

**THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO**  
**Proceedings of the Huron City Council**  
**Regular Meeting Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.**

**Call to Order**

The Mayor called the regular meeting of Council to order at 6:30pm on April 26, 2022 in Council Chambers at Huron City Hall. 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.

**Roll Call**

The Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll for regular meeting of Council. The following members of Council answered present: **William Biddlecombe, Monty Tapp, Joe Dike, Matt Grieves, Joel Hagy**. Council member attending via video conference: **Sam Artino**. Council member absent: **Mark Claus**.

**Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe to excuse Mr. Claus' absence from the meeting.**

The Mayor asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS: Biddlecombe, Artino, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Hagy (6)**

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being a majority in favor of the motion, the motion passed and Mr. Claus' absence was excused.

Staff participating in the meeting: City Manager Matt Lasko, Service Director Stuart Hamilton, Law Director Todd Schrader, City Engineer Russ Critelli, Police Chief Robert Lippert, Finance Director Jeff Hall and Clerk of Council Terri Welkener.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Motion by Mr. Dike to approve the minutes of the Council work session of February 8, 2022, as written.**

The Mayor asked if there was any discussion on the matter. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS: Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Tapp (6)**

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being a majority in favor, the motion was approved.

**Audience Comments**

The Mayor advised any audience members wishing to speak to approach the podium, state their name and address for the record, and they will have 3 minutes to address Council.

None.

## **Old Business**

None.

## **New Business**

### **Ordinance No. 2022-21**

**Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be suspended and Ordinance 2022-21 (AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA AGREEMENT WITH THREE SEASONS PARTNERS, LLC AND SOUTH SHORE LAKE ERIE ASSETS & OPERATIONS, LLC, DBA SOUTH SHORE MARINE; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA AGREEMENT SUBSTANTIALLY IN THE FORM ATTACHED TO THIS ORDINANCE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY) be placed upon its first readings**

**Mr. Grievies asked to be recused from the meeting during consideration of this legislation, and left Council Chambers at 6:32pm.**

The Mayor asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS: Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Tapp, Dike (5)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**  
**RECUSE: Grievies (1)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was suspended and Ordinance 2022-17 placed on its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

### **Motion by Mr. Hagy to place Ordinance 2022-21 as an emergency measure.**

The Mayor asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being none, he directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS: Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Tapp, Dike (5)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**  
**RECUSE: Grievies (1)**

There being five votes or more in favor, Ordinance 2022-21 was placed as an emergency measure.

Mr. Lasko acknowledged Mr. Mack, who is in the audience on behalf of the applicant, South Shore Marine. The City is in receipt of a Community Reinvestment Area Tax Abatement Agreement for the next phase of the expansion at South Shore Marine on Sawmill Parkway. We are excited for the continued investment in the community and the commitment to Huron that this company has shown in previous years, and now with this most recent project. Based on the application that was submitted, the company is looking to construct an approximately 24,00 SF heated indoor storage facility at their location on Sawmill Parkway. The approximate investment is \$1.6 Million. The company will be minimally committing to the creation of four new full-time employment positions. This is in addition to the over 50 full-time positions that currently exist at the facility. Secondarily, they would be minimally agreeing to \$240,000 in additional payroll on top of the approximate \$5.2 Million in payroll that the company already produces out of that facility. We are excited for this expansion. The application and the agreement before Council is for 15 years at 100% abatement, but as you notice later on in the agenda, there are two compensation agreements with the Huron

City Schools and EHOVE Career Center that will keep those districts whole from a real estate tax standpoint. They are excited for this investment and next phase of that project.

The Mayor asked if there were any further questions or discussion on the motion. There being none, he directed the Clerk to call the roll on the final adoption of Ordinance 2022-21. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS:** Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Tapp, Dike (5)  
**NAYS:** None (0)  
**RECUSE:** Grieves (1)

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Ordinance 2022-21 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

**Mr. Grieves returned to the meeting at 6:35pm.**

**Ordinance No. 2022-22**

**Motion by Mr. Dike that the three-reading rule be suspended and Ordinance 2022-22 (AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING CHAPTER 160 LOCAL PREFERENCE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY) be placed upon its first reading.**

**Mr. Hagy recused himself on the grounds that his wife has a small business that sells uniforms to the City, Huron Police and Huron Fire Departments. Mr. Hagy left Council chambers at 6:36pm.**

The Mayor asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS:** Dike, Grieves, Biddlecombe, Artino, Tapp (5)  
**NAYS:** None (0)  
**RECUSE:** Hagy (1)

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was suspended and Ordinance 2022-22 placed on its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

**Motion by Mr. Dike to place Ordinance 2022-22 as an emergency measure.**

The Mayor asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being none, he directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS:** Dike, Grieves, Biddlecombe, Artino, Tapp (5)  
**NAYS:** None (0)  
**RECUSE:** Hagy (1)

There being five votes or more in favor, Ordinance 2022-22 was placed as an emergency measure.

Mr. Lasko explained that this is a follow-up to a work session two meetings ago, and thanked SSEG for its efforts in putting the legislation together pretty quickly. In an effort to support our local businesses and suppliers, staff is recommending the creation of a local preference ordinance. In essence, it will provide a preference to local companies and businesses who are bidding on City procured construction projects, materials and supplies. The way the ordinance reads, those companies having a physical building presence

in either Huron or Huron Township will be provided a 4% preference on their bids for projects and materials, and those companies who have a physical building presence in Erie County will be provided a 2% preference on those similar projects. They believed it prudent to put some type of cap in terms of the preference discount that the City would recognize. As written, projects or purchases up to \$500,000 would have a maximum preference discount of \$10,000, and projects over \$500,000 would have a maximum preference discount of \$25,000. This is one of the small ways the City is trying to keep dollars in the community, and in the worst case scenario, in Erie County.

The Mayor asked if there were any further questions or discussion on the motion. There being none, he directed the Clerk to call the roll on the final adoption of Ordinance 2022-22. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS: Dike, Grieves, Biddlecombe, Artino, Tapp (5)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**  
**RECUSE: Hagy (1)**

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Ordinance 2022-22 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

**Mr. Hagy returned to the meeting at 6:38pm.**

**Ordinance No. 2022-24**

**Motion by Mr. Grieves that the three-reading rule be suspended and Ordinance 2022-24 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2021-41, ADOPTED DECEMBER 14, 2021, TO PROVIDE FOR CASH TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY) be placed upon its first reading.**

The Mayor asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS: Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Tapp, Dike (6)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being five or more votes in favor, the three-reading rule was suspended and Ordinance 2022-22 placed on its first reading. The Law Director read the Ordinance by its title only.

Mr. Lasko deferred to Mr. Hall to walk Council and the public through the legislation. Mr. Hall explained that the requested cash transfers are customary quarterly transfer. The last time this was done was back in January, and sets up the appropriations and accounts for expenditures throughout the year. This will occur every quarter, on the quarter. This is a cash transfer and not a budget transfer. In order for us to expend out of customary funds, there must be cash, thus it is mostly general fund and other funds that transfer between those funds to make sure that the accounts we are spending out of are in the black, as opposed to being in the red. This is a normal quarterly transfer that was really agreed upon at the beginning the year and is our annual appropriations cash transfer divided by four. We will modify accordingly throughout the year.

The Mayor asked if there were any further questions or discussion on the motion. There being none, he directed the Clerk to call the roll on the final adoption of Ordinance 2022-24. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS:**           Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Tapp, Dike (6)  
**NAYS:**           None (0)

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Ordinance 2022-24 was adopted. The Ordinance as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

**Resolution 48-2022**

**Motion by Mr. Grieves that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution 48-2022 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE GRANT AWARD AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF WATERCRAFT, FOR A MARINE PATROL ASSISTANCE GRANT FOR THE HURON POLICE HARBOR PATROL PROGRAM IN THE CITY OF HURON IN THE AMOUNT OF THIRTY THOUSAND THIRTY-SEVEN AND 31/100 DOLLARS (\$30,037.31)) be placed upon its first reading.**

The Mayor asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of the Council voted as follows:

**YEAS:**           Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Tapp, Dike (6)  
**NAYS:**           None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 48-2022 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko said that he would be asking Mr. Lippert for a few comments, but he wanted to recognize his efforts and the continued efforts of the Police Department to secure these funds on an annual basis to maintain this important program for the community. Chief Lippert said that he cannot take credit, as Office Keith Lobsinger prepares the application and does all of the record keeping throughout the year, so he is the one that should get the credit – he just oversees the process. This is their annual grant request to fund our Harbor Patrol, our police boat, our ramp inspections and anything to do with the water. The State looks at a couple of things when they make the awards: activity, hours on the boat, and record keeping. We score high in all three of those categories, and that is why we get a large amount of grant funds. If you look around the State, Huron receives one of the highest amounts awarded, and probably the highest amount in Erie County. They are doing well, and they appreciate Council looking at this. They hope to keep this going for years to come.

The Mayor asked if there were any further questions or discussion on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the final adoption of Resolution 48-2022. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS:**           Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Tapp, Dike (6)  
**NAYS:**           None (0)

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 48-2022 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

**Resolution 49-2022**

**Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution 49-2022 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A SCHOOL COMPENSATION AGREEMENT BY AND AMONG THE CITY OF HURON, HURON CITY SCHOOLS AND THREE SEASONS PARTNERS, LLC) be placed upon its first reading.**

**Mr. Grieves recused himself from consideration of this resolution, and left Council Chambers at 6:44pm.**

The Mayor asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of the Council voted as follows:

**YEAS: Hagy, Biddelcombe, Artino, Tapp, Dike (5)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**  
**RECUSE: Grieves (1)**

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 49-2022 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko made reference to this resolution earlier on this evening. This is not unlike some of the recent compensation agreements that have come before Council recently, with Ardagh back in January and most recently, with Buckeye Sports at the last meeting. Quite simply, to ensure that the school districts continue to receive the revenue they normally would have received without the abatement, we need to memorialize that through a compensation agreement. Huron Schools voted on this compensation agreement at their meeting last week, and unanimously approved it. The company's commitment to the school districts is pretty evident, and we are appreciative of that.

The Mayor asked if there were any further questions or discussion on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the final adoption of Resolution 49-2022. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS: Hagy, Biddelcombe, Artino, Tapp, Dike (5)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**  
**RECUSE: Grieves (1)**

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 49-2022 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

#### **Resolution 50-2022**

**Motion by Mr. Hagy that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution 50-2022 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A SCHOOL COMPENSATION AGREEMENT BY AND AMONG THE CITY OF HURON, EHOVE CAREER CENTER AND THREE SEASONS PARTNERS, LLC) be placed upon its first reading.**

The Mayor asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of the Council voted as follows:

**YEAS: Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Tapp, Dike (5)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**  
**RECUSE: Grieves (1)**

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 50-2022 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director asked that the record reflect that Mr. Grieves remains recused for consideration of Resolution 50-2022, which was so noted by the Mayor. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko advised that this agreement went before EHOVE's board on April 6<sup>th</sup>, at which time it was unanimously approved.

The Mayor asked if there were any further questions or discussion on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the final adoption of Resolution 50-2022. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS:** Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Tapp, Dike (5)  
**NAYS:** None (0)  
**RECUSE:** Grieves (1)

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 50-2022 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

**Mr. Grieves returned to Council Chambers at 6:47pm.**

#### **Resolution 52-2022**

**Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution 52-2022 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE ERIE COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (ERPC MPO) SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM (STP) PROJECT GRANT RELATING TO THE FULL ROAD RECONSTRUCTION OF SOUTH MAIN STREET FROM ROUTE 6 TO BOGART ROAD AS PART OF THE MAIN STREET CORRIDOR PROJECT; AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT SAID GRANT AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE ERPC MCO UPON AWARD) be placed upon its first reading.**

The Mayor asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of the Council voted as follows:

**YEAS:** Biddlecombe, Artino, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Hagy (6)  
**NAYS:** None (0)

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 52-2022 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko feels that there is no time like the present to start our fundraising efforts for the eventual reconstruction of all of Main Street, with the primary focus on South Main Street. We just started the planning process with OHM, which is going to involve stakeholders and community members over the next 7-9 months, so these funds aren't specifically going for something that may come out of that plan, because we don't yet know what the plan is. These are resurfacing dollar, which they know would be part of any project on Main Street, and they thought that this is a good time to go after those funds that will be available for construction in 2025. The timing lines up really well, added to the fact that this is a targeted street per the Vision 2020 Action Plan Update. They think they have a really good case. There are only a handful of streets in the City that qualify – the street must be a connector street, such as Berlin Road, Cleveland Road West and Route 6. A lot of those streets have already seen improvements, so there was already a limited number of eligible streets. That, coupled with the fact that they view this as a major project over the next couple of years, made them want to make application for funding. It is a \$1 Million pot of funding, and competition will be high for these funds. The US 6 Corridor Project is seeking some of this funding, as well, but they understand that there is no chance for award if they don't make application. The application is due by the end of the month, and their team is already hard at work on the application.

The Mayor asked if there was any further discussion on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll for final adoption. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS: Biddlecombe, Artino, Tapp, Dike, Grieves, Hagy (6)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 52-2022 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

#### **Resolution 53-2022**

**Motion by Mr. Dike that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution 53-2022 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO, TO SUPPORT THE REQUEST OF THE HURON GARDEN CLUB FOR THE PLACEMENT OF EVENT SIGNAGE IN THE MEDIAN AREA PROMOTING THEIR ANNUAL PLANT AND BAKE SALE) be placed upon its first reading.**

The Mayor asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of the Council voted as follows:

**YEAS: Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Tapp (6)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 53-2022 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko stated that this is an annual request for the Garden Club for their Plant and Bake Sale to place signage in the median just west of Williams Street from May 16-21, 2022. Sign dimensions are provided in their request. This is a standard request for this event.

The Mayor asked if there were any further questions or discussion on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the final adoption of Resolution 53-2022. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS: Dike, Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Tapp (6)**  
**NAYS: None (0)**

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 53-2022 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

#### **Resolution 54-2022**

**Motion by Mr. Grieves that the three-reading rule be waived and Resolution 54-2022 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE GRANT AWARD AND ENTER INTO AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE CITY OF HURON, FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FISH CLEANING STATION AT THE HURON BOAT LAUNCH IN AN ADDITIONAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED EIGHTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$80,000.00), AND NOT TO EXCEED FIVE HUNDRED EIGHTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$580,000.00) IN THE AGGREGATE) be placed upon its first reading.**

The Mayor asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of the Council voted as follows:



**YEAS:           Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Tapp, Dike (6)**  
**NAYS:           None (0)**

There being five votes or more in favor, the motion to suspend the three-reading rule passed and Resolution 54-2022 was placed upon its first reading. The Law Director read the Resolution by its title only.

Mr. Lasko acknowledged everyone on their team for being to work with ODNR over the last couple of weeks to secure additional funding. The “all in” cost of the fish cleaning station is closer to \$600,000 to \$605,000, including design, construction inspections, etc. They were fortunate enough to receive a \$500,000 grant from ODNR last year, but they have seen some of these costs increase as they move through this project (these are the first ones being built across the State). Through those conversations, ODNR has agreed to provide an additional \$80,000 to the project, bringing their total commitment to the fish cleaning station to \$580,000, reducing the City’s financial exposure. The construction contract was awarded at the last meeting, so things are moving forward very quickly and hope to get it constructed and opened by the end of the summer. They are very appreciative of ODNR for their continued investment and commitment to this project.

Mayor Tapp asked if there was any additional funding received for this project (other than ODNR). Mr. Lasko answered that he would address that in the City Manager’s Discussion.

The Mayor asked if there were any further questions or discussion on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the final adoption of Resolution 54-2022. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS:           Grieves, Hagy, Biddlecombe, Artino, Tapp, Dike (6)**  
**NAYS:           None (0)**

There being a majority vote in favor of adoption, Resolution 54-2022 was adopted. The Resolution as adopted was signed by the Mayor and Clerk of Council and will take effect immediately.

#### **City Manager’s Discussion**

Mr. Lasko spoke on several topics:

- **Buckeye Sports** – The County Commissioners unanimously approved the Enterprise Zone Agreement and Compensation Agreements on April 13, 2020. Those agreements have now been sent to the State of Ohio for final approval. He looks forward to them breaking ground in the next couple of days.
- **Street Resurfacing** – In conversations with Mr. Hamilton and OHM, we anticipate going out to bid next week for our local street resurfacing program. We have \$500,000 available this year, which is an increase from the \$200,000 originally budgeted. As part of the base bid, we would be looking at making improvements to Gumwood, Rose, Vine, Bruns and two sections of Williams (Standard to Cleveland Road and US 6 to Cleveland Road West). We will also put in some alternates in case the cost comes in below budget, which would then include Stow and Woodside. There is also an alternate to remove the sidewalks on Vine, as well. There are some right-of-way issues to be determined to see if pulling them out is an option, but included it for now so that we could move forward with the bid process.

- Main Street – We held an internal kickoff meeting with our staff and folks from OHM on April 21<sup>st</sup> relating to Main Street and downtown visioning, and the conceptual design process that we are looking to kick off here, shortly. We met to discuss high-level visions and needs for the corridor, get an understanding of project boundaries, and begin conversations about the development of a steering committee. We really want to be able to touch the plan throughout the entire process, in addition to some larger community meetings, as well. Over the next one to two months, we will be working hard to provide background information, plans, reports and zoning information to the OHM planners. We anticipate holding our first steering committee meeting in May, and are looking forward to getting this project kicked off.
- Permits – There may be a change coming from a process standpoint that will impact the public as relates to permitting. Staff from multiple departments have begun meeting internally regarding the idea of centralizing all permit intake at the City. Right now, you have to go to the Street Department, the Service Complex or City Hall. We would like to find a way to create some efficiencies. We know that we have staff here at City Hall all day during the working day, where as that may not be the case at the Service Complex, for example. That is something we are looking at prioritizing and coming up with a plan over the next month or two. Before we roll that out, that is something that will be communicated very heavily to the public when they know that change is coming. I appreciate Mr. Hamilton's efforts in leading that charge across departments to create efficiencies for the public and the contractors that deal with us on a daily basis.
- Fish Cleaning Station – We have secured some additional funding (outside of the funds received from ODNR) which is not 100% public, but I am comfortable enough sharing it. We sought authorization to submit an application to Shores & Islands Ohio for approximately \$14,000 to further reduce the City's exposure and contribution to that project. Mr. Steinwart let me know last week that we were funded fully for the \$14,000, and we were the only project submitted that was 100% funded. At this point, unless there are change orders, the City's exposure should be reduced to \$10,000 to \$15,000. That number is based on all of our funders that have contributed to the project. Thank you to Doug Steinwart and our Parks and Recreation staff for their efforts on that.
- Boat Basin Capital Needs Assessment – We have asked for a proposal from KS & Associates to update the Capital Needs Assessment at the Boat Basin and related facilities and improvements. There was a prior assessment conducted in 2015, but a lot has changed since then, certainly from accost standpoint. There have been some improvements undertaken, and that are planned to be taken into consideration as well. KS & Associates will work on updating that assessment over the next several months to key up what we hope is a large capital request to the State as part of their next capital bill. As we know, that is a facility that is non-revenue generating in a way that allows it to support itself from a capital needs standpoint, so we are going to have to find ways to subsidize it pretty heavily. We live in a community where we've got local representation that we need to lean on to secure a State capital grant over the next couple years to help subsidize what is going to be a major overhaul for that facility. We view this as a first step to allow us to understand what that ask may need to be.
- Monthly Financials – Mr. Hall sent out the March financials last week to Finance Committee members and Council. If there are any questions with the report, you should always feel free to reach out to Mr. Hall. Based on that report, our income tax receipts through the first quarter were approximately \$100,000 higher than they were at this time last year. Our unencumbered general fund balance is just over \$1.5 Million, which is about 30%, and we know a good rule of thumb is somewhere between 20-25%. That's after we made the transfers at the end of the year, so he thinks we are in good financial shape. He wanted to caution everyone that this may not be something we

can always rely on, because we are getting the benefit of income taxes from the folks, for example, working on the Ardagh project, who aren't going to be here forever. There may be some leveling out.

- Rye Beach Water Tower – Shores & Islands Ohio will be repainting the water tower to the tune of about \$70,000, which would not be funded here locally – we are just providing them access to that water tower to be able to make that rebranding effort successful. We have heard that, weather permitting, they will start that work as early as tomorrow.
- Fire Department – At the last Council meeting, we sought approval for the Fire Department to make application to the State Fire Marshal Department for bunker gear. They found out that they were successful. They were awarded \$10,000 of the \$13,000 requested. Thank you to the State of Ohio for their contribution and working with our Fire Department for those critical funds for that equipment.
- State of Community Event – Thanks to the Chamber of Commerce for coordinating the State of the Community event last week, and also to BGSU Firelands for hosting the event. It was a great evening – it was a really impressive group of people on stage to hear about all of the great work they are undertaking, including Huron City Schools, BGSU Firelands, Huron Township, Huron Chamber of Commerce and the Erie County Economic Development Corporation. He sent a special thank you out to Council and our staff for all of the progress made by the City in 2021, and for everything that is planned in 2022.
- Upcoming Meetings – Planning Commission – April 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm in Council Chambers; Huron Joint Recreation District – May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30pm in Council Chambers; Utilities Committee – May 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm in the main conference room; Finance Committee – May 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm in Council Chambers; and Board of Building and Zoning Appeals – May 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in Council Chambers.

Mr. Dike commented that the Vine Street residents asked if the road could be widened in addition to removal of the sidewalk. Secondly, for the Main Street corridor planning, he asked if someone has an interest in being on the steering committee, what would they need to do to get their name on a list or be selected. Mr. Lasko answered that they focused initially on a combination of institutional stakeholders that have an interest in what may happen on Main Street from a physical improvement standpoint or even a programming standpoint, but they also feel it is very important to have business owners or property owners from Main Street as part of that steering committee, as well. These are going to be people that we are probably checking in with on a monthly basis – they are very close to the plan. They still want to reach out to the broader community about things they want to see on Main Street from a public art standpoint, a green space standpoint, a parking standpoint, etc. – if there is someone that he knows that has strong interest in being considered for the steering committee, the Planning Department through Mr. Engle is managing this project in partnership with OHM, and they should reach out to Mr. Engle.

Regarding the permitting consolidation, Mr. Hagy asked if the Township permitting would also be moved to the City. Mr. Lasko answered that everything is being considered – the City does intake for the Township and provides them information or materials once or twice throughout the week, so everything is on the table, whether it's going to the Service Complex, Parks and Recreation building, and the Township. The goal is to create efficiencies, and at the end of the day, if it is more efficient for someone to go to the Township, we don't want to stop that (especially if you are in the Township). We first have to figure out how it works operationally.

Mr. Dike commented that the building and zoning personnel have a difficult job because they are always the bad guy, but you've got to do it. He asked Mr. Lasko to thank them. Mr. Lasko said those employees are so forward-facing and interactive with the public and contractors on a daily basis, and a lot of time it's because we are trying to enforce code or reinforce code, so it is challenging. He appreciates those comments and he will certainly share those with staff.

Regarding the boat basin and repairs that need to be done, Mr. Hagy said that he remembers during the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the discussion of the grant that allowed the City to build it in the first place was mentioned in the Proclamation, and included creation of a safe harbor for boaters on the lake. He wondered if that was an angle to be pursued for funding, especially if there are maritime or safety updates required. Mr. Lasko thinks that everything is on the table. We don't yet know what the number is, but he thinks it will be something in the multi-millions, as this will include the docks, sea wall, retaining walls and facilities. We know that it is going to be a big ask, so everything is on the table from State capital requests to other grant funding, as well.

### **Mayor's Discussion**

Mayor Tapp thanked Mr. Mack for his continued support of the City – South Shore Marine has been here for a long time and keep building and moving forward. The Mayor also thanked Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Hall – they hit the ground running and he has heard nothing but praise so far. The Mayor thanked Mr. Lasko, staff for their ability to obtain grants for funding for the fish cleaning station. That is a big bonus for the City. He thanked Chief Lippert for working to obtain the Marine Patrol Grant and asked him to pass his thanks on to Officer Lobsinger – it is a very needed service. He attended the State of the Community event at BGSU Firelands, and it was very informative with all of the speakers. He thinks Mr. Lasko did a wonderful job.

### **For the Good of the Order**

- **Mr. Biddlecombe** – Thank you to Mr. Mack for South Shore Marine's continued investment in the City, and also to the staff. He also attended the State of the Community event, and there is was a lot of information presented – he thanked everyone for putting that together. He urged everyone in the community to consider attending next year – you really do learn a lot about what's going on. Congratulations to the Boy's Track Team for winning the Huron Invitational this year – it is the first time they have won since 2011. Varsity home games coming up include: Softball (4/27, 4/28 and 5/2), Baseball (4/27, 4/29, 5/2 and 5/6), and Boys Tennis (4/27, 5/2 and 5/5). Please go out and support our student athletes. Go Tigers!
- **Mr. Artino** – Echoed Mr. Dike's comments about the Zoning Department. It was always important to him to provide that department with the right resources, and turn it into a professional organization. He also appreciates trying to combine the services so that our contractors, developers and citizens have an easier process to follow for permitting. Congratulations on that move, and he hopes that we can put something together there.
- **Mr. Dike** – Nothing.
- **Mr. Grieves** – Nothing.
- **Mr. Hagy** – He has a Town Hall Meeting on Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. All are welcome to attend – there will be no presentations, no dog and pony shows – just bring your questions. The City Manager will also be attending. The meeting will be held at Huron Presbyterian Church at 6:30pm.

**Executive Session**

None.

**Adjournment**

**Motion by Mr. Biddlecombe to adjourn the meeting.**

The Mayor asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being none, the Mayor directed the Clerk to call the roll on the motion. Members of Council voted as follows:

**YEAS: Biddlecombe, Artino, Tapp, Dike, Grievess, Hagy (6)**

**NAYS: None (0)**

There being more than a majority voting in favor of the motion, the Mayor declared the meeting of April 26, 2022 adjourned at 7:13pm.

  
Terri S. Welkener, Clerk of Council

Adopted: 10 MAY 2022

*Upon approval by the City Council, the official written summary of the meeting minutes will become a permanent record, and the official minutes may also consist of a permanent video and/or audio recording, excluding executive sessions, in accordance with Section 121.01(III) of the Administrative Code.*