

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

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

City staff present: Jim Lang – Interim Police Chief, Paul Ricci – Fire Chief, 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 April 25, 2011 meeting and dispensed with the oral reading. All Ayes. The President declared the motion passed.

PROCLAMATION

Dan Kaman read a proclamation on behalf of **the Zonta Club of Sandusky's 50th anniversary**. Sharon Traut, President, accepted the proclamation on behalf of Zonta.

PRESENTATIONS

Don Icsman provided **an update on the housing program as the city received the monitoring release for the 2006 Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP) from the Ohio Department of Development**. He said 2006 is the final year the city was waiting for a release and has already received the 2004 and 2005 releases/reports. Don Icsman said these reports indicate the homes have been satisfactorily repaired, inspected and audited by the State of Ohio. He said the city continues to provide other housing services and indicated Carrie Handy will provide a summary of these services. Don Icsman introduced Beth Snyder, representing the Ohio Regional Development Corporation (ORDC), who is helping to administer and rectify the housing problems. Don Icsman said residential rehabilitation standards, as set by the State of Ohio, have to be met for all of the programs offered by the city or the community must "walk away". He said the city did not walk away when these standards were not being met which contributed to some of its problems. Don Icsman said ORDC was hired in 2008 to administer corrections and was highly recommended to interact with those in the program to satisfy the requirements of the State of Ohio. Don Icsman said the city applied for funding in 2009 and 2010 but was told it will be denied for every year there was a problem with the program (he hopes this is not the case). He said there were some administrative problems in the program which ORDC has helped to correct; the city now has procedures, processes and documentation requirements in place. Don Icsman said inquires about the program from any year should be directed to George Poulos, to ORDC or to his (Don's) office. He said the repairs made have met the standards and the satisfaction of the State of Ohio and the city has reconciled with the state. Don Icsman said the city's position regarding the investigation has been consistent since the beginning; the individuals involved were suspended and the program was closed down. He said the files were sealed and the investigation was initially being conducted by the city, but was taken over by the federal government. The commission has done what was necessary to make these problems right and those who were victimized have been made whole. He said the inspector general's office is conducting an ongoing investigation and he does not know where it will end up. He said the results of the investigation will be an invaluable tool and this should not have been done by the city as it is still unknown who may be implicated. He said the city has filed a claim with its insurance company and will be able to move forward once the investigation is complete. Don Icsman said there were individuals who did benefit and an erroneous conclusion was drawn by the local newspaper about this. He said the commissioners have addressed quality of life issues through various efforts and the citizens must decide what its expectations are of government as less and less resources are left to pursue greater and more problems. Don Icsman said it has been decided Sandusky will concentrate on the basics – police, fire and streets – and there are no guarantees to upgrade property values as there are so many variables.

Carrie Handy, Planner, highlighted the programs in place to address housing issues and vacant and abandoned properties to improve Sandusky neighborhoods. She said the city has a demolition program, a code enforcement program, a land reutilization program and the city coordinates these with other entities. The city has operated an owner-occupied rehabilitation program using CDBG funds and housing program income. The city has an emergency home repair program which is run by the Erie Huron Community Action Commission. WSOS provides a down payment assistance program, homebuyer counseling and foreclosure prevention counseling for the city. Carrie Handy said the VOA provides

emergency housing and utility assistance for the city and fair housing programs are offered through Donald Eager & Associates. In addition, Habitat for Humanity is working to provide new housing in city neighborhoods. She said the ARC of Erie County provides rehabilitation projects for the city's neighborhood stabilization program.

Carrie Handy said the city reactivated the Housing Appeals Board in 2007 which reviews structures under demolition orders. Since 2008, the city has used CDBG money to demolish 85 structures. She said the city provides code enforcement for nuisance violations and violations against the Environmental Health Housing Code/International Property Maintenance Code. In 2010, the city processed 178 housing complaints and 682 nuisance complaints. Carrie Handy said the city recently adopted a Commercial and Industrial Property Maintenance Code to be enforced by the building division. She said an ordinance is being developed for commission approval for vacant building maintenance licenses and will be enforced by the fire department. She said the land banking (land reutilization) program is becoming active and allows the city to acquire tax delinquent property through the tax foreclosure process, through gift of deed in lieu of foreclosure, or through gift of deed or donation. She said this tool allows the city to gain control of tax delinquent property and return it to tax-producing status. To date, 16 parcels have been acquired including 13 vacant lots and 3 parcels with structures.

Carrie Handy said the city coordinates with other entities for programs such as the weed & seed (Mental Health & Recovery Board of Erie & Ottawa Counties and the Center for Cultural Awareness); home weatherization assistance program (WSOS); lead-based paint hazard control program and the neighborhood stabilization program (Erie Regional Planning Commission/Erie County). She said the city may be eligible for other monies through Housing & Urban Development to bring other programs to our neighborhoods. Julie Farrar said she knows a lot of time has been spent on housing issues, especially with the land banking program, and thanked the staff for all of their efforts to demolish and/or provide rehabilitation for homes. Diedre Cole asked if the city coordinates efforts with the Erie Metropolitan Housing Authority (EMHA) and Carrie Handy said the city is working with EMHA for its fair housing and down payment assistance programs. Diedre Cole asked the status of a vacant lot at 808 Hancock Street and Carrie Handy said if the property has been certified as delinquent for at least two years, the foreclosure process can begin. Carrie Handy said the mow-to-own program should be unveiled this summer and will allow for a reduced price for these lots.

Dick Brady said he believes the city has taken the high road from day one with the housing investigation and did not allow disadvantaged homeowners to be without help. He said the commissioners will be judged historically by what they do with the results, not by the sins of unscrupulous contractors or employees. He said government does sometimes work slowly, but he is willing to wait. Don Icsman said problems with properties or lack of services should not all be ascribed to the city as it is limited in the amount of funding available to assist. Dan Kaman said there are many neighborhood houses of concern and results do sometimes take a few years because of the dealings with banks and absentee homeowners. Pervis Brown said the city is criticized about vacant properties, but the county has to first take possession of them before the city can.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (*agenda items only*)

None.

CURRENT BUSINESS

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

ITEM #1 – ORDERED IN 4.25.11

PASSED AT FIRST READING: It is requested an Ordinance be passed **amending part one – administrative code, title seven – boards and commissions, by the addition of new chapter 173 – Sandusky Youth Commission, of the codified ordinances**, in the manner and way specifically set forth hereinbelow.

Upon motion of Diedre Cole and second of Pervis Brown, the commission voted to adopt this Ordinance under first reading. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Pervis Brown, Dan Kaman, John Hamilton, Dick Brady, Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington and Diedre Cole, 7. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the Ordinance: Yeas: Pervis Brown, Dan Kaman, John Hamilton, Dick

Brady, Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington and Diedre Cole, 7. The President declared the Ordinance passed.

ITEM #2 – Submitted by Todd J. Roth, P.E., P.S.

Budgetary Information: The city will receive 50% of the payment for the finalized lease each year. **RESOLUTION NO. 015-11R:** It is requested a Resolution be adopted pursuant to Section 1506.11 of the Ohio Revised Code finding and determining that based upon the representations and application filed by Elizabeth A. Valentine, trustee for property located at 1119 Cedar Point Road, the use and development of the territory so described, a submerged lands lease may be entered into by the state's director of natural resources, 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: Pervis Brown, Dan Kaman, John Hamilton, Dick Brady, Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington and Diedre Cole, 7. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the Resolution: Yeas: Pervis Brown, Dan Kaman, John Hamilton, Dick Brady, Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington and Diedre Cole, 7. The President declared the Resolution passed.

ITEM #3 – Submitted by Todd J. Roth, P.E., P.S.

Budgetary Information: There will be no additional fees related to the requested time extension for change order #9 with Mosser Construction. The cost for piping changes and any other requested changes will be brought forward at a later date.

ORDINANCE NO. 11-044: It is requested an Ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the city manager to approve the ninth change order for work being performed for the wastewater treatment plant expansion project phase II by Mosser Construction of Fremont, 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 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: Dave Waddington said there is no extra cost involved with the extension of time.

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

ITEM #4 - Submitted by Todd J. Roth, P.E., P.S.

Budgetary Information: The city bid out the project in 2010 and contracts were awarded for general trades, plumbing, HVAC, electrical and fire protection in the amount of \$5,305,272. The city has also contracted out the construction administration in the amount of \$598,000. Costs have already been incurred on all contracts. The city is applying for an Ohio Water Development Authority loan which will be paid back with water funds.

ORDINANCE NO. 11-045: It is requested an Ordinance be passed authorizing a cooperative agreement between the City of Sandusky and the Ohio Water Development Authority to finance the cost of construction for the big island water works chemical improvement 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 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: Pervis Brown, Dan Kaman, John Hamilton, Dick Brady, Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington and Diedre Cole, 7. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the Ordinance: Yeas: Pervis Brown, Dan Kaman, John Hamilton, Dick Brady, Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington and Diedre Cole, 7. The President declared the Ordinance passed.

ITEM #5 – Submitted by Carrie R. Handy, Chief Planner

Budgetary Information: There will be no impact to the general fund. Proposed activities will be paid for through the CDBG grant funds.

ORDINANCE NO. 11-046: It is requested an Ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the city manager to accept a consolidated entitlement grant in the estimated amount of \$744,846 total community development block grant funds for the program year of July 1, 2011, through June 30,

2012, and to submit to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development a FY 2011 one-year action plan; and declaring that this Ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

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

ITEM #6 – Submitted by Carrie R. Handy, Chief Planner

Budgetary Information: The total estimated project cost, including engineering, inspection, advertising and miscellaneous costs is \$642,958. \$70,000 is being funded with land and water conservation fund grant; \$25,000 with city water funds and \$25,000 with city sewer funds; and \$2,892 with a Sandusky/Erie County Community Foundation grant. The remaining balance of \$520,066 will be funded with CDBG funds.

RESOLUTION NO. 016-11R: It is requested a Resolution be passed **declaring the necessity for the City of Sandusky, Ohio, to proceed with the Lions Park project phase II, approving the specifications and engineer’s estimate of cost thereof and directing the city manager to advertise for and receive bids in relation thereto;** 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 adopt this Resolution under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Pervis Brown, Dan Kaman, John Hamilton, Dick Brady, Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington and Diedre Cole, 7. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the Resolution: Yeas: Pervis Brown, Dan Kaman, John Hamilton, Dick Brady, Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington and Diedre Cole, 7. The President declared the Resolution passed.

ITEM #7 – 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 liquor permit transfer from BIYC, Inc., dba Louie’s Sportsman’s Lounge to River Avenue Enterprises LLC, dba Louie’s Sportsman’s Lounge & Patio, 2331 River 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 request the city clerk to notify the Ohio Division of Liquor Control that the city has no objection to the transfer of a liquor permit from BIYC, Inc., dba Louie’s Sportsman’s Lounge to River Avenue Enterprises LLC, dba Louie’s Sportsman’s Lounge & Patio, 2331 River Avenue, Sandusky. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Pervis Brown, Dan Kaman, John Hamilton, Dick Brady, Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington and Diedre Cole, 7. The President declared the motion passed.

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$500 from the Sandusky Main Street Association to the recreation department to be used to make a summer events brochure (Acct. No. 227 3700 485 00). All Ayes. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Diedre Cole, the commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$10 from Elizabeth R. Morris to the Sandusky Police Department. All Ayes. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Diedre Cole, the commission voted to accept donations (below) for the Andrew Dunn Golf Outing held at Mills Creek Golf Course on May 7:

Richard Brady	\$25.00	Tom Whitted	30.00
Dave Waddington	25.00	Cedar Point	park tickets
Donald Icsman	25.00	Sandusky Electric	Indians tickets
Hank Solowiej	30.00		

All Ayes. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Pervis Brown, the commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$535 from the Sandusky/Erie County Community Foundation's 2011 annual grant distribution which was used to help pay for the replacement of two (2) windows at the Sandusky greenhouse maintenance building. Dan Kaman said these are the large glass block panels on Elm Street. All Ayes. The President declared the motion passed.

Don Icsman said he would like to recommend **approving a request from the Erie County Coalition for Local Resources and Erie Fresh for the city to donate a used 25' hoop house that has been in storage at the city greenhouse and is not being used by the city. Upon motion of Diedre Cole and second of Dave Waddington, the commission voted to authorize this donation. All Ayes. The President declared the motion passed.**

Don Icsman said **the American Red Cross and the Merry Go Round Museum have been granted permission to place painted lighthouses and sailboats in the city's parks and on the sidewalks of downtown Sandusky for their Light in the Harbor public art project beginning May 23. Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Diedre Cole, the commission voted to authorize the placement of these lighthouses and sailboats for the community fundraiser. All Ayes. The President declared the motion passed.**

Don Icsman said **the city received notice from the Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA) that the city does not have a delegate designated for their Council of Governments. Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Pervis Brown, the commission voted to authorize Hank Solowiej to be the city's delegate for RITA's Council of Governments. All Ayes. The President declared the motion passed.**

Don Icsman said last week, **the city held the first of a series of four meetings discussing "land reutilization law and misconceptions of land banking"**. He said the meeting was well attended and distributed a copy of the materials used at the meeting.

Don Icsman said **the city's impacted city status has been completed and notification was received from the Ohio Department of Development for workable program certification to maintain impacted city status.** He said the certification shall remain in effect for a two-year period beginning March 3, 2011 and ending March 2, 2013.

Don Icsman requested **authorization to submit two grant applications to the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (the COPS office) for: 1) funding for the FY 2011 Secure Our Schools grant program; and, 2) funding for the FY 2011 COPS Hiring grant program.** The Secure Our Schools program provides funding to law enforcement to assist with the development of school safety resources and to provide improved security at schools and on school grounds including violence prevention initiatives, deterrent measures and security assessments and requires a local cash match of 50%. The COPS Hiring program provides funding directly to law enforcement agencies having primary law enforcement authority to impact their community policing capacity and problem solving efforts and for the hiring and rehiring of career law enforcement officers. He said legislation will be presented at the next commission meeting to ratify the submission of the application as the grant deadline is May 25. **Upon motion of Pervis Brown and second of Diedre Cole, the commission voted to authorize the city to submit both grant applications prior to the deadline. All Ayes. The President declared the motion passed.**

Don Icsman said the city placed a legal notice in the Sandusky Register on February 25 regarding compliance to Section 531.06 – 531.12 of the codified ordinances of Sandusky. He said this ordinance pertains to **cutting grass and weeds taller/higher than 8" in the city.** He said a specific notice is also given to owners of each parcel by certified mail (or regular mail if refused or unclaimed) or by posting notice on the property and will be the last notice given prior to cutting. Dan Kaman encouraged residents to cut their neighboring property if necessary. Diedre Cole asked how demolition of structures will increase the need to cut vacant lots and Dan Kaman said this should make it easier as there are no longer obstacles to mow around. Diedre Cole asked about receiving money to pay for this and Dan Kaman said eventually the city will get its money when the property is turned back to tax producing status. Don Icsman said the nuisance violations are similar to a tax and the city does eventually get its money.

OLD BUSINESS

Dave Waddington said on May 11 at 6 p.m., Dan Kaman, Dick Brady and members of the SHS varsity football team will join him in a **community cleanup at the greenhouse**. He said five other sites, including the underpass areas, will be cleaned up this summer.

Dave Waddington said Dick Brady will speak at the **Conestoga ribbon cutting ceremony** taking place at on May 12 at 6:15 p.m. at the Sandusky State Theatre. He said Dr. Kirk Halliday, Executive Director of the Erie-Ottawa County Mental Health & Recovery Board, approached the City of Sandusky a few years ago about an approach to help blighted neighborhoods and to raise property values and reduce crime. He said the city needs to step up to the plate as the recent crime will continue to drive residents away. Dave Waddington said Dr. Halliday started a Conestoga program in Port Clinton in 2007 and the area realized a 58% reduction in police complaints. Dave Waddington said he distributed flyers today and the residents are glad this is finally taking place and is a positive thing for the community. Dan Kaman said when Dr. Halliday initially approached the city about this program, the administration (at that time) did not want to consider it and he feels the city would not now be an impacted city if it had done something then. Dick Brady said this is a chance for the city to foster a program which has done well in another community.

Diedre Cole offered condolences to Rev. Curtis Johnson, Jr. of New Jerusalem Baptist Church whose mother recently died. She said the church is going forward with a **ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday for the renaming of Eddy Henry Way**.

NEW BUSINESS

Dave Waddington said he attended the **memorial service held yesterday for Officer Andrew Dunn at the Erie County Law Enforcement Memorial**. He thanked the donors of the Ohio buckeye tree (Barnes Nursery), the granite marker (Balconi Monument) and the concrete base (Spoerr Precast Concrete). He said the community has put its arms around the Dunn family and an awareness of safety and hopes this may be a Godsend to all involved.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Pervis Brown, the commission voted to hold an executive session regarding the sale or lease of city property. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Pervis Brown, Dan Kaman, John Hamilton, Dick Brady, Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington and Diedre Cole, 7. The President declared the motion passed.

Pervis Brown said he would like to open a dialogue about **the relocation or renovation of city hall**. He said he would like to have a committee established to make this determination. Don Icsman said he met with Judge O'Brien and Hank Solowiej last week about the relocation of the municipal court and the possibility of utilizing the Sandusky Cabinets site. Dave Waddington said an energy audit was performed regarding the city building and he believes parking will be the biggest issue (with relocation). He said government is getting smaller and he believes there is plenty of room on Meigs Street. Dan Kaman said he would like to establish a committee including Judge O'Brien, Peggy Rice, George Poulos, Todd Roth, Pervis Brown and Dick Brady. Don Icsman said he will have his secretary set up this meeting.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Diedre Cole, the commission voted to appoint Jason Werling to the Recreation Board for the remainder of a three-year term expiring December 31, 2011. All Ayes. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Diedre Cole and second of Pervis Brown, the commission voted to appoint Marva Jackson to the Human Relations Commission for the remainder of a five-year term expiring October 10, 2013. All Ayes. The President declared the motion passed.

Dan Kaman said there are two openings on the **Solid Waste Collection Review Board** and the city will be advertising for volunteers to serve on this board.

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

Marc Campbell, Mansfield, Ohio, representing Save Our Service, a concerned citizens coalition, said in 2005 the city passed a Resolution about changing the mail operations in Mansfield, Ohio. He said currently, there is a movement to change mail delivery through the Cleveland, Columbus and Mansfield processing facilities. Marc Campbell asked for an update to this Resolution although he agreed that if money will be saved through changing operations, he would be for this. He is worried the mail will suffer and asks this to be further investigated before considering relocation. He said this

recently happened in Lima after which the Office of the Inspector General issued a scathing report about the relocation as mail is delayed, lost, etc. Marc Campbell urged those concerned to write their state representatives and the Government Accountability Office; he also provided a letter from Congressman Jim Jordan about the consolidation and an audit report from the Office of the Inspector General. Dick Brady asked what the most effective means would be to express the city's thoughts and Marc Campbell said both a Resolution and letters to state representatives and congressmen would be effective. Dan Kaman said the city can do something similar to what was done previously and Kelly Kresser would be the contact person.

John Ginty, 5055 Providence Drive, said this morning he observed city employees cutting grass and blowing it into the street near Margaritaville. He said the bollard has been removed from the north end of the Meigs Street pier. John Ginty said a public announcement was not made last week when the power was out and he would like to see this done (by the city) in the future.

At 6:18 p.m., Dan Kaman announced adjournment of the open session. One executive session was held. At 7:20 p.m., Dan Kaman announced adjournment.

Kelly L. Kresser
Clerk of the City Commission

Daniel J. Kaman
President of the City Commission