

**Diedre Cole called the meeting to order** at 5 p.m. after the **Invocation**, given by Diedre Cole, and the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

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

**City staff present:** Todd Roth – Engineer, Jim Lang – Interim Police Chief, Jim Green – Sandusky Fire Department Captain, Carrie Handy – Chief Planner, Scott Miller – General Services Director, Don Rumbutis– IT Department, Don Icsman – Law Director & Acting City Manager, Hank Solowiej – Finance Director and Kelly Kresser – Commission Clerk.

**Upon motion of Pervis Brown and second of Dan Kaman, the commission voted to approve the minutes of the July 25, 2011 meeting and dispensed with the oral reading. All Ayes. The presiding President declared the motion passed.**

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

Tim Stookey, 1307 Fifth Street, said he was concerned about the turn lane on Cleveland Road (S.R. 6) near Ogontz Street and the painted arrows which have worn off of the road surface. He said this is a safety issue and the turn lane should be lengthened. Tim Stookey said the turn lanes and stop bars at traffic lights throughout the city are not well marked and need attention. Diedre Cole said the city is aware of the pavement markings which need to be striped and asked for some time to perform this work.

#### **CURRENT BUSINESS**

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

#### **ITEM #1 - Submitted by Scott A. Miller, Director of General Services**

**Budgetary Information:** The estimated cost of the project, including engineering, inspection, advertising and miscellaneous costs is \$33,320. The cost of the pavement marking project will be paid with state highway funds.

**[RESOLUTION NO. 029-11R](#):** It is requested a Resolution be passed **declaring the necessity for the city to proceed with the proposed 2011 state route pavement marking project;** 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 Dan Kaman, the commission voted to adopt this Resolution under suspension of the rules and in accordance with section 14 of the city charter.**

*Discussion:* Scott Miller said the paint has not yet been purchased for the 2011 pavement markings program. Todd Roth said the road striping will be bid out this year and the company performing the work will be hired to do this work specifically; they will come in the evenings to do the work. Scott Miller said the city crews will paint some of the smaller streets and stop bars. Diedre Cole asked about the turn lane at Cleveland Road near Ogontz Street and Scott Miller said he would stop to check this area. Julie Farrar said she has received complaints from the owner of the Sail In on Meigs Street as the centerline painted near this business is too close to the curb. Scott Miller said this is a problem which will be corrected within the next two weeks.

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

#### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

**Upon motion of Dan Kaman and second of Dave Waddington, the commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$500 from the Erie County Firefighters Association for the National Firefighter Combat Challenge. All Ayes. The presiding President declared the motion passed.**

**Upon motion of Dan Kaman and second of Pervis Brown, the commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$500 from the IAFF Local #327 for the National Firefighter Combat Challenge. All Ayes. The presiding President declared the motion passed.**

**Upon motion of Dan Kaman and second of Dave Waddington, the commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$2,500 from George Mylander for the National Firefighter Combat Challenge. All Ayes. The presiding President declared the motion passed.**

**Upon motion of Dan Kaman and second of Dave Waddington, the commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$1,000 from Mickey Mart for the National Firefighter Combat Challenge. All Ayes. The presiding President declared the motion passed.**

**Upon motion of Dan Kaman and second of Dave Waddington, the commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$250 from Sandusky Boat Storage for the National Firefighter Combat Challenge. All Ayes. The presiding President declared the motion passed.**

**Upon motion of Dan Kaman and second of Dave Waddington, the commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$3,000 from Firelands Regional Medical Center for the National Firefighter Combat Challenge. All Ayes. The presiding President declared the motion passed.**

**Upon motion of Dan Kaman and second of Dave Waddington, the commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$500 from CertainTeed Corporation for the National Firefighter Combat Challenge. All Ayes. The presiding President declared the motion passed.**

Captain Jim Green said this event will showcase the rigors of firefighting in a competitive format and will bring several hundred participants and family members to our area on September 30 - October 1, 2011. This event is being hosted by the Sandusky Fire Department in cooperation with Cedar Point. He said this is the Midwest qualifier for a national event to be held in Myrtle Beach later in the year and will bring in many persons from the United States and Canada.

Don Icsman said a request has been submitted by the Sandusky Fire Department **to purchase a new server to be used for the department's records management systems and data archiving.** The city's IT department and fire chief have recommended this be treated as an emergency issue as the current server has exceeded its useful life, is unreliable and may be prone to failure at any time. Funding for this purchase totals \$12,759.59 and is available from revenues generated by ambulance transport fees; the general fund will not be negatively impacted. Don Icsman said if approved, formal legislation will be presented to the city commission at the regularly scheduled meeting on August 22, 2011.

**Upon motion of Dan Kaman and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to proceed with this purchase and have legislation prepared for the next meeting.**

*Discussion:* Dick Brady said it is important to note three competitive bids were received for this purchase.

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

Don Icsman said **the city received a bequest in the amount of \$48,419 from the estate of Richard Gordon Wendt which has been directed to the Oakland Cemetery fund** to be used for the purpose of purchasing trees and/or other plantings for the cemetery and that any remaining funds are to be used for the operating expenses of Oakland Cemetery. Don Icsman said it was Mr. Wendt's desire this bequest be identified and designated as a memorial to his parents, Louis R. and Genevieve Wendt. The Sandusky Cemetery Board accepted the bequest, by motion, at their August 3, 2011 meeting.

Don Icsman said **signage has been completed at all of the Sandusky-Perkins Area Ride Connection (SPARC) locations** and provided a copy of the route map. Dave Waddington said he was contacted by John Kempton about this issue.

Todd Roth said **the color scheme for the Camp Street underpass** needs to be chosen and that color charts are available including black for the metal under the bridge and a shade of gray for the walls. He said ODOT was concerned about the colors being too dark and recommended choosing a color from the federal color chart. Pervis Brown said Todd Roth is perfectly capable and qualified to choose a color. Dick Brady said he would like to know what color is going to be chosen and is okay with one of the shades of gray. Dick Brady said it would be nice, for continuity purposes, to choose the same colors as

used on either the Columbus Avenue or the Hayes Avenue underpass. Diedre Cole suggested having the Camp Street underpass resemble the Columbus Avenue underpass as closely as possible since the Hayes Avenue underpass is more of a showcase. Todd Roth said he could take the color charts to Columbus Avenue and match them as closely as possible. Julie Farrar said she is fine with the color gray, but since the Camp Street underpass is so close to the SHS stadium, perhaps navy blue with gold lettering and a streak could be painted on the walls.

Jim Lang shared his plans for **future activity in the Sandusky Police Department**. He said 12 of the recommendations made in the **ICMA comprehensive study** have already been implemented or are in the process of being implemented and represent his preliminary evaluation. Jim Lang said he has looked at all 32 recommendations and has rated each as high, medium or low priority. Jim Lang said the goal is to use these recommendations as a focal point for a full blown strategic planning process for the department. He said during the past two weeks, an inventory was completed for 3,187 items in the evidence room. He said long-range planning for a 3 – 5 year process will include input from the city commission, city manager, command staff and the community. He said a major component of the city's strategic plan is public safety.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Dave Waddington said he has received calls about **the sound and quality of the city commission meetings airing on Channel 81**. He spoke with Tom Whitted, IT manager, who ordered a new fiber transmitter receiver with the assistance of BuckeyeCablevision. Dave Waddington said this equipment will arrive in approximately six weeks.

Diedre Cole said she would like to discuss **proceeding with the sale of farmland at Bogart Road and Old Railroad**. Don Icsman said the city received four proposals to purchase this land and the deadline to receive them was today. He distributed copies of the proposals to purchase and copies of the survey performed on the city's behalf. Don Icsman said there is a current lease on the property which has another two years. Dan Kaman said there are offers from \$4,000 - \$5,010 per acre and would like to proceed with the offer of \$5,010 per acre for this land.

**Upon motion of Dan Kaman and second of Pervis Brown, the commission voted to accept the offer of \$5,010 per acre for the property at Bogart Road and Old Railroad.**

*Discussion:* Dick Brady said the offer of \$4,750 is a cash offer which does not require financing and the city would be at risk if the purchaser cannot obtain their financing. Julie Farrar asked if the lease with Bouy Brothers would be honored if they (Bouy Brothers) are not the successful bidder and Don Icsman said there are another two years left in this lease and it must be honored by the purchaser. Don Icsman pointed out the city may wish to keep a portion of acreage as a buffer on the northern side of this property. He said legislation would be brought forward at the next meeting for the sale and the city will proceed with the closing agent to execute a purchase agreement. Diedre Cole said she does not know any of the persons who made offers, but is inclined to agree that cash in hand is more appealing and the city needs to move forward with the sale of this property. Don Icsman said the addendum to the cash offer refers to the sale of at least 80 acres of land but he is not sure there are 80 acres to sell. Todd Roth said the north line was established to create a buffer from the firing range. He said this is now the north boundary line of the two parcels being sold and recommends the city keep the 4 acres to the west. Todd Roth said the city does not know what it will do with its sludge, but should keep some of the acreage for future use. This leaves 80.65± farmable acres to be sold through both parcels, according to the survey, not total ground. Dick Brady said this takes the exclusionary item on the Smith offer off of the table and there is no escape available if there are not less than 80 acres available. Pervis Brown said the city has a legal team and it would be wise for them to make a recommendation as to which is the best offer. Dick Brady said he disagrees and feels this is what the city commissioners were appointed to do. He said the stock market dropped over 600 points today and makes the financing component tricky. Dan Kaman said the city advertised this property for the best offer per acre and no conditions were added regarding financing; he would like to see the city take the highest per acre offer. Julie Farrar said she would like to ensure the land will remain as farmland and Todd Roth said this can be controlled by zoning; Dan Kaman said the land is in Perkins Township and subject to (their) zoning.

**Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Dan Kaman, John Hamilton, Julie Farrar and Pervis Brown, 4. Nays: Diedre Cole, Dick Brady and Dave Waddington, 3. The presiding President declared the motion passed.** Don Icsman said the city will contact Southern Title to move forward with Ripple Creek LLC.

John Hamilton said code enforcement has been keeping up with **repairs to his building on Ogontz Street** which has been power washed and painted. John Hamilton said new sidewalks have been installed and

he may fill potholes in the alley with stone. He asked if the city would consider repairing a couple of other pieces of sidewalk near his property as they are a trip hazard.

**Upon motion of Pervis Brown and second of Dan Kaman, the commission voted to finalize the decision to move forward with remodeling city hall allowing the police department, municipal court and administrative offices to remain on Meigs Street.**

*Discussion:* Dan Kaman said the last time they met, Judge O'Brien requested time to explore the idea of expanding the municipal court in front of the city building. Don Icsman said he spoke with Peggy Rice today and she and Judge O'Brien have met with George Poulos about this proposed renovation/expansion. He said one of the criticisms in the ICMA report concerns the physical characteristics of the police department and this could be said about the entire building. He said major renovations were not performed previously because city hall was going to be relocated. Dan Kaman said if the Judge added on to the building, space would be freed up for the police department to expand. Don Icsman said there is a plan from the late 1990's where the court would have taken over the front/center of the city hall property and more room would then be made for a separate entrance to the municipal court. He said relocating to the Sandusky Cabinets site would be cost prohibitive and too time consuming. Diedre Cole said the city needs to be prudent and responsible and save every penny it can.

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

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Julie Farrar said on Thursday, August 11 at 5 p.m., the city will be **dedicating Field #3 at Dorn Community Park for Cliff Schirg**. She said the original dedication of Schirg Field at Huron Park (which no longer has active league play) was held on August 11, 1970 and the family is agreeable to this relocation. She said a marker will be installed at Huron Park in the future on the original site.

Dave Waddington said he attended the recent community meeting at Madison School as well as the one held at Sandusky High School and believes a lot of the city's **gang and violence problems are driven by poverty**. He will host a meeting on Monday, August 15 at 6 p.m. with State Representative Dennis Murray and Jerry Garrett from the N.A.A.C.P. to address the issue of poverty. He said the longer lines at Care and Share and Victory Kitchen are driven by poverty and will be the focus of the meeting. Dave Waddington said Marion, Ohio has a program called "Marion Matters" and said Sandusky could have a program called "Sandusky Matters". He said there needs to be focus on different areas including gangs and poverty and Sandusky is in a crisis situation. Julie Farrar said she has a prior engagement on Monday and cannot attend this meeting.

Dick Brady said the **city manager search** is ongoing and has provided documents from the Novak Consulting Group to the city commission. Dick Brady said the city will stick to the timeline and will meet again on September 12 with representatives from the Novak Consulting Group. He said the goal is to have a new city manager by October 17. He anticipates the applicant pool to be robust and noted the application deadline is August 26. Dick Brady said the selection process will not be held in a back room and the search will take place in compliance with the public records laws. He said the community involvement component encompasses an automated online survey with ten questions. He lobbied for a more direct route to garner public input, but was dissuaded as he was advised it would not produce effective results.

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

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

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

Rudolfo Ruiz, Sandusky Fire Department, said the **Adopt A Hydrant program** will be introduced soon and will take place in partnership with the city's water and fire departments. The Adopt a Hydrant

program will help encourage neighborhoods and civic organizations to preserve approximately 1,000 fire hydrants through color coded painting; guidance will be provided by the city to help maintain and clear hydrants of snow during the winter months. He said each hydrant will be identified through color coding to indicate the number of gallons of water it can provide per minute. He said this will help the fire suppression personnel to know how much water pressure is available during a fire and will help to ensure a safer community. Julie Farrar asked if the different colored hydrants will help with identification and Rudolfo Ruiz said the hydrant itself will not be painted, only the area around the bonnet. He said some hydrants provide a lot less water as they are connected to smaller water lines and would identify other hydrants to utilize during a major fire. Rudolfo Ruiz said an ad hoc committee will be put together to get this program up and running. Dick Brady asked the value of this type of program and Rudolfo Ruiz said the hydrants have to be serviced and tested, but the community involvement will help get this task done quicker. Diedre Cole asked the timeline for the project and Rudolfo Ruiz said the plans are to have all hydrants identified and marked after three years.

Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street, asked the cost per acre decided upon for sale of the Bogart Road and Old Railroad property and Hank Solowiej confirmed the offer accepted was \$5,010 per acre. Sharon Johnson asked if the buyer has been preapproved by the bank and Don Icsman said the written offers were distributed and are what the city uses. Sharon Johnson said John Hamilton's Ogontz Street property is looking good but needs a little bit of paint on the awning.

Tim Stookey, 1307 Fifth Street, said he is concerned about trees raising sidewalks in the city and asked who would be liable for these (the city or the property owner) as the city plants the trees. Don Icsman said according to state law, the liability rests with the resident. Tim Stookey asked who should be contacted for these types of problems and Dan Kaman said the residents should contact the department of general services.

Fred Farris, 702 Wayne Street, said he wished to speak about the use of compactor trucks for collection of waste and Diedre Cole said the city has spent a considerable amount of community time working with this issue and there is a plan in place to deal with it. Fred Farris said the issue is not solved and asked when the public will hear about it. Diedre Cole said she is hosting meetings for the public in September to review the ordinance and help haulers get registered.

Dennis Timple, 553 Bimini Drive, said the paper district marina should be promoted and marketed on the city's website and to include photographs. He said the Google search engine does not help to promote the city's new marina.

Barbara Clark, N.A.A.C.P. President, said it is sad when city residents are turned off in a harsh way as all have the right to ask a question and be given an answer with decency and respect. She asked the starting and ending time for garbage collection. Diedre Cole said this information will be forwarded as the code was not available to confirm these times. Barbara Clark asked if there is a liability to residents who may help with the Adopt A Hydrant program. Jim Green said this would be a service to the fire department and does not believe there is liability on the residents' behalf. Barbara Clark said this is similar to the incident involving John Hamilton cutting grass in a city park and asked the difference between the two; Diedre Cole said these are two different scenarios as Adopt A Hydrant is a voluntary program and information will be made available as it is rolled out. Dan Kaman said if a resident is shoveling around a fire hydrant so it is visible to the safety forces or cutting a neighbor's grass while they are on vacation, they will not get into trouble. He said residents should not cut an acre around a hydrant or a city park without doing the proper paperwork. Barbara Clark said it may be a duplication of services to hold a meeting regarding poverty rather than working with the N.A.A.C.P. and Sandusky Proud. Dave Waddington said he contacted Jerry Garrett prior to last Thursday's meeting about hosting this meeting and would like to focus on the issue of poverty in Sandusky. He said several thousand dollars have been raised to help Victory Kitchen and Care and Share and he is about doing things. He said poverty is a steering wheel to a lot of other problems and is trying to help with one issue. Dave Waddington said he has helped with implementation of the Conestoga program and is trying to make a difference. Barbara Clark said not all residents have access to a computer for the online survey; Dick Brady said the Sandusky Library provides computer access and is aware this component leaves something to be desired, but does not know of any other way to conduct the survey.

**At 6:25 p.m., Diedre Cole announced adjournment of the open session. Two executive sessions were held beginning at 6:30 p.m. At 7:20 p.m., Diedre Cole announced adjournment.**