. Staff presented some quick renderings for proposed locations. Based on those drawings, ODNR asked for us to compile rough cost estimates. ODNR re-confirmed that they have a budgetary green light to move forward with at least one, if not two, facilities on Lake Erie (preferably Erie/Ottawa Counties) with Huron and Port Clinton being the two primary locations based on anticipated utilization. The cost for construction would entirely be borne by the State, but maintenance would occur locally, similarly to the Boat Launch facility.

DOCKWA: The City recently entered into a one (1) year agreement with Dockwa to try and reach new transient dockers for the Huron Boat Basin Marina. Dockwa is a marketing software, connecting boaters to open marina slips in real time. The Huron Boat Basin would use Dockwa to fill slips and let marina workers take dockage requests online, instantly collect dockage payments and hopefully grow our customer base. We will review results after the initial year to determine progress and benefits from the service.

Utilities

Municipal Broadband: Staff has had multiple conversations with Environmental Design Group, the engineering firm that assisted Fairlawn with the creation of Fairlawn GIG, on undertaking a feasibility study to improve broadband services within the City of Huron. The administration has received a proposal to provide these services and intends to present at the upcoming Utility Committee meeting. Representatives from the City of Sandusky have also begun exploring this and intend to listen in on the discussion at the Utilities Committee.

Water Bill Moratorium Reminder: Just a reminder the current moratorium on water shutoffs will expire on March 31st unless action is taken by Council to extend the deadline. As of today, there are 239 accounts delinquent, \$41,000 total in outstanding bills. This is 90 more accounts that are delinquent at this time than in 2020. Second notices were sent out last week, so we are expecting the delinquent accounts to reduce by March. We will provide an update in two weeks on the status.

Huron Public Power: Staff has finalized and submitted application to the Norfolk Southern for ROW permits to cross the track at Rye Beach Road with our infrastructure. This is in anticipation of installing new conduit as part of the Sawmill Parkway reconstruction project.

Finance/Budget

Monthly Financial Report: The Finance Staff is planning to generate a monthly financial report for the Finance Committee and Council, beginning with the February financials. You should see an email with a link to the report in mid-March. The monthly report will be created through OpenGov. Please let the Finance Director know if you would like to see any specific financial data on a recurring basis to include in the monthly report.

Transparency/Public Records

ArchiveSocial: To further our efforts to remain compliant with public records laws and actively manage risk online, we have contracted with ArchiveSocial to assist us with archiving all of the City's social media accounts and website. Social media is a public record, and public entities must be prepared to respond to public records requests for all their public and ancillary pages.

Archiving ensures compliance with public records laws, FOIA/open records requests, eDiscovery and litigation readiness, and social media retention requirements. Once we have activated all of our social media accounts and website with ArchiveSocial, the platform will capture not only the content posted by the City, but also the content from constituents – including deleted, edited, and hidden posts and comments. Records are preserved in their original context, presenting conversations as they actually played out on the social networks. This platform will allow us to produce records in minutes with quick search and one-click export features.

Personnel:

Water: In 2021, the Water Plant is anticipated to move towards 24/7 operation, which has long been a goal of the City. To do so, this will require the addition of one more employee. The City has closed the advertising process and is in receipt of several applications/resumes. Interviews are anticipated to occur over the upcoming weeks with the goal of having a new employee on board in March.

Police: The City is working with the National Testing Network to administer the testing process for potential candidates to be considered for officers of the Huron Police Department. The testing process has begun with candidates likely to be identified hopefully by March of this year. The City is planning to hire two (2) full-time police officers – 1 of which is backfilling a recent retirement and 1 of which is an additional new officer.

Zoning/Planning: First round interviews have concluded. Staff is hopeful to have the process finalized in a couple of weeks.

Engineering / Svc. Dir.: With the departure of Mr. Green, we're exploring potential modifications to the overall staffing layout of the engineering and services component of the organization. I anticipate having a proposal for Council consideration at an upcoming Council meeting.

Agreements

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)
 - o The City's current agreement with the Erie Soil and Water Conservation District expires on January 31, 2021. The City is currently in conversations with the District about entering into another one (1) year agreement to assist with the City's stormwater management activities. Both parties are awaiting issuance of the new MS4 Permit Improvement plan (likely in February or March) to inform the scope of work that should be included in the next agreement between the

City and the District. The District has committed to continue working on compliance matters with the City until a new agreement is entered into – which we greatly appreciate. The 2021 budget does include an allowance for stormwater management services.

- Chief Building Official and Inspection Services (Building)
- Prosecutor (Court)
- HJRD Annual Agreement (Recreation)
- 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 so as to have a better understanding of any COVID related impacts (or lack thereof) to the City's budget.