

Vice President John Hamilton called the meeting to order at 5 p.m. after the **Invocation**, given by Dan Kaman, and the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

The Clerk **called the roll** and the following Commissioners responded: Dan Kaman, John Hamilton, Kim Nuesse, Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington, Diedre Cole and Pervis Brown.

City staff present: Scott Miller – General Services Director, Todd Roth – Engineer, Jim Lang – Interim Police Chief, Jim Green – Sandusky Fire Department Captain, Don Icsman – Law Director, Hank Solowiej – Finance Director, Kelly Kresser – Commission Clerk.

Upon motion of Pervis Brown and second of Dave Waddington, the Commission voted to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2010 meeting, and dispensed with the oral reading.

Discussion: Diedre Cole asked that the word “impact” on Page 4 of the 10.12.10 minutes be changed to “input”.

The Commission voted to approve the minutes, as corrected. All Ayes. The Vice President declared the motion passed.

PROCLAMATION

Diedre Cole presented a **Proclamation on behalf of the Sandusky Chapter of the N.A.A.C.P. for the “One Community Working Together Kickoff”** to Pervis Brown, Jr., lifetime member of the N.A.A.C.P.

PRESENTATIONS

A presentation was made by **Tim King and Carrie Whitacre, Erie Regional Planning Commission, to update the Commissioners about the 2010 Census**. Tim King thanked Diedre Cole and Dave Waddington for the long hours worked this summer to help get the word out for an accurate count. Tim King explained the U.S. Census is conducted every ten years, is mandated by the U.S. Constitution, and is used to distribute congressional seats and federal/state funding. He said the Census Bureau estimates communities will receive more than \$400 billion in federal funds each year, over a ten-year period, for things such as hospitals, job training centers, schools, senior centers, bridges, tunnels and other public works projects and emergency services. He said the county received about \$481,484,981 from 2000 – 2008 in census-driven funding. This included annual funding in the amount of \$3,000,000 for a lead hazard control grant, \$1.1 million for the Sandusky Transit System, \$1 million for Erie County Metropolitan Planning Organization, \$1.3 million for Neighborhood Stabilization Program funds, \$820,000 for Sandusky in CDBG funds and \$200,000 for Erie County in CDBG funding.

Tim King said congressional representation at both the state and federal level are at stake. Other things that are driven by census data are Title 1 grants to education agencies, Head Start programs, WIC programs, programs for the elderly, programs offering emergency food and shelter and empowerment zones. Tim King said there has not been much growth in Erie County’s population over the past nine years; in the State of Ohio, the population has increased by 189,495 or 1.64%. He said Ohio has seen faster growth in previous decades and the 30-year average in Erie County has been around 77,974 residents. The census population *estimate* for July 2, 2009 was 76,963 while the April 1, 2000 figure was 79,551 for a decline of less than three percent. He said in the past, the Regional Planning Commission had a tendency to mistrust the estimates. In the last couple of years, the Census Bureau has added an American Community Survey which is a thorough, 100-question survey with much more detail and is conducted randomly on a year-round basis. He said this gives the Census Bureau more credit and better accuracy. The estimate for the 2010 Census shows a loss of 2,193 or 7.88%.

Tim King said Cleveland is one of the larger cities in Ohio, saw significant population growth through the 1950’s but has been on a steady decline during the past 60 years. Other large metropolitan areas have also topped out including Cincinnati, Toledo, Akron, Dayton and Canton and are decreasing in population. The only city that has continued to increase in population has been Columbus. Tim King said the states of Texas, Florida and Arizona have all seen significant population increases while others have seen significant decreases. He said Ohio is suffering from “political laryngitis” and is losing its voice in Washington with the number of electoral votes dropping from 26 in 1960 to 20 in 2000 which is significant. Tim King said they anxiously await the June to August numbers being released.

Dave Waddington asked Tim King how the city's HUD money will be affected as we lose population. He asked about job training centers and state and federal grants and if the city could receive more of these funds to build our area. Tim King said it would be possible for Sandusky to receive more funding if the grantees look at population numbers and if poverty rates are more concentrated. Carrie Whitacre said the MPO status is based per capita and an urbanized area must be maintained to continue to receive funding. Dave Waddington asked about the growth in Perkins Township which is really only a few hundred (difference). He said it is really only job creation or job loss that has affected our area. Tim King said he has not looked closely at the numbers for Perkins Township, only at the overall numbers for the county.

Julie Farrar said she understands once a census is completed, it takes about four years for the results to actually reach a community and realize these numbers on paper. Carrie Whitacre said there are certain programs initially that are used for redistricting which will drill down over the next few years. She said MPO or urbanized areas (population of 50,000+) will probably not see these effects until 2012 or 2013. Tim King said the outreach this year was significant and the city participated in every possible outreach program available to make sure everyone got counted.

Jason Singer, Sandusky Register, 314 West Market Street, asked if the estimates were based on the surveys and Tim King said they are statistically driven and are pulled from the American Community Survey, and other sources of information.

Julie Farrar thanked Diedre Cole and Dave Waddington for their help with the 2010 census.

Under **Audience Participation**, the following persons offered their comments:

John Ginty, 5055 Providence Drive, asked how much money the city would have to contribute toward the purchase of the light bars in Item #1. He said Item #2 is an expanded agreement with Malcolm Pirnie because of the coal tar situation and funds will be coming from the EPA.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Julie Farrar, the Commission voted to accept all communications. All Ayes. The Vice President declared the motion passed.

ITEM #1 – Submitted by James F. Lang, Interim Police Chief

Budgetary Impact: There is no budgetary impact. The grant requires no matching funds from the city.
RESOLUTION NO. 037-10R: It is requested a Resolution be passed approving the submission of a grant application to the Office of Criminal Justice Services for the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) for law enforcement agencies for the Sandusky Police Department and, if awarded, authorizing the City Manager to execute any required agreements and expend funds; and declaring that this Resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Diedre Cole, the Commission voted to approve this Resolution in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

Discussion: Julie Farrar said there are no matching funds required with this grant. Diedre Cole asked if the light bars will be placed on the city's currently owned vehicles and if so, if they are easily transferrable. Jim Lang said these will not be placed on the vehicles we will be disposing of, but will be placed on new vehicles as we purchase them. Diedre Cole asked about the purchase of new vehicles and Jim Lang said this hopefully will be brought forth at the next Commission meeting. Dan Kaman said the light bars will not be replaced on the entire (current) fleet.

Roll Call on the motion: Dan Kaman, John Hamilton, Kim Nuesse, Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington, Diedre Cole and Pervis Brown, 7. Roll Call on the Resolution: Dan Kaman, John Hamilton, Kim Nuesse, Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington, Diedre Cole and Pervis Brown, 7. The Vice President declared the Resolution passed.

ITEM #2 – Submitted by Kathryn K. McKillips, Engineer

Budgetary Impact: The cost for environmental services for all consultants working on these projects will not exceed \$400,000. The original agreement amount with Malcolm Pirnie was \$200,000. With this amendment, the revised agreement amount is \$310,000. Due to the additional work necessary as part of the coal tar plume investigation, additional funds are needed to be allocated to Malcolm Pirnie. The total cost will be covered by the U.S. EPA Brownfield Assessment grants received. There is no required city match for this grant.

ORDINANCE NO. 10-112: It is requested an Ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to approve an amendment to the agreement with Malcolm Pirnie, Inc., of Columbus, Ohio, for professional environmental services in conjunction with the U.S. E.P.A. Brownfield grants received from the U.S. E.P.A. in 2007; and declaring that this Ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

Upon motion of Dan Kaman and second of Dave Waddington, the Commission voted to approve this Ordinance in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter. Roll Call on the motion: Dan Kaman, John Hamilton, Kim Nuesse, Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington, Diedre Cole and Pervis Brown, 7. Roll Call on the Ordinance: Dan Kaman, John Hamilton, Kim Nuesse, Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington, Diedre Cole and Pervis Brown, 7. The Vice President declared the Ordinance passed.

ITEM #3 – Submitted by Hank S. Solowiej, CPA, Finance Director

Budgetary Impact: The total cost for the annual support fee is \$10,496.08. Of this amount, \$5,248.04 will be paid by the General Fund, \$2,624.02 by the Water Fund, and \$2,624.02 by the Sewer Fund.

ORDINANCE NO. 10-113: It is requested an Ordinance be passed authorizing and directing payment to Software Solutions Incorporated of Lebanon, Ohio, for the annual software support fee for the period November 1, 2010 through October 31, 2011; and declaring that this Ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

Upon motion of Pervis Brown and second of Dan Kaman, the Commission voted to approve this Ordinance in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter. Roll Call on the motion: Dan Kaman, John Hamilton, Kim Nuesse, Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington, Diedre Cole and Pervis Brown, 7. Roll Call on the Ordinance: Dan Kaman, John Hamilton, Kim Nuesse, Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington, Diedre Cole and Pervis Brown, 7. The Vice President declared the Ordinance passed.

ITEM #4 – Submitted by Todd J. Roth, Director of Engineering Services

Budgetary Impact: The cost for the environmental services will be paid with U.S. E.P.A. Brownfield Petroleum Cleanup grant and Brownfield Petroleum Assessment grant funds.

ORDINANCE NO. 10-114: It is requested an Ordinance be passed approving and ratifying an agreement with Malcolm Pirnie, Inc., of Columbus, Ohio, for certified professional services in conjunction with the U.S. E.P.A. Brownfield Petroleum Cleanup grant for the Sandusky Cabinets property; and declaring that this Ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

Upon motion of Dan Kaman and second of Julie Farrar, the Commission voted to approve this Ordinance in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter. Roll Call on the motion: Dan Kaman, John Hamilton, Kim Nuesse, Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington, Diedre Cole and Pervis Brown, 7. Roll Call on the Ordinance: Dan Kaman, John Hamilton, Kim Nuesse, Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington, Diedre Cole and Pervis Brown, 7. The Vice President declared the Ordinance passed.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Dan Kaman, the Commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$1,000 from Ruth Parker for smoke alarms and Knox boxes for the Fire Prevention Bureau (Account #863 1310 485 00). All Ayes. The Vice President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Dan Kaman and second of Diedre Cole, the Commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$25 from the P.E.O. Sisterhood Chapter for the police dog (Account #863 1050 101 00). All Ayes. The Vice President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Diedre Cole and second of Julie Farrar, the Commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$25 from Molly Carver and Paul Coleman for the Washington Park and Greenhouse Endowment fund (Account #873 3482 485 00). All Ayes. The Vice President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Pervis Brown and second of Dave Waddington, the Commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$258.02 from fundraising activities from the "Friends of the Greenhouse" for the Friends of the Greenhouse fund (Account #863 3483). All Ayes. The Vice President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Pervis Brown and second of Julie Farrar, the Commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$100 from David Miller of Edison Solar & Wind for the purchase of refreshments that were served at the solar array open house and the remaining balance of \$65.09 to be used for energy improvements at the greenhouse (Account #873 3482). All Ayes. The Vice President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Dan Kaman, the Commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$10 from Dave Waddington for the Friends of the Greenhouse for membership dues to be placed into the Washington Park & Greenhouse endowment fund (Account #873 3482).

Don Icsman announced the **fall yard waste drop-off for City of Sandusky residents** will take place on Saturday, October 30 from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. and on Sunday, October 31 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Barnes Nursery on Camp Road in Huron.

Don Icsman announced the **2010 leaf collection program** will begin on November 1 and continue through December 20. Scott Miller said the Traffic Division personnel will be performing leaf collection in Zone 5 on dates other than the ones listed on the schedule to get a jump start in this zone as it is the largest. John Hamilton asked if all of the collection equipment is working and Scott Miller said that it is.

Don Icsman said the city received **notification from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development that the city's 2009 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER)** has been reviewed and has been determined satisfactory.

Don Icsman asked for authorization **to expend funds in the amount of \$3,037 to reimburse Edison Solar & Wind, Ltd. for the cost of paying prevailing wages for the solar energy project at the city's greenhouse.** Don Icsman said he wished for the city to err on the side of caution by paying these prevailing wages which normally applies to new construction of \$50,000+ or renovations in the amount of \$15,000+.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Pervis Brown, the Commission voted to pay the prevailing wages in the amount of \$3,037 to Edison Solar & Wind, Ltd. All Ayes. The Vice President declared the motion passed.

Don Icsman asked Todd Roth to cover a couple of other items specific to the Engineering Department. Todd Roth said a **Request for Proposals is being sent out for city-owned farmland which runs along Old Railroad and Bogart Road.** He is recommending a three-year lease after talking with the gentleman who currently farms this land.

Todd Roth said **Steve Brown has passed the tests and met the requirements to become a Certified Building Official.** He said Steve Brown is to be commended as this has taken a great amount of his time and is not a job requirement.

Todd Roth said there have been some recent emails concerning **the reporting of street light outages.** He said the public can report outages online at www.firstenergycorp.com, Ohio Edison link, and there is also a link from the city's home page: www.ci.sandusky.oh.us. He said citizens can call or email city employees about street light outages, but they may report them on their own through the internet.

Todd Roth said there have been **concerns about the amounts charged for roofing permits by contractors.** He said the city does not control how much the contractor charges the property owner for their permit, but the city charges \$50 for jobs under \$10,000 and \$125 for jobs over \$10,000, along with the 1% Board of Building Standards fee permit. He said questions regarding the verification of a permit can be directed to the Building Division at 419.627.5940.

Todd Roth asked for **authorization to pay for an invoice from the Erie County Landfill in the amount of \$17,569.60 for disposal of the materials removed from a the marina project in The Paper District.** He said legislation will be prepared for the next meeting for other materials to be disposed of.

Upon motion of Diedre Cole and second of Dave Waddington, the Commission voted to authorize payment to the Erie County Landfill in the amount of \$17,569.60 for these materials. All Ayes. The Vice President declared the motion passed.

Todd Roth said **milling will take place next week on Meigs Street, Tyler Street, McEwen Street and Shelby Street.** He said after the milling process, the resurfacing program will begin on these streets.

Todd Roth said the **waterline looping project** is continuing.

Todd Roth said the **Wastewater Treatment Plant improvements** are moving forward as scheduled.

Todd Roth said the **chemical improvement project at Big Island Water Works** will begin soon and a preconstruction meeting was held recently.

Todd Roth said the **underground storage tanks will be pulled at Sandusky Cabinets** once the Fire Chief gives his approval. He said Bob Haag is coordinating this project.

Todd Roth said the **Lions Park project** has begun.

Dave Waddington said he met with Todd Roth last week and the **Hayes Avenue underpass** lighting is being addressed as the lights are not connected and it is very dark in this area. Todd Roth said this was not done under contract (the light connection) and hopefully will be scheduled soon. Dave Waddington said the Engineering Department is also looking into water seepage at the Hayes Avenue underpass as he is concerned about this in the upcoming winter months. Todd Roth said this is a drainage issue and he is not sure he can solve it, but he will look at it.

OLD BUSINESS

Dave Waddington said he learned while speaking with Todd Roth last week that the city will not have to pay for **the energy audit associated with City Hall**, which means the First Energy grant money will not be needed for this purpose. He said contractors are willing to perform the audit at no cost; Todd Roth said a meeting has been scheduled with a company next Tuesday to perform a walk through and a short analysis to make sure it is worth their time. If the contractor(s) feels there is funding available through HB 295, they will perform the audit and give us a full report.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Kim Nuesse, the Commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$15,000 from the Frost Parker Foundation which is the balance of the \$37,500 grant for consulting fees associated with the proposed sportsplex. All Ayes. The Vice President declared the motion passed.

Kim Nuesse provided an update on the direction the city is heading regarding **the downtown market study which was incorporated into our Master Plan** process at the last meeting. She said in this report and discussion, there are **downtown buildings which have been identified as eyesores and are in different stages of disrepair.** Kim Nuesse said she spoke with Don Icsman this week and the city will be gearing up to give advance notice to all of the downtown property owners that the city needs compliance in taking care of the downtown buildings so that it does not look unattractive or unsafe downtown. She said property owners will be given an opportunity to perform work themselves and then enforcement will begin. She said the city is serious about taking care of our community and attracting jobs by cleaning up these properties. Don Icsman said he, Todd Roth and George Poulos will be meeting to discuss this along with Steve Brown who recently obtained his Certified Building Official status as he can help to perform some of these inspections; the city's Code Compliance Officers are not able to perform inspections on commercial properties. Dan Kaman said this can be equated with the changes in trash collection whereby on January 1, 2011, all registered haulers have been made aware they must have a compacting truck. He said downtown property owners know that on April 1, these property inspections will begin and they have until that time to make improvements. John Hamilton said the building which he owns has new windows and he is paving the way.

Dan Kaman said he sent a communication to the Commissioners regarding a request for a letter of support for a grant. He said there are several entities in our area going for this same grant and Kelly Kresser contacted someone at the State of Ohio to find out more about this. Kelly Kresser said the city sent a letter of support on behalf of the Erie County Health Department (ECHD) to obtain their Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) status. She said the current request for a letter of support is from Family Health Services of Erie County; they are applying for the same dollars or funding. Kelly Kresser said the gentleman she spoke with at the State of Ohio indicated there is more priority given to local health departments, but they are competing for the same dollars. She said the Erie County Health Department did receive their FQHC status in May. She said Family Health Services of Erie County is also

seeking support for these monies for their company. Dan Kaman said he would like to know if the Commission supports writing a letter of support for two different organizations; he said we should support both. He said the hospital will eventually ask for the same letter of support and Kelly Kresser said she believed this entity is affiliated with the hospital. Julie Farrar said the city sent a letter of support for the ECHD upon the request of Pete Schade and does not know why this request is being made ten months later. She said if this is a competitive grant, the first one there is the winner. She asked if the grantor looks at both letters of support and personally feels like the ECHD came to the city first and we should stick with them. Kim Nuesse asked Don Icsman if a letter of support does anything more than indicate the city supports the effort to apply but does not create an obligation. Don Icsman said this is the definitive question and he does not know if the city can support more than one without having a negative impact on another entity which has already asked for the money. He said getting letters of support may be like getting support for a submerged lands lease for a private party; he said there could be a dozen of these out at the same time and he does not know enough about this to answer the question. It is important to know if the city could support a dozen entities or only one. Kim Nuesse asked if there is a timeline for this letter and Dan Kaman said he did not see one. Kim Nuesse asked Don Icsman to look into this further and bring back more information so that the Commission could make a better informed decision.

Julie Farrar said there is a meeting on Wednesday of this week regarding **the proposed Sportsplex** and asked if it had been in the newspaper. Jason Singer, Sandusky Register, said he did not know if it had been in, but if not, he could get it in tomorrow's newspaper.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Kim Nuesse, the Commission voted to use the FirstEnergy grant money to enter into a contract with the ICMA for a dispatch analysis to give Sandusky a clear and accurate picture of real costs.

Discussion: Dave Waddington said he is concerned about the future operational and technical costs of dispatch. He said the current ICMA study is not comprehensive enough for the dispatching operation. He said he attended a meeting at the county five or six months ago and thinks we should take a different look at this. He said co-locating is fine but he does not want to be locked in for five more years as hidden costs drive this. He said the Perkins Township trustees are going to discuss this at their meeting tomorrow. He thinks it would be worthwhile to know the costs for services, equipment, software and staffing. He said it may be beneficial to know the real, true costs as we (Sandusky) are the county seat. Kim Nuesse said she had an opportunity to read through the proposal and said this is a good next step to get accurate information to assess our community's needs and decide whether to continue to co-locate or take the next step and continue these discussions with the county about regional dispatch. She said Sandusky should determine what is necessary in this contract to meet our needs and provide service to our community. She said this is what she needs to make an informed decision involving millions of dollars and a possible long-term commitment.

Julie Farrar said she has nothing against the ICMA. She said the detailed project plan in the proposal lists a lot of things which were done in a study performed by RCC Consultants in August, 2008. She said RCC studied Sandusky, Perkins, Margaretta, Huron, the County, North Central and Vermilion and, in the end, looked at the space availability and software capability and recommended that the county, cities and townships come together as one and place one person in charge to serve a board representing all of the entities. She said this study was done by the Public Safety Information Systems Division of RCC Consultants two years ago and asked how much has changed in two years. She said the cost for the ICMA study is \$49,000 and wonders how much of the information we may already have from August, 2008.

Pervis Brown said he has a problem for paying for more studies. He said there is one study going on now which will be completed in the near future regarding deficiencies. He said the city should not be pulling out of a financial situation where we see a little bit of growth and the first thing we decide to do is another study. He said regional dispatch moved forward and he does not see any hurdles that we cannot solve locally. Pervis Brown said the city does not need someone to come in and hold our hand and direct our course. He said sometimes we have to do what we need with the professional people we have in place; we supply guidance through consultants for them. We cannot study every move we make and then afterwards, not use the results like the energy study done a couple of years ago. He said the windows in the city building have to be replaced and we are losing tons of energy. He said we do not need to have studies performed continually. He said paying this company \$49,000 is not the direction we should be going in right now and we should sit tight and see what develops. Dave Waddington said the water plant and the wastewater plant have made direct changes as a result of the energy study, i.e. lighting, doors and heating. Because of HB 300, we have made improvements at the greenhouse and

have done a ton of things. He said the energy study was used and applied with viable savings. Dave Waddington said the only building not done was City Hall.

Diedre Cole said she has received calls in the past several days from staff that word in the community is this vote is a done deal because she (Diedre) votes the way Dan Kaman, Dave Waddington and Kim Nuesse want her to. She said she is offended by this statement as she has a brain and uses it. She wants residents and the staff to understand that she reads and understands thoroughly every decision which comes before her prior to voting and was highly offended. She said if a project cannot withstand scrutiny, it is probably not something we should be doing. She said she knows there are many questions with regard to dispatch that need to be answered and she has serious reservations about regionalization and co-location. She said she does not know enough about it to base an intelligent decision on it. She said if spending \$49,700 gives her enough information to make an intelligent decision on behalf of the citizens of this community, she will support it. If \$49,000 saves us millions of dollars in the long run, it is money well spent.

John Hamilton said he has given this some thought and has to vote against this because the FirstEnergy grant money was spent before Diedre Cole was on the Commission. He said 2/3 of the money was to be used to rehire police officers and the other 1/3 was to be used to put windows on the north side of City Hall and fixing other problems and this money is really gone. He said he thinks about the ICMA study saving lots of money, but he would like to first see the savings ICMA is offering through the implementation of ideas. He said that savings could be used for the next study and believes the taxpayers would appreciate this. Dan Kaman said in the last 6 years, he supported regionalization, but for the past two years he has backed off of regionalization. He said the co-location with Erie County is working and is serving us well. He said the meeting that he went to was put on and hosted by the Sheriff, the elected official running regionalized dispatch. He said when he attended a meeting, it was decided there would be a board created to include the Sheriff. He said the city has co-located for approximately one year at the county and it was stated once Sandusky joined, other municipalities would join including Huron, Margaretta and Perkins, yet he wonders what he is missing because this has not transpired. He said City Commissioners are gun-shy in dealing with the county and the city was recently burnt by actions of the County Commissioners, yet it is the Sheriff who is running dispatch. He said all of a sudden the County Commissioners are running the dispatch and they have beaten us up about regional water and the business of the fuel depot, but now say the city is right. He said Sandusky has been part of a co-located dispatch for over one year when others were supposed to follow through and now he understands Perkins Township may discuss it tomorrow night. He said this is great, but what if they do not co-locate. If it is these three entities participating, what will we do next? Dan Kaman said he personally favors a total regionalization of dispatch but he does not know enough about it to run a dispatch center and needs someone to look at it and determine what should be contained in a contract. He said the county is having other subdivisions sign a contract but the city has not seen nor been asked to sign one. He said only one meeting has taken place in one year regarding dispatch yet the city is responsible for the money spent and asked what total regionalization would cost for the city and what options we may have. He said a downtown market study was supported but the results did not look much different than the last study. He said he agrees with Pervis Brown and does not like studies either; he (Dan) did not vote for the study which told the city that the downtown property owners need to fix up their buildings as we already knew that. He said sooner or later, future City Commissioners will need to spend money on a whole new dispatch center at City Hall, or, hopefully, spend money with other political subdivisions for a regional dispatch center. He said he hopes all of the options are laid out and hopes the city is not jumping on board and being against a study because the County Commissioners are telling us it is good for us. He said when the Sheriff was running this it was okay, but it has become a County Commissioner-driven thing. Dan Kaman said when Paul Ricci tells him (Dan) that he (Paul) is good with it, he will be good with it. So far, the Fire Chiefs Association is saying they want a board that the Sheriff answers to. He said he supports the study to provide options and he does not want Sandusky to be the only one in the pool.

Diedre Cole said she is not opposed to regionalization but has serious questions about it as she does not know what the facts are and what has transpired before her. She said it would be irresponsible of her not to ask the questions of an independent person/agency who is not politically motivated and get answers that can be reasonably relied upon. She said she would like to see concrete evidence that we are moving in the right direction. She has yet to hear anyone say this will take us to the year 2050. She said the decisions made must consider the future and she cannot make a good decision without accurate information; she supports the study. Julie Farrar said she does not support the study and it is not because she does not want to know where we will be in 50 years. She said she wants to know what Acting Fire Chief Paul Ricci, Interim Police Chief Jim Lang and IT Manager Tom Whitted think of the project as all three of them have said things are going along fine although there are some kinks to be

worked out. Julie Farrar said the city has not been given a contract to sign which would commit the city to anything. She said she would like to see the report and recommendations and see what kind of work the ICMA does before handing over another \$49,000 - \$50,000 to them and believes this would be fiscally responsible.

John Hamilton said he agrees with Julie Farrar and believes this project should be put out for bid rather than giving it to ICMA. He said the FES grant money has already been pledged and this seems to have been forgotten. He said it is coming to the end of the year and if we are keeping the police officers which were rehired, we will have to come up with finances to pay for this. He said he was at one of the regionalization meetings and their opinion was the need for a board to run central dispatch which is not political and is out of the hands of the Sheriff's Department. He said there are a lot of questions which need to be answered but he would like to get through the first ICMA study and put this out for bid.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Dan Kaman, Kim Nuesse, Dave Waddington and Diedre Cole, 4. Nays: John Hamilton, Julie Farrar and Pervis Brown, 3. The Vice President declared the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Kim Nuesse provided an update on the **Fire Chief Selection Committee** which met last week for the first time. She said at this initial meeting, the members reviewed and refined the job description. She said some of the recommendations made through a telephone briefing were incorporated and a second meeting is scheduled in November. A proposed timeline will be developed for the selection process.

Julie Farrar said she would like to ask for **approval to spend the percentage of income received by the city for the vending machines in city facilities** which is, other than the vending machine at the city building, the employees' money. She asked for authorization to allow Connie Nicholson in the Human Resources Department to use up to \$3,800 of these monies for some type of Christmas festivities for the employees. **Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Pervis Brown, the Commission voted to allow Connie Nicholson to use up to \$3,800 of the vending machine revenues for this purpose and at her discretion. All Ayes. The President declared the motion passed.**

Kim Nuesse said she would like to clarify her understanding of a motion made at the last City Commission meeting. She said this motion was to have Don Icsman, Hank Solowiej and Carrie Handy attend the **public input meeting regarding the proposed sportsplex (recreation center)**. She said her understanding is that this is still a private project and has not yet come before the Commission for a vote; the Commissioners all support further exploring the idea and getting public input so that they can get more information about the project. Kim Nuesse said since it is not a city project, Don Icsman, Hank Solowiej and Carrie Handy are not heading the committee; it is still under Julie Farrar's direction and the person or persons she has designated to facilitate this. She said the city is actively engaged in the process of gathering more information from members of the public before the project takes on further form or shape. Julie Farrar said the first public meeting for the proposed sportsplex is Wednesday at 7 p.m., at Sandusky High School, Room 300.

Upon motion of Dan Kaman and second of Kim Nuesse, the Commission voted to have an Executive Session regarding a Charter Officer. Roll Call on the motion: Yeas: Dan Kaman, John Hamilton, Kim Nuesse, Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington, Diedre Cole and Pervis Brown, 7. The Vice President declared the motion passed.

Under **Audience Participation**, the following persons offered their comments:

Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street, asked if the \$15,000 grant from the Frost Parker Foundation has already been spent or if the money is being advanced. Julie Farrar said the check was received today and there is one invoice pending which needs to be paid. Sharon Johnson asked how long the investigation will go on and Don Icsman said he is not conducting it, but it will not go on for months. Sharon Johnson said she is surprised activities are going on with this project when it may be null and void. Don Icsman said this is not a city project and he never believed there was illegality, but an independent review is being conducted. Don Icsman said some of the reasons for holding an executive session have been eliminated because the property options have been accepted. He said the public meeting on Wednesday is the next phase and he hopes to have some of his questions answered. Sharon Johnson said she is surprised the foundations have taken this project over as the city will be involved with the buildings and maintaining the land. She said there is not a lot of transparency with this, yet the city is involved in the end. Kim Nuesse said this is a private project and is a concept or idea that Julie

Farrar is exploring further. She (Julie) will report the information back to the Commission for further vetting and a vote. Sharon Johnson said it is one thing for the foundation to do a greenhouse, but this is another thing.

John Ginty, 5055 Providence Drive, said the city will buy light bars for cruisers if the city receives the grant (Item #1) and asked what will happen to the old light bars. He said media reports were confusing about the Lions Park project and asked if it will be a wading, walking or swimming beach. John Ginty said the last Commission meeting was cut off on cable television and asked if there is a time limit for the meetings. Jim Lang said the light bars currently being used in the Police Department are 15 – 20 years old and the red and blue color cannot be seen well by drivers. The LED lights proposed are much brighter. John Hamilton asked if the old ones can be traded in and Jim Lang said they cannot be traded in, but they could be sold on www.govdeals.com. Dave Waddington said the beach at Lions Park will be 900' in length and will be for swimming. Dave Waddington asked Bob Haag to briefly speak about the washout and stone added at this location. Bob Haag said originally, people thought this was going to be a rocky or pebbled beach. He said when the sediment study was performed, it was found there is fine sand all over the area which will come up and make a sandy beach. Bob Haag said there is a general feeling that shorelines erode and that over the past 100 years, the level has been rising and coming inland and eroding the shoreline and this will continue. He said it is his understanding this is not actually happening and erosion prevention is not needed. Tom Whitted said the last commission meeting aired on a Wednesday because of the Columbus Day holiday; a press release was issued and this information was in the newspaper.

Wesley Poole, 1939 East Oldgate, asked what entity was requesting the letter of support for the FQHC and Julie Farrar said this came from Wilson Forney at Family Health Services of Erie County. Wesley Poole asked if Family Health Services is currently providing these services for residents and Kelly Kresser said she believes they are, but they do not have the FQHC status. Wesley Poole said the city should support this company unless there is a strong reason not to give them a letter of support. He asked what justifies the first-come first served idea and said the city should not fight over providing a letter of support and is not being asked to take sides. Dan Kaman said he would rather support a number of persons requesting a grant and would be hopeful to bring business to our city. Don Icsman said the fundamental question is if more than one company can obtain letters of support to provide care with Medicare coverage. Wesley Poole said there is hesitation for other communities to enter into co-located dispatching and asked if they know something that the city does not. He said this may not be as good of an idea as was thought at the beginning. He asked how the service has improved and the long term interests. Wesley Poole said in the newspaper, it was stated the cruiser closest to the call would be available to respond and he does not understand, as an example, how a Perkins Township police officer would come into Sandusky to deal with a barking dog call. He said the basis upon how this was sold to the public does not have any merit. He said he is still not sure the recent story about a delay in response time for dispatching a fire truck to a trailer park fire was accurate. He said when a chief loses control of dispatch, he loses a very important aspect of running their department. Julie Farrar asked Don Icsman to talk with the Erie County Health Department and Mr. Wilson Forney and ask about how many people they have served in the past year and what they charge. Don Icsman said he will find out if the city can provide more than one letter of support for the same grant. Dan Kaman suggested he (Don) talk with the same gentleman who Kelly Kresser spoke to from the State of Ohio. Julie Farrar said she would like to support the entity which helps the most people and Don Icsman said one letter has already been prepared for an entity that may be the one supporting the least amount of people.

Gary Guendelsberger, 726 Walnut Ridge Lane, said he spoke with Diedre Cole about using some of the FirstEnergy grant money to bring back two of the firefighters who have been laid off. He said he did not realize that money had already been designated for a window project. He said he is confused because a vote was taken to use this money for a study. He asked what happened to the money to replace the windows at City Hall. He said there must be some misinformation. Kim Nuesse said the money the Commission voted to spend was for bidding purposes and when they learned this was not necessary, the money was reallocated for the dispatch study. Kim Nuesse said the city is awaiting the results of the safety service assessment before making any decisions about personnel. Gary Guendelsberger asked if the window project is on hold and Dave Waddington said the city wants an energy audit and could no longer use Honeywell under HB 300. Dave Waddington said the city looked at HB 295 and said the city does not need the money for the audit itself. Todd Roth said the need is not just for window replacement, it is for the controls and the lights and he would like to look at the entire package, not just a portion. Gary Guendelsberger asked for clarification if there was an agreement to spend the remaining money to do windows and Kim Nuesse said there was a motion made and voted upon. Don Icsman said this money was new, one-time money and the Commission has discretion to spend it any way they want. He said 1/3 of the money that is no longer needed for the audit can be redirected and

spent as the Commission decides, absent any binding agreement. Dan Kaman said Todd Roth recently told him he was sitting in a city office and the heat and air conditioning were both on and that if this continues to happen, every window can be replaced, but it will not make a difference. Diedre Cole said she was recently standing outside of the Sandusky police records department and she could hear every word being said through the window and most of the caulking was missing from the window.

At 6:43 p.m., John Hamilton announced adjournment of the regular session for a three minute recess. One Executive Session held beginning at 6:45 p.m.

At 6:53 p.m., John Hamilton declared adjournment.

Kelly L. Kresser
Clerk of the City Commission

Daniel J. Kaman
President of the City Commission