

President Dan Kaman **called the meeting to order** at 5 p.m. after the **Invocation**, given by former city commissioner, Pastor Thomas Darden, and the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

Dan Kaman thanked Pastor Darden and said his words were appreciated. On behalf of the entire city commission, Dan Kaman extended condolences to the Dunn family and the law enforcement community. Dan Kaman said he hopes this tragedy will bring the community together and make Sandusky the community it strives to be. **A moment of silence was held in honor of Officer Andrew S. Dunn, Sandusky Police Officer**, who was killed in the line of duty on March 19, 2011.

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

City staff present: Todd Roth – Engineer, Jim Lang – Interim Police Chief, Paul Ricci – Fire Chief, Thomas Schwan – Transit Administrator, Anna Enderle – Assistant Planner, Carrie Handy – Planner, Scott Miller – General Services Director, Tom Whitted – IT Manager, Don Icsman – Law Director & Acting City Manager, Hank Solowiej – Finance Director and Kelly Kresser – Commission Clerk.

Upon motion of Pervis Brown and second of Diedre Cole, the commission voted to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2011 meeting and dispensed with the oral reading. All Ayes. The President declared the motion passed.

PRESENTATION

Jo Walls, Erie County Humane Society, gave a presentation regarding the trap, neuter, release (TNR) program in Erie County and the City of Sandusky. Jo Walls said a true feral cat is born to a wild mother, is not socialized to humans and is not considered adoptable. She said removing cats from an area will create a vacuum and will only temporarily reduce the number of feral cats in an area as the unsterilized survivors will continue to breed. Jo Walls said the TNR program returns cats to their outdoor homes after being neutered and ear-tipped, provided there is a caretaker. She said this stabilizes the kitten population and stops the unwanted behaviors and stresses associated with pregnancy and mating. She said the cats quickly put on weight and look healthier. Jo Walls said TNR is a responsible, humane method for dealing with feral cats. Jo Walls said 89 cats were taken through the program in 2009 while 200 cats were treated during 2010 and the space in the city's service center has been invaluable. She said her goal for 2011 is to take 600 cats through the TNR program. Jo Walls said she works with the caretakers regarding the food stations and shelters and works with the neighbors to explain the sterilization program. She said sprinklers are used to deter feral cats and to keep them out of areas where they are causing problems. Jo Walls said there are currently 15 persons on a waiting list which is the equivalent of 130 to 150 cats. Jo Walls said she has a surgery scheduled once each week after which the cats are released. Jo Walls said the program is funded strictly through donations to the Erie County Humane Society and she is looking into obtaining grants for it. She would also like to offer educational workshops about TNR for persons to help out in their own neighborhood(s). Jo Walls said 262 fertile female cats could reproduce up to 3,933 kittens, hypothetically, in one year. Dan Kaman thanked Jo Walls for attending to inform the commission about this successful program.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A Public Hearing was held regarding the proposed 2011 budget. Hank Solowiej said the budget has been prepared with conservative revenue projections and keeping control on spending. He said there are issues at the state level with local government funding and estate tax. He said the city's projected balance at the end of 2011 is \$3.2 million and the estimated ending balance for expenditures is at 21% which is equal to last year. He said there are still some issues with job growth, reduced unemployment, crude oil and census data, but credit should be given to the department heads for their effort in putting this budget together. Dan Kaman said the department heads did a great job of balancing the budget and one of the members of the Audit/Finance Committee has advised the city to stay conservative.

Members of the public were then invited to offer comments.

Brandon Jarrett, 3711 Linden Street, asked if the city offers municipal bonds and what the city's current rating is. Hank Solowiej said the city is not able to offer municipal bonds to individuals, only to bank qualified entities.

The President declared the public hearing closed.

A Public Hearing was held regarding the Annual Action Plan and the CDBG Consolidated Plan. Carrie Handy said the city is beginning its CDBG process for FY 2011. She said the city is receiving comments about projects for the upcoming year and provided a summary of the eligible activities which can be funded. She said these activities include the acquisition of real property, relocation and demolition, rehabilitation of residential and non-residential structures, construction of public facilities and improvements, public services, activities relating to energy conservation and renewable energy resources and the provision of assistance for profit-motivated businesses to carry out economic development and job creation/retention activities. Carrie Handy said other requirements are listed and provided business cards for persons to call with suggestions for projects which, this year, are budgeted at approximately \$800,000. Carrie Handy said this is slightly reduced from last year's funding and that congress has approved continuing resolutions which expire during the first part of April. She said FY 2012 money is also up for debate and a 62% cut has been proposed to CDBG funding; certain senators are proposing no changes so this may end up somewhere in between. Carrie Handy said a consolidated plan advisory committee meeting has been held to provide input about the annual action plan. She is hopeful to continue with the programs offered last fiscal year. She said suggestions have been made: to increase awareness of housing assistance programs, programs engaging youth, coordinating street improvements with sewer and water improvements, resurfacing main streets coming into town, keyhole gardening, constructing another section of the Sandusky Bay Pathway, a dog park, more staff time for code enforcement, improving curbs, resurfacing of a section of Washington Street, the downtown improvement program, repaving the Jackson Street parking lot, improving the lighting in the downtown area, wayfinding signage for the Sandusky Bay Pathway and improved drainage along Shoreline Drive.

Members of the public were then invited to offer comments.

Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street, said she would like to see more streets resurfaced with CDBG funds, especially the main arteries coming into town.

Barbara Clark, 407 Boston Road, asked about using CDBG funds to repave the parking lot at the U.S. Post Office and patch potholes on the surrounding streets. Carrie Handy said the parking lot belongs to the federal government, but the city can repair the potholes.

Andy Ouriel, [Sandusky Register](#), asked what the city applied for during the last fiscal year and what was used. Carrie Handy said the city received \$892,000 during the last fiscal year and recapped the projects provided and programs made available with these monies.

Dennis Timple, 553 Bimini Drive, said the primary purpose of CDBG funds is to assist low- to moderate-income persons or areas in the community and asked how the city could pave Cedar Point Drive again - from Cleveland Road to First Street - to assist one business. He said this money could be better spent on streets needing repair such as Buchanan Street and Pierce Street.

Tim Schwanger, 362 Sheffield Way, asked if copies of the documents mentioned by Carrie Handy are available for public review and Carrie Handy said they will be online at the end of FY 2010 when the final report is completed. Tim Schwanger asked what the next step will be and Carrie Handy said the budget will be prepared and the projects will be listed. Tim Schwanger said when the final plan was established, it was listed in the newspaper for the public; he suggested the city do this again. Tim Schwanger said using CDBG money for a portion of the Sandusky Bay Pathway was an idea presented by the Bayfront Corridor Committee and is also supported by Save Our Shoreline Parks. He would like to hold fundraising events to raise money for park benches and new trash cans for the new section of the pathway.

Gary Guendelsberger, 627 Walnut Ridge Lane, said the results of the 2010 action plan state the city will repave Meigs Street from Water Street to Monroe Street (rather than from Washington Street to Monroe Street). Carrie Handy said this was a typographical error in this section of the plan. She said it was never intended to pave Meigs Street beginning at Water Street; rather, it was intended to be repaved beginning at Washington Street.

The President declared the public hearing closed.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (*agenda items only*)

John Ginty, 5055 Providence Drive, asked for assurances whether the money from the Sandusky Bluecoat Fund (Item #1) is taxable. John Ginty asked how much money would be awarded if the Safe Routes to School program were funded (Item #2). John Ginty asked what the non-personnel costs are in

the fire and police department budget (Item #3). He asked if passage of legislation for the Sandusky Library (Item #4) would reduce the amount of debt service by the City of Sandusky to taxpayers. He said the legislation to provide transportation for Serving Our Seniors (Item #5) would help those 61 years of age or older, but asked who would put details out about this service. John Ginty said the rental of the concession stand at Dorn Community Park (Item #6) would provide monthly income and monies to offset the utility costs. John Ginty said the city will have to pay more for the Hayes Avenue underpass project (Item #7) and asked about water lying in the street on the east side after periods of rain. John Ginty said the city agrees to close both the Huron Avenue and Tiffin Avenue crossings through the agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation (Item #8). He asked if the city's cost for this project will be 5%. He asked where the storm water will go along this route.

Sue Daugherty, Director of Serving Our Seniors, said she supports the Memorandum of Understanding for transportation services (Item #5). Sue Daugherty said she is grateful the city is willing to work with her organization to provide these services. She said in 2007, a contingent of representatives from local human service agencies received training about coordination of transportation as no new money will be coming forward for this purpose from the federal government. She said it is important that STS work with the county's coordinated transportation plan in order to sustain transportation into the future. Sue Daugherty said passes will be made available for seniors over the age of 65, upon age verification, by Serving Our Seniors.

Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street, asked if the cost of repainting the walls of the Hayes Avenue underpass (\$30,000) is included in this change order; Todd Roth said a portion was covered in the first change order and the remainder is within the current change order (Item #7). Sharon Johnson said \$176,000 is a large overrun; Todd Roth said a lot of concrete was removed and replaced in the walls which was an unexpected item and is one of the larger costs. He said the rock excavation is also a larger cost item and estimates were based upon past experience and projects. Todd Roth said the project will stay open until the audit is completed by the Ohio Department of Transportation.

Tim Schwanger, 362 Sheffield Way, asked about the amount of each change order for the Hayes Avenue underpass and Todd Roth said the total of both change orders is \$315,937.16. Tim Schwanger said he was under the impression the city's 5% was based upon the original estimate; Todd Roth said the city will pay 5% based upon the current estimate, and the total to be paid will be 5% of the actual construction cost when completed.

Upon motion of Pervis Brown and second of Dave Waddington, the commission voted to accept all communications. All Ayes. The President declared the motion passed.

ITEM #1

RESOLUTION NO. 010-11R: It is requested a Resolution be passed **authorizing the maximum distribution from the City of Sandusky Bluecoat Fund to be made to Officer Andrew Dunn's surviving spouse;** 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 Julie Farrar, the commission voted to adopt this Resolution under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington, Diedre Cole, Pervis Brown, Dan Kaman, John Hamilton and Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the Resolution: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington, Diedre Cole, Pervis Brown, Dan Kaman, John Hamilton and Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the Resolution passed.

ITEM #2

ORDERED IN 3.14.11

RESOLUTION NO. 011-11R: It is requested a Resolution be passed **in support of the Safe Routes to School program and the development of Sandusky's School Travel Plan;** and declaring that this Resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Pervis Brown and second of Dave Waddington, the commission voted to adopt this Resolution under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington, Diedre Cole, Pervis Brown, Dan Kaman, John Hamilton and Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the Resolution: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington, Diedre Cole, Pervis Brown, Dan Kaman, John Hamilton and Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the Resolution passed.

ITEM #3

ORDINANCE NO. 11-027: It is requested an Ordinance be passed **making general appropriations for the fiscal year 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 Diedre Cole, the commission voted to adopt this Ordinance under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington, Diedre Cole, Pervis Brown, Dan Kaman, John Hamilton and Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the Ordinance: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington, Diedre Cole, Pervis Brown, Dan Kaman, John Hamilton and Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the Ordinance passed.

ITEM #4 – Submitted by Hank S. Solowiej, CPA, Finance Director

Budgetary Information: On April 23, 2001, the city commission authorized the sale of \$6,340,000 library bonds for the purpose of renovating the Sandusky Library and the former county jail and constructing additional space, all to serve as the expanded Sandusky Library, furnishing and equipping the expanded Sandusky Library, constructing additional parking and otherwise improving its site. The city has an opportunity to refund the bonds of this issue maturing in the years 2012 through 2023, the year of their final maturity. Refunding bonds are issued to replace one set of bonds with another, usually at a lower interest rate. This is similar to a refinancing. This sale will allow the city to retire those outstanding bonds at an overall lower blended interest rate that is expected, based on the current interest rate environment, to save the city approximately \$400,000 in aggregate debt service expenses through 2023. All costs related to this sale are included in the issue. The Government Finance Officers Association recommends that the present value savings produced by a refunding should equal at least 3% of the par value of the outstanding bonds being refunded. The estimated savings based on the current interest rate environment is over 8% for this refunding. The bonds are support by a voted property tax levy, which was approved by the electors on November 3, 1998.

ORDINANCE NO. 11-028: It is requested an Ordinance be passed **providing for the issuance and sale of bonds in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$4,095,000 for the purpose of refunding at a lower overall interest cost the city's outstanding library improvement bonds, dated as of May 1, 2001 and maturing after December 1, 2011, which were issued for the purpose of renovating the Sandusky Library and the former county jail and constructing additional space, all to serve as the expanded Sandusky Library, furnishing and equipping the expanded Sandusky Library, constructing additional parking and otherwise improving its site;** and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Diedre Cole, the commission voted accept the Fiscal Officer's Certificate. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington, Diedre Cole, Pervis Brown, Dan Kaman, John Hamilton and Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Dick Brady and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to adopt this Ordinance under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington, Diedre Cole, Pervis Brown, Dan Kaman, John Hamilton and Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the Ordinance: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington, Diedre Cole, Pervis Brown, Dan Kaman, John Hamilton and Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the Ordinance passed.

ITEM #5 – Submitted by Thomas Schwan, Sandusky Transit Administrator

Budgetary Information: There is no additional cost associated with this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). It is an agreement to cooperatively plan for the future of transit services in the Sandusky area and outline each organization's responsibilities in that cooperative planning effort. In 2010, the SPARC routes had approximately 885 elderly riders, which would ride for free according to this MOU. The free ridership to the seniors would have decreased our fare box by \$885 in 2010. Even though ridership is expected to increase in 2011 for SPARC the \$10,000 contribution would offset the \$1/ride that would be collected from each passenger, and help us to meet our local match of \$55,016 for the JARC grant.

ORDINANCE NO. 11-029: It is requested an Ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to execute the memorandum of understanding for transportation services between the City of Sandusky and Serving Our Seniors, substantially in the same form attached hereto;** and declaring that this Ordinance 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 adopt this Ordinance under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Dick Brady said he will abstain from the discussion and the vote on this item because Serving Our Seniors is one of his tenants.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington, Diedre Cole, Pervis Brown, Dan Kaman and John Hamilton, 6. Abstain: Dick Brady, 1. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the Ordinance: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington, Diedre Cole, Pervis Brown, Dan Kaman and John Hamilton, 6. Abstain: Dick Brady, 1. The President declared the Ordinance passed.

ITEM #6 – Submitted by Scott A. Miller, Director of General Services

Budgetary Information: The agreements will not result in any additional budgetary expenses. The city will benefit from the agreed upon rental fee income of \$70 per month and electric service reimbursement of \$30 per month.

ORDINANCE NO. 11-030: It is requested an Ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to enter into a lease agreement with Eric Foltz dba Cold Creek Café for the Dorn Community Park concession area beginning April 1, 2011 through August 15, 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 Dave Waddington, the commission voted to adopt this Ordinance under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington, Diedre Cole, Pervis Brown, Dan Kaman, John Hamilton and Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the Ordinance: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington, Diedre Cole, Pervis Brown, Dan Kaman, John Hamilton and Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the Ordinance passed.

ITEM #7 – Submitted by Todd J. Roth, P.E., P.S.

Budgetary Information: The change order no. 2 will increase the contract with Schirmer Construction by \$176,112.80. The current contract amount with Schirmer Construction is \$1,957,540.75. The revised contract amount including change order No. 2 is \$2,133,653.55. The sewer fund will pay \$30,235.17 and the remaining funding available from the MPO will pay \$29,630.98. The MPO funding will have then reached its maximum contribution of \$1,600,000. The city's capital fund will pay the balance of \$116,246.65.

ORDINANCE NO. 11-031: It is requested an Ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to approve the second change order for work performed for the Hayes Avenue underpass rehabilitation project in the amount of \$176,112.80 to be paid to Schirmer Construction of North Olmsted, Ohio;** 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 Julie Farrar, the commission voted to adopt this Ordinance under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Dave Waddington said he is not happy with the additional costs for this project. Dave Waddington said he hopes the city has a project manager to follow through with the next project: the Camp Street underpass. Todd Roth clarified the existing bid item for the paint should be deducted which makes the total additional cost for this item approximately \$30,000. Dick Brady said he had an opportunity to speak with Todd Roth about this change order and he (Dick) does not believe anyone is pleased about these kind of numbers. He said when cost overruns approach 20%, it highlights the value of a project such as the Chesapeake marina which was managed for the city by George Poulos and John Hancock; this was a \$3 million project with no cost overruns. He said additional work was performed for \$34,000 and the city paid a fee to George Poulos and John Hancock, the cost of which was 8.4%. Dick Brady said this cannot continue to happen (20% overruns) and numbers will be scrutinized much more so than in the past as the city does not have the kind of dollars to fund these things. Dick Brady asked the department heads to pay attention to these items and said the city commission needs to be fair, but tough, on these issues. Julie Farrar said this cannot happen again and hopes it does not happen with the Camp Street project. Julie Farrar said some construction companies submit many change orders and she would like to see a day when a project comes in at the estimated or bid cost; if not, she said the construction company should pay the difference. Dan Kaman said he hopes the city can solve the drainage issue.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington, Diedre Cole, Pervis Brown, Dan Kaman, John Hamilton and Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the Ordinance: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington, Diedre Cole, Pervis Brown, Dan Kaman, John Hamilton and Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the Ordinance passed.

ITEM #8 – Submitted by Todd J. Roth, P.E., P.S.

Budgetary Information: The project cost is estimated at \$14,420,707. The city's share is 5% of the estimated construction cost.

ORDINANCE NO. 11-032: It is requested an Ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to enter into a tri-party agreement on behalf of the city with the director of the Ohio Department of Transportation and the Norfolk Southern Railway Company for the Venice Road grade separation project;** and declaring that this Ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Dick Brady, the commission voted to adopt this Ordinance under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington, Diedre Cole, Pervis Brown, Dan Kaman, John Hamilton and Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the Ordinance: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington, Diedre Cole, Pervis Brown, Dan Kaman, John Hamilton and Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the Ordinance passed.

ITEM #9 – Submitted by Kelly L. Kresser, Clerk of the City Commission

A notice has been submitted to the City of Sandusky from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control, requesting a transfer request of D1, D2 and D3 liquor permits from Hometown USA, Inc. dba Vicki's Pub to Tony GS Bar & Grill LLC dba Tony GS Bar & Grill, 902 West Adams Street, Sandusky. It is requested the clerk notify the Ohio Division of Liquor Control that the city has no objections to this request.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to have the clerk of the commission notify the Ohio Division of Liquor Control the city has no objections to this request. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington, Diedre Cole, Pervis Brown, Dan Kaman, John Hamilton and Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the motion passed.

ITEM #10 - Submitted by Kelly L. Kresser, Clerk of the City Commission

A notice has been submitted to the City of Sandusky from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control, requesting a new D5I liquor permit for M-TL, Inc. dba Berardi's Family Kitchen, 1019 West Perkins Avenue, Sandusky. It is requested the clerk notify the Ohio Division of Liquor Control that the city has no objections to this request.

Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Dave Waddington, the commission voted to have the clerk of the commission notify the Ohio Division of Liquor Control the city has no objections to this request. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington, Diedre Cole, Pervis Brown, Dan Kaman, John Hamilton and Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the motion passed.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Pervis Brown, the commission voted to accept four donations for the Friends of the Greenhouse fund, Acct. #863 3483, from Samuel Beach (\$10), Nanette Guss (\$100), Ruth & Bob Haag (\$20) and Barbara Hanck (\$75). All Ayes. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Pervis Brown, the commission voted to authorize the city to provide a gift certificate for Mills Creek Golf Course to the Serving Our Seniors organization to be used at an upcoming fundraising event for their affordable medications program. All Ayes. The President declared the motion passed.

Don Icsman provided copies of a letter of appreciation received from Benjamin Byington, Benny B's Barbershop, for assistance he received from the city.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Diedre Cole, the commission voted to authorize out-of-state travel for Detective Dave West to attend the National Strategy Conference on Combating Child Exploitation in San Jose, California from May 17 – May 20.

Discussion: Don Icsman said this conference features highly specialized training provided by the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force, Project Safe Childhood Coalition members, their federal partner agencies and other organizations working to combat the online exploitation of children. He said the hotel accommodations and airline reservations will be handled and paid for by the ICAC Task Force; meal expenses will be paid with funds from the police department.

All Ayes. The President declared the motion passed.

Don Icsman said **the city has begun to locate all of the non-working pay phones for removal purposes and said the city will be responsible for those connected to a right-of-way.** He said removal for private property locations will be the responsibility of the property owner. Dave Waddington said the phone at Lions Park has not rung for about 15 years and he would like to see these removed from our parks and downtown areas as they are as unsightly as broken windows. Don Icsman said he believes there are less than 20 in total. Diedre Cole said there is a phone at the Hancock Street parking lot and one at the city's boat launch facility. Dan Kaman said anyone interested in these phones should contact city hall.

Don Icsman asked the commission for **authorization to submit an application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Great Lakes National Program office for financial assistance under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to support cleanup of the coal tar plume.** He said the city tried for this grant previously but was unsuccessful. He said the city is awaiting further information to determine our chances of success in receiving grant funding. He said the deadline for submitting the application is April 11, 2011, and if it is determined to be worth pursuing, legislation to ratify submission of the application will be presented at the next city commission meeting (April 11). Dave Waddington said he supports this grant application to keep progress moving forward.

OLD BUSINESS

Diedre Cole said a resident asked her about the **unfinished business list** which is 11 pages long. She said the completed items highlighted in yellow should be removed. Kelly Kresser asked if the commission would like to have the completed items separated from those pending so that they can go through the list. Diedre Cole said she would like to see more than a disposition which says "ongoing" or "pending". She would like to see where each project is and how close it is to being completed and an additional blank column added entitled "notes". Kelly Kresser asked if this would be different from the "summary" column and Diedre Cole said she would like to be able to add information about what is going on with each item when asked.

Dick Brady said he was with members of the **Friends of Pipe Creek this past weekend during their annual cleanup.** He asked this group if the city could make use of the tactical trailer owned by Erie Soil & Water for cleanups and proposed utilizing it on April 30 during the Go Green Sandusky event. He said he will be asking this group to help clean up a portion of the shoreline. Dick Brady said the city will also host a tire collection at the city building on April 30.

Diedre Cole asked if the weed and seed committee will be performing the **zone cleanups** this year, as in past years, and Carrie Handy said she did not believe the members of the Neighborhood Advisory Committee would be doing this again as they felt enough awareness was received from past cleanups.

Upon motion of Pervis Brown and second of Diedre Cole, the commission voted to authorize providing a letter of support to the Erie County Health Department for their Healthy Homes program. All Ayes. The President declared the motion passed.

Diedre Cole asked for an update on the **sportsplex project** and Julie Farrar said the city is awaiting information from the realtor regarding the EPA issues and a meeting is scheduled on Friday. Diedre Cole asked if the city received a letter about the project and Julie Farrar said the city received a letter from the foundation confirming their donation. She said she has spoken with Mel Stauffer three or four times since this letter was received to keep him abreast of where the city is with the EPA issue.

NEW BUSINESS

Julie Farrar said she believes everyone has had a chance to reflect upon what has happened during the past week. She said everyone needs to come together and take care of the community in order to come away stronger than when we started. Julie Farrar said she remembers what it was like to grow up in Sandusky and leave doors unlocked. She said we have gotten so far away from this and people are afraid to say anything to other people's children because someone may be offended. She said she is hurt and afraid for both families struck by this tragedy and asked people to continue to pray for them. Julie Farrar suggested people start leaving their front porch lights on when they go to bed at night as this may help light up the neighborhoods for members of the police department. She said there are now energy-efficient light bulbs and turning these on could perhaps help to deter crime during the evening hours.

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

Barbara Clark, 407 Boston Road, N.A.A.C.P. President, expressed her condolences to the family of Officer Dunn and to members of the Sandusky Police Department. Barbara Clark said the community needs to come together and the N.A.A.C.P. has been asked to meet again and invite the entire community to look at the issues to learn what can be done to help in the future. She said there will be another session at Ebenezer Baptist Church this Saturday, April 2 at 11 a.m.

John Ginty, 5055 Providence Drive, asked about the removable bollard for handicapped persons at the Battery Park Pier and if this has been addressed in light of the upcoming fishing season. He asked for an update on the coal tar plume. Dan Kaman said the bollard at the end of the Meigs Street Pier has been replaced, is a lighter plastic bollard and can be removed. Diedre Cole said the limits for the Safe Routes to School program are \$500,000 for infrastructure improvements, \$100,000 for non-infrastructure improvements and \$1,000 for a school travel plan.

Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street, said it is ridiculous to imagine a handicapped person being able to remove the bollard at the end of the Meigs Street Pier. Dan Kaman said a person who is able to unpack all of their fishing gear and set up on the pier should be able to remove this lightweight plastic bollard.

Tim Schwanger, 362 Sheffield Way, said he believes a person can stop in the marina office to have the bollard removed prior to going onto the pier. Tim Schwanger said he believes there is a provision in the charter requiring approval for work being done (for change orders) by the commission before it is actually performed. Tim Schwanger asked if the intent is to replace the existing pay phones with emergency phones and Dan Kaman said the pay phones are already gone for the most part, this is for removal of the booths.

Dennis Timple, 553 Bimini Drive, requested the city keep an eye on the flags along the Jackson Street Pier and said the lighting does not conform to the regulations for display of the U.S. flag. Diedre Cole said the flags on the Jackson Street pier are replaced each year and Dave Waddington has paid for their replacement. Dennis Timple said a previous city manager was called for four weeks in a row before replacing flags that were in disrepair, but this has gotten better during the past couple of years.

Andy Ouriel, Sandusky Register, asked what actions or plans the city will be taking to reduce or eliminate gun violence in Sandusky. Dan Kaman said on behalf of the commission and staff, the city is working on reducing violence in the community. Julie Farrar said last year there were shootings in the city and donations were made for a reward to get people to talk. She said people need to quit looking the other way and should talk about things that they know. She said the city has a drug tip hotline and an email address to report tips to the police department.

Barbara Clark, 407 Boston Road, said fear will stop people from doing the right thing and people are fearful in this community. She said two families are hurting and the issue is not one of race; she said the community needs to come together.

Barry Riddle, 1338 Fifth Street, said he tries to smile and speak to everyone that he sees and if more people did this, people would realize we are all the same.

At 6:45 p.m., Dan Kaman announced adjournment of the open session.

Kelly L. Kresser
Clerk of the City Commission

Daniel J. Kaman
President of the City Commission