

**Dennis Murray called the meeting to order at 5 p.m. after the Invocation, given by Wesley Poole, and the Pledge of Allegiance.**

The clerk called **the roll** and the following Commissioners responded: Jeff Smith, Dick Brady, Scott Schell, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar, Wesley Poole and Naomi Twine.

**City staff present:** John Orzech - Police Chief, Dave Degnan – Fire Chief, Aaron Klein – Engineer, Rebecca Corrigan – Chief Planner, Don Icsman - Law Director, Hank Solowiej – Finance Director, Kelly Kresser - Commission Clerk and Eric Wobser – City Manager.

**Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to approve the minutes of the July 14 and 22, 2014, city commission meetings and suspend the oral reading. The President declared the motion passed.**

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION** (*agenda items only*)

None.

**CURRENT BUSINESS**

**Upon motion of Wesley Poole and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to accept all communications. The President declared the motion passed.**

**ITEM #1 – Submitted by Amanda Meyers, Paralegal**

**APPROVING SALE OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1618 WEST ADAMS STREET THROUGH LAND BANK PROGRAM**

**Budgetary Information:** The cost associated with this purchase and sale agreement is the total amount of the title search, deed preparation, recording and transfer fee and any other customary fees that may be due and payable in the ordinary course of the sale and purchase transaction. The city will recoup the cost of the expenses from the nonrefundable earnest money deposit of \$199.00 required to be paid by the purchasers. The taxing districts will begin collecting approximately \$171.58 per year in real estate taxes.

**ORDINANCE NO. 14-090:** It is requested an ordinance be passed **declaring that certain real property owned by the city as part of the land reutilization program identified as Parcel #59-00529.000, located at 1618 West Adams Street, Sandusky, is no longer needed for any municipal purpose and authorizing the execution of a purchase and sale agreement with respect to that real property;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

**Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Dick Brady, the commission voted to approve this ordinance.**

*Discussion:* Dennis Murray said this is another one of the mow-to-own properties which has been very successful in the City of Sandusky.

**Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Jeff Smith, Dick Brady, Scott Schell, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar, Wesley Poole and Naomi Twine, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Jeff Smith, Dick Brady, Scott Schell, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar, Wesley Poole and Naomi Twine, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.**

**ITEM #2 – Submitted by Rebecca Corrigan, Chief Planner**

**TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL AND CRA HOUSING COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2013 – MARCH 19, 2014**

**Budgetary Information:** This administrative action will not impact the city's operating budget.

**RESOLUTION NO. 032-14R:** It is requested a resolution be **passed accepting and approving the City of Sandusky Tax Incentive Review Council's (TIRC) recommendations regarding current**

**taxation agreements;** and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

**Upon motion of Scott Schell and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to approve this resolution.**

*Discussion:* Dennis Murray asked Rebecca Corrigan to provide an overview of this item. Rebecca Corrigan said this is the city's annual report to the State of Ohio for all of the tax incentives which have been offered by the City of Sandusky to several businesses not only within the community investment area, but for all of the enterprise zone abatements within the City of Sandusky. This is also inclusive of our tax increment finance projects. The TIRC meets annually, as well as the CRA Housing Council, and the recommendations are then approved by the City Commission and ultimately submitted to the State of Ohio. This is a procedural, administrative process and it appears all of our abatements are within the rules and within the Ohio Revised Code. Dennis Murray said there are a number of eyes looking closely at this and thanked all of the people who participate and oversee this process, including those in attendance at the TIRC meetings.

**Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Jeff Smith, Dick Brady, Scott Schell, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar, Wesley Poole and Naomi Twine, 7. Roll call on the resolution: Yeas: Jeff Smith, Dick Brady, Scott Schell, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar, Wesley Poole and Naomi Twine, 7. The President declared the resolution passed.**

**ITEM #3 – Submitted by John Orzech, Police Chief**

**RATIFICATION OF GRANT APPLICATION FOR NEW POLICE VEHICLE**

**Budgetary Information:** The amount allocated for this grant is \$25,000 to cover the cost of a vehicle, but the funds must be accepted and expended prior to September 30, 2014. This grant requires a 25% match from the city, but a match waiver was requested due to the budgetary constraints of the city and no funds for a match were budgeted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 033-14R:** It is requested a resolution be passed **approving and ratifying a grant application submitted to the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services for funding through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant special solicitation for law enforcement for the Sandusky Police Department;** and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

**Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to approve this resolution.**

*Discussion:* John Orzech said this was approved at the last meeting and is for a grant application previously submitted in 2009 which the city did not receive. The Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services contacted the police department and indicated funding may now be available and encouraged resubmitting our request.

**Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Jeff Smith, Dick Brady, Scott Schell, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar, Wesley Poole and Naomi Twine, 7. Roll call on the resolution: Yeas: Jeff Smith, Dick Brady, Scott Schell, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar, Wesley Poole and Naomi Twine, 7. The President declared the resolution passed.**

**ITEM #4 – Submitted by John Orzech, Police Chief**

**RATIFICATION OF GRANT APPLICATION TO NRA FOR CONSTRUCTION OF TRAINING AND STORAGE BUILDING**

**Budgetary Information:** The estimated cost for the construction of a range training and storage building is approximately \$30,000. This grant requires no matching funds from the city.

**RESOLUTION NO. 034-14R:** It is requested a resolution be passed **approving the submission of a grant application to the National Rifle Association Foundation for funding through their state fund committee grant program for the Sandusky Police Department;** and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

**Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Wesley Poole, the commission voted to approve this resolution.**

*Discussion:* John Orzech said the city applied for this grant last year for the first time but did not receive it. The grant opportunity is once again available and a lot of people use this facility and would utilize the building, if funded. John Orzech said other departments who utilize this building and facility are: the Erie County Sheriff's Office, Perkins Police, Huron Police, Sandusky Police, the U.S. Customs & Border Patrol, the ODNR and members of the Sandusky Police Academy and this would be an enhancement to the area.

**Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Jeff Smith, Dick Brady, Scott Schell, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar, Wesley Poole and Naomi Twine, 7. Roll call on the resolution: Yeas: Jeff Smith, Dick Brady, Scott Schell, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar, Wesley Poole and Naomi Twine, 7. The President declared the resolution passed.**

**ITEM #5 - Submitted by Kelly L. Kresser, CMC & Commission Clerk  
LIQUOR LICENSE TRANSFER REQUEST**

**A request has been received from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control for the transfer of D5A and D6 liquor permits from J. M. Sciarappa, Inc. dba South Shore Inn to Las Cuevas LLC, 2047 Cleveland Road. It is requested the clerk be authorized to notify the Division of Liquor Control the city has no objection to this request.**

**Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Wesley Poole, the commission voted for the commission clerk to notify the Ohio Division of Liquor Control the city has no objection to this request. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Jeff Smith, Dick Brady, Scott Schell, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar, Wesley Poole and Naomi Twine, 7. The President declared the motion passed.**

**ITEM #6 - Submitted by Kelly L. Kresser, CMC & Commission Clerk  
TRES LIQUOR LICENSE TRANSFER REQUEST**

**A request has been received from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control for the TRES liquor permit transfer of D1 (*Beer only for on premises consumption or in original sealed containers for carry out only until 1 a.m.*), D2 (*Wine and mixed beverages for on premises consumption or in original sealed containers for carryout only until 1 a.m.*) and D6 (*Sale of intoxicating liquor on Sunday between the hours 10 a.m. or 11 a.m. and midnight*), D3 (*Spirituos liquor for on premises consumption only until 1 a.m.*) **and D3A** (*Extend issued permit privileges until 2:30 a.m.*) from Namco Enterprises, Inc., 5777 Smith Road, Suite D19, Brook Park, Ohio, to Tokyo Rock, Inc. dba Tokyo Rock, 1934 Cleveland Road, Sandusky. It is requested the clerk be authorized to notify the Division of Liquor Control the city has no objection to this request.**

**Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Scott Schell, the commission voted for the commission clerk to notify the Ohio Division of Liquor Control the city has no objection to this request. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Jeff Smith, Dick Brady, Scott Schell, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar, Wesley Poole and Naomi Twine, 7. The President declared the motion passed.**

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Eric Wobser said he has heard some feedback about the brevity of his **City Manager's report** tonight, and he is trying to find a happy medium while still focusing on critical items and is happy to accept feedback about the appropriate amount for these reports in the future.

**Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Wesley Poole, the commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$50 from Phyllis Wassner for the police department's K-9 Fund. The President declared the motion passed.**

**Upon motion of Dick Brady and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$50 from J & R Silkscreen for the City of Sandusky employee golf outing. The President declared the motion passed.**

**Upon motion of Dick Brady and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$50 from Bud's Place for the City of Sandusky employee golf outing. The President declared the motion passed.**

Eric Wobser said as he has spoken with different persons, including commissioners and community members, during the last couple of weeks and has heard loud and clear **the desire of the community to see Fire Station #7 open on a more regular basis**. Dave Degnan, in his role as the new fire chief, has also heard concerns about this issue and looked at how to continue providing timely and comprehensive EMS services. With this in mind, Eric Wobser said he, Dave Degnan and Scott Schell (liaison to the fire department), began conversations with the IAFF union officials about ways to meet the budget needs and believes they have come to an agreement that will get us through to the end of 2014; this is not a long-term solution. Previously, the commission agreed, through a Memorandum of Understanding, to maintain a minimum staffing level of 49 fire fighters, or alternatively to replace physicals in the budget for all fire fighters which were waived during budget negotiations. Due to attrition, as well as the promotion of Dave Degnan to the position of Chief, we fell below 49 fire fighters. While researching this and posting this position, Dave Degnan came to the realization that without flexibility on the 49<sup>th</sup> position, there would be times the city would not be able to maintain keeping Station #7 open. With this and the uncertainty of the budget heading into 2015, there is not necessarily certainty we could maintain this position in future budgets. Alternatively, rather than having the city perform annual physicals this late in the year, the solution was to use this money to otherwise be spent for physicals and not fill the 49<sup>th</sup> position until there is longer-term certainty and to release these funds to create flexibility in overtime staffing. This, along with some concessions from the chief and the union, will allow the city to operate Station #7 full-time from the beginning of the next pay period for the remainder of 2014. Eric Wobser said Hank Solowiej has been actively involved in these discussions and believes this is a financially responsible solution which will allow us to maintain this service and ultimately work together to focus on a longer term solution while providing services people would like to see.

Dave Degnan said he is pleased to announced on July 31, fire station #7 on the city's west side will be opened and fully functioning at the level of service our citizens had been receiving before the recent staffing shortage in the Sandusky Fire Department. This was possible due to the hard work of the city administration, the IAFF Local #327 and the fire fighters themselves. All parties involved realize the safety and welfare of our citizens and customers must be the priority. We were hired to do a job and we must make every effort to accomplish this task. We will work alongside every citizen and city employee who is shouldering this burden of achieving a greater goal. That goal is a city with a strong economy, a solid infrastructure and excellent safety services. You can be assured you have firefighters, officers and administrative staff who can perform with excellence every day. I am proud to work with each one of them and I know they will rise to this challenge and give all of us the best service possible. I want all citizens to know the department is providing this service at the absolute minimum safest staffing level and I feel this level can only be maintained until the end of 2014. This critically low staffing level must not become the standard as we feel our ability to respond to emergencies will falter and the possibility of injuries or deaths will rise. I hold the safety of our citizens in the highest regard, but I want to ensure each fire fighter is not subjected to unnecessary life safety risks. Therefore, I will continue to work diligently with the City Manager, our Commissioners and the Union to bring the department's manning up to a level that benefits all of us affected by the tough economic environment we face today. The members of the Sandusky Fire Department and IAFF Local #327 are proud to serve our citizens and will make every effort to provide our city with the finest service.

Julie Farrar complimented Dave Degnan, Eric Wobser and Hank Solowiej for working together with the union to get this worked out until the end of the year and said she appreciates the teamwork.

Dennis Murray said if he understands it correctly, the solution being proposed does not fund the 49<sup>th</sup> position, but instead reallocates those funds toward overtime compensation. This is not a desirable long-term solution, but is a workable short-term solution. Dennis Murray asked

if this will cause us to exceed the otherwise budgeted amount for the fire department. Hank Solowiej said the funds are not for the position, they are the funds the city would have spent on the physicals. They will be reallocated to fund the cost of the overtime, not the actual cost of filling the position; the physicals were estimated to be about \$30,000 per year. There will have to be a budget amendment because this is one of the items which originally had been taken out as a concession. At this point, Hank Solowiej said he does not know if we will have to do a budget adjustment because of attrition; we may be able to stay within the total budgeted amount without blowing it up, but will have a better feel for this a little later in the year. Dennis Murray said it is his responsibility, on behalf of the commission and the voters, to be jealous of what it is they are supposed to approve as an institution. If they are changing the budget, he wants to make sure they vote on it. Dennis Murray said he supports the proposal but feels we will spend more money on a net basis and is comfortable doing this and burning into the reserves a little more because Cedar Point has made this commitment to restructuring and bringing additional funds to the city next year; without this, he would not have a level of comfort and would not think it was fiscally responsible. Dick Brady asked if we are hiring another fire fighter or simply paying for overtime. Hank Solowiej said there will be more funds available for overtime and there has been talk about adjusting minimum staffing levels from twelve to eleven which allows more flexibility in scheduling. This is a key part of how this will work and is only a temporary solution and is the best temporary fix and a lot rides on the fall election. Dick Brady asked if we are leveraging those dollars which Cedar Fair has made available to us after the first of the year and Hank Solowiej said "no"; with the MOU, the city would have been using these monies to pay for physicals. Hank Solowiej said instead of using these monies to pay for physicals, we are now going to make it available for overtime and we may use it all or not. This will be up to the fire chief and city manager to monitor. Dick Brady asked Hank Solowiej if he is comfortable there are enough dollars to get us to 2015 with diverting these monies and Hank Solowiej said he hopes so although this is still gray and we are rather confident \$30,000 will be enough to get us to the end of the year. Eric Wobser said the department is budgeted at 49 fire fighters per the MOU which the commission signed; we have fallen below this number which triggers the option, or alternatively, funding the unbudgeted \$30,000. The idea is now that we are below 49, although there is the ability to hire the 49<sup>th</sup> fire fighter, there is not the long-term stability in this budget to maintain this position. It may make more sense and provide more flexibility to use these resources for overtime only for the remainder of this year. Filling the 49<sup>th</sup> position may not have allowed the city to staff Station #7 through the remainder of the year, but the option presented does allow for this. Scott Schell said it is important to echo the concessions made by the union as well as some creative thinking by Dave Degnan and complimented him for the way he handled the situation. Scott Schell thanked the union for putting the citizens at the forefront. This is a very good solution and will hopefully get us to 2015 and new decision will have to be made at that time.

**Upon motion of Scott Schell and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to accept the recommendation of the City Manager and Fire Chief to *not* fill the 49<sup>th</sup> position in the fire department, and, alternatively to utilize the \$30,000 budgeted for overtime compensation rather than for physicals. Dennis Murray declared the motion passed.**

Eric Wobser said a local company, **Breckenridge, formerly known as Central Ohio Paper and Packaging, 245 West Monroe Street, has made a decision to relocate due to a need to expand and to accommodate a larger facility with the potential for long-term growth.** As they made their site selection, they made a decision to relocate to the corporate business park in Huron, Ohio, which will allow them 5.881 acres for a total project cost of \$4 - \$6 million. This hit to Sandusky is significant and includes about \$2.1 million in expansion but does not take into account the potential growth of the company over time; the city is disappointed in this decision. Eric Wobser said Dennis Murray had an opportunity to reach out to the owner of the company and the city manager of Huron, Andy White, was forthright and reached out to him (Eric) when this happened. While Sandusky is disappointed, Eric Wobser said he believes the City of Huron has been a good partner and there is one larger policy issue which is to find better solutions to these types of situations in the future. This is not a reflection of Huron in any way, but the company has requested receiving a fifteen-year, one hundred percent tax abatement on the increment of their investment in the City of Huron. Tax abatement is a wonderful tool to

potentially help companies grow within the community but we play a very dangerous game when we start subsidizing a company moving from within one city to another and he has shared this concern with Andy White. Eric Wobser said while this decision has been made, he hopes to build a strong partnership with Huron on joint economic development in the future as this builds a tax base rather than shuffling from one city to another within one region and to potentially looking at how other regions have handled these types of situations in the best interest of a company. This company's current site is tight and the expansion may create a potential tax sharing agreement with the City of Huron. The impact over time may help to maintain relations, maintain our eyes on the prize and have larger regional prosperity. Dennis Murray said he did reach out to the business owner, who he happens to have known for a number of years, who made it clear there was not an alternative to expand on their current site and the owner had also spoken to the railroad about acquiring some land. There are some standing water issues, the owner lives in Huron and this is where he wanted to move his business and there was not any way to change his mind. The owner said he had no problems with the City of Sandusky or the services we provide, this was just a personal decision about where the business could expand.

Andy White, City Manager of Huron, Ohio, said this is a distressing subject, but as discussed, he spoke with Eric Wobser about the issue before it became a part of his (Eric's) permanent responsibility as City Manager. It is an unfortunate situation and it is one we need to take a look at going forward. This should be an anomaly in his and Huron Council's frame of mind as there is a lot involved daily with economic development leads to Erie County and companies are always looking for existing infrastructure which may not exist. Andy White said he would like to start focusing on a collaborative policy to invest mutual resources and making offers to some of these existing facilities with the cities. Huron, Ohio has a state of the art 30-acre park which was a loser for the city for a long time and had no development for a number of years. The establishment of infrastructure, the ability to use Huron public power and incentives to the community since 2008 have resulted in \$16 million property valuation, \$9 million in new payroll and over 160 new jobs for the community. This is important not because the dollars are coming from Sandusky, but because they are coming to Erie County and because he thinks this can happen again. The park is limited in its resources and will become full at some time and it is important how we take this issue and move forward to mutually invest so when this park is mature, another location in Erie County, preferably near the water, could create some type of collaborative understanding. It makes sense for Huron to get Erie County to invest in a park of this nature and write into a policy the established commitment of individual investors as well as sharing the proceeds of profit in the future so we are not retroactively coming back to these situations. It is regretful this is the first project he and Eric are working on, but although not by design, he sees this as an opportunity, going forward, to work these policy initiatives into something broader-based and more beneficial to the community. Andy White said he would like to focus on the good positive things happening within the downtown and the broader area as it relates to his community because it makes absolutely no sense for them (Huron) to cannibalize resources. Andy White said he started to look at Huron's income tax receipts and there are a number of full-time positions for people who reside in Huron but work in the City of Sandusky. Huron has lost population and needs to work together with Sandusky and, to this end, expressed support on collaboratively working together on issues of the day as we share the same liabilities and responsibilities. This is the pinnacle of numerous policy situations the cities can come together on and he supports the City of Sandusky and pledges to work together with us. Dennis Murray thanked Andy White and said he has spoken for a number of years about working collaboratively and going back a number of years and while in the State House, Andy White wanted to develop this kind of partnership and has found the opportunity to do so with Eric Wobser. Sandusky, Huron, Margaretta, Perkins and everyone else will rise and fall on our mutual successes, not whether we are able to poach one company from another and he appreciates the attitude expressed and looks forward to working with the City of Huron. Eric Wobser said he has been invited to attend the August 26 Huron Council meeting and there has been outreach and collaboration between the communities.

Eric Wobser said he copied an article from a national magazine, **Area Development**, which shows a ranking of top 20 recession-busting small cities and this speaks to a lot of things

happening around here as they relate to economic development. Sandusky, Ohio, was ranked 16<sup>th</sup>, and guesses this is a larger regional reflection of the economy. Eric Wobser said he has seen similar studies published by the Erie County Economic Development Corporation and in spite of the national recession people have gone through, we have outpaced trends during the recovery and this growth or ability has been diverse. This continued partnership as expressed by the City of Huron and the commissioners tonight is why we need to set the trend as cities need economic development. This study is published every year and it is good to see Sandusky on the list in a positive light.

Eric Wobser said the **National Night Out and Touch A Truck event** will be held August 5. This is a national event throughout the United States which is a Tuesday. Touch A Truck is a combination of different events with the police, recreation and fire departments for kids in the community to go inside these vehicles and learn about them. There will be over 50 vehicles, boats, the life flight helicopter and different activities for children and adults at the Paper District Marina parking lot and activities for the health and benefit of the community from 4 p.m. – 9 p.m. showcasing the Paper District Marina. Dave Degnan said he was volunteered for the dunk tank.

Eric Wobser said this may seem like a modest item, but the **transit system in Sandusky** has faced financial challenges and the city, in its entirety, faces financial challenges which need to be figured out, but knows one of Sandusky's major competitive advantages in relation to other communities is the potential walkability or the ability to get somewhere without a vehicle. Transit alternatives are the best way to do this and maintaining a transit service in Sandusky is critical and one of the ways we have to do this is to improve our existing service. A great deal of older people who live in the city and young professionals are finding their way into downtown Sandusky and more and more Millennials are not getting drivers' licenses and jobs are scattered throughout Erie County. Sandusky is a dense area and we need to look at ways for people to work and to shop in Sandusky. The SPARC 1 route has been revised to include the Sandusky Plaza. Aaron Klein said the STS has frequent requests to make new stops or modify routes and the route being modified (SPARC 1) will have two additional stops: one at the Sandusky Plaza and the other at the New Day Sandusky Resource Center and Church. This will formalize the Sandusky Mall as a last stop and the goal is to keep the routes under one hour; this will increase this route to 57 minutes for this route. Dennis Murray thanked Aaron Klein for working cooperatively with businesses in the Sandusky Plaza who requested this change and for listening to their input to be pro-transportation and pro-business.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Dennis Murray said he would like the commission to discuss the issue previously voted upon to place an issue on **the November ballot regarding reducing the commission from seven members to five**. When discussed some months ago, the city had no idea it would be looking at an income tax issue in the fall which would be tied to the admissions tax. This (income tax increase) is an issue paramount for the future of the city and Dennis Murray said he would like the commission to talk about this as opposed to the issue of reducing the commission from seven to five, although he still thinks this should be changed. Dennis Murray asked for support, through a motion, to request the Law Director prepare the necessary legislation to either postpone or repeal this. Naomi Twine said she is in favor of repealing this and at this time, there are more crucial things to focus on.

**Upon motion of Dennis Murray and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to order in legislation to repeal the legislation previously passed to change the makeup of the commission from seven members to five members.**

*Discussion:* Dick Brady said he disagrees with the philosophy of repealing this and the initial goal of this legislation was to provide the opportunity for our citizens to vote on this and have a more efficient government. Dick Brady said he understands the concern things get muddy during an election and although these issues are not tied together in any way, he believes people are smart enough to separate the two as they are distinctly separate issues. Dick Brady

said he does not want to cause any type of distraction or look back and feel this issue cost one single vote for the income tax increase and is willing to bite his tongue and go in another direction and postpone this for another day. The mission right now must be paramount to getting the income tax passed. Scott Schell said he is in favor of tabling this issue for the foreseeable future and said the citizens of Sandusky have spoken loud and clear and the things of greatest importance to them are making sure our fire stations are fully staffed, trimming street trees, filling potholes and resurfacing streets on a regular basis. Moving from seven to five commissioners does not really get this done, in his opinion, and he supports tabling this until we have a clearer vision of how we will proceed into 2015. Wesley Poole said we should probably reduce the commission from seven to five in the long run, but this is not something so important it has to be done right now. Dennis Murray said what is motivating him is the city has not had the opportunity to talk about this; the tax issue and the revenue issues by themselves, along with the question about the size of the commission, and he would like to focus on the former.

**The President declared the motion passed.**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted for Eric Wobser to be the city's alternate representative on the Revolving Loan Fund Committee. The President declared the motion passed.**

#### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Vicki Bird, 2114 Wilbert Street, said she was unable to attend the recent special meeting, but as a representative of Rebuild Sandusky, there is a perception there was blackmail going on with her group. This was a compromise and she is professional, especially when she feels strongly about something. Safety services are very important and a city is only as good as the services provided. The revenue has to come from somewhere and although no one wants to pay more taxes, what was presented will not hurt her as it is \$.25 out of every \$100 and Sandusky needs this to rebuild. An increase of one percent in the admissions tax will help provide what we need and Vicki Bird thanked Eric Wobser and the city commissioners for this. Vicki Bird said she appreciates hearing things such as "acting in good faith" and this means a lot to her because she does this herself. She will support this and stand behind the decision and understands the reason for combining an income tax and an admissions tax. If more good things can come out of Sandusky City Schools, she will also support their levy. Dennis Murray thanked Vicki Bird for sending flowers to the commission office and said this was touching and he does not think it has ever been done before.

Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street, asked if Cedar Point is donating \$500,000 to the city as part of a package deal and Dennis Murray asked Eric Wobser to follow up as it was covered in another meeting.

Barbara Linden, Muirwood Village, thanks God we are going to have a fire station, but there is no excuse for it. The police officers and fire fighters are the most important people in the city as they save lives. The commission has wasted money and spent \$27,000 to hire a police chief and Dennis Murray said this commission did not spend any money on a police chief. Barbara Linden asked who spent the money to put a beach at Lions Park and Dennis Murray said this was voted on in 2008 and he cannot take responsibility for this.

Tim Stookey, 1307 Fifth Street, said he appreciates the land reutilization program and invited people to see the lot next door to his home as he used this property to put up a Veteran's memorial with a flagpole and a landscaped five-point star. Tim Stookey said he paid city income taxes all the years he worked for the U.S. Post Office and asked why it is people have to pay this tax when they do not live in the city as this is taxation without representation. Dennis Murray said this occurs around the entire country and people who work here but do not live

here and there is a cost for the structures and businesses in the form of safety services and economic development. There are more businesses in commercial areas because there generally is more support for them and this is a necessary part of the process.

Matt Morgan, 1003 West Osborne Street, said tonight at this meeting, everyone came together despite economic troubles and we have seen governments, citizen groups and unions come together. He wants everyone to enjoy this as it is a rarity but he is amazed and awestruck. Matt Morgan said he acknowledges there are issues, but seeds are being planted and will grow with cooperation between these different interests and hopefully this will continue. Matt Morgan asked if the Erie County Economic Development Corporation (ECEDC) will be involved in the discussions with the City of Huron. Eric Wobser said he knows the ECEDC is aware of this and thinks they are a willing partner to begin these conversations. They are interested in growing the collaboration between the cities in Erie County.

**Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:14 p.m. The President declared the motion passed.**

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Kelly L. Kresser, CMC  
Clerk of the City Commission

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Dennis E. Murray, Jr.  
President of the City Commission