

John Hamilton called the meeting to order at 5 p.m. after Jeff Smith offered a moment of silence in memory of Dave George, a retired Sandusky Police Officer, the **Invocation**, and the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

The clerk called **the roll** and the following Commissioners responded: Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole and Keith Grohe.

City staff present: Paul Ricci - Fire Chief, John Orzech - Police Chief, Anna Enderle - Planner, Don Rumbutis - IT, Don Icsman - Law Director, Nicole Ard - City Manager, Hank Solowiej - Finance Director and Kelly Kresser - Commission Clerk.

Upon motion of Diedre Cole and second of Pervis Brown, the commission voted to approve the minutes of the April 22 city commission meeting and suspend the oral reading. The President declared the motion passed.

John Hamilton **introduced Jenny Clawson who will be interning with the Sandusky Main Street Association and the City of Sandusky this summer.** Jenny will be a senior in the fall at Ball State University majoring in Urban Planning.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (*agenda items only*)

None.

PROCLAMATIONS

John Hamilton read a Proclamation **declaring May 18 – 24, 2013 Safe Boating Week** in the City of Sandusky.

Pervis Brown read a Proclamation **declaring “Click It or Ticket” Mobilization Weeks from May 20 – June 2, 2013** in the City of Sandusky.

CURRENT BUSINESS

Upon motion of Diedre Cole and second of Keith Grohe, the commission voted to accept all communications. The President declared the motion passed.

ITEM #1 – Submitted by Amanda Meyers, Paralegal

Budgetary Information: The cost associated with this purchase and sale agreement is the total amount of the deed preparation, recording fees and any other customary fees that may be due and payable in the ordinary course of the sale and purchase transaction. The city will recoup the cost of the expenses from the nonrefundable earnest money deposit of two hundred seventy eight dollars and fifty cents (\$278.50) required to be paid by the purchaser. Although Erie Metropolitan Housing Authority is exempt from paying real estate taxes, their provision of maintenance will save the city from expending taxpayer dollars to otherwise mow and maintain it.

ORDINANCE NO. 13-043: It is requested an ordinance be passed **declaring that certain real property owned by the city as part of the land reutilization program identified as parcel #59-00420.000, located on Lawrence Street, Sandusky, is no longer needed for any municipal purpose and authorizing the execution of a purchase and sale agreement with respect to that real property;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Pervis Brown and second of Keith Grohe, the commission voted to approve this ordinance according to Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Wesley Poole and Keith Grohe, 6. Abstain: Diedre Cole, 1. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Wesley Poole and Keith Grohe, 6. Abstain: Diedre Cole, 1. The President declared the ordinance passed.

ITEM #2 – Submitted by Amanda Meyers, Paralegal

Budgetary Information: The cost associated with this purchase and sale agreement is the total amount of the title examination, title insurance policy, deed preparation and survey fees charged in the normal course of the purchase and sale transaction. Any such costs shall be included in the sale price of the nonproductive land and will be recouped by the city upon sale. The purchaser shall pay the real estate transfer tax, if any, and recording fees upon purchase. The sale of this nonproductive land will enhance the surrounding neighborhood and help to stabilize property values currently by responsibly maintaining open green space, and in the future with possible business expansion. The taxing districts will once again

begin collecting real property taxes in the amount of one hundred thirteen dollars and thirty eight cents (\$113.38) per year.

ORDINANCE NO. 13-044: It is requested an ordinance be passed **declaring that certain real property owned by the city as part of the land reutilization program identified as parcel #58-02380.000, located on the south side of Seavers Way, Sandusky, is no longer needed for any municipal purpose and authorizing the execution of a purchase and sale agreement with respect to that real property;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect on accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to approve this ordinance according to Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole and Keith Grohe, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole and Keith Grohe, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.

ITEM #3 – Submitted by Amanda Meyers, Paralegal

Budgetary Information: The cost associated with the request for proposals is the total amount of administrative staff time for preparation and fees for newspaper publication.

ORDINANCE NO. 13-045: It is requested an ordinance be passed **declaring that certain real property acquired through the city's land reutilization program and owned by the city identified as parcel #58-00253.000 located at 1309 Pearl Street and parcel #56-01118.000 located at 405 Perry Street, are no longer needed for any municipal purpose and authorizing and directing the city manager to proceed with a request for proposals process for the sale of property;** and declaring that this ordinance take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Keith Grohe and second of Wesley Poole, the commission voted to approve this ordinance according to Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole and Keith Grohe, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole and Keith Grohe, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.

ITEM #4 – Submitted by Amanda Meyers, Paralegal

Budgetary Information: The cost of these acquisitions will be approximately the administrative staff time necessary for acquisition, recording and transfer fees, and any costs to maintain and secure the structures. The city will recoup these costs upon sale. Any necessary demolition costs will be paid with Moving Ohio Forward program funds received from the Ohio Attorney General's Office that are being administered for the city by Erie County. The taxing districts will not collect the delinquent taxes, assessments, penalties and interest currently due and owing in the amount of \$47,251.39 whether the city accepts the property or not. However, it is presumed that the city will be maintaining the property in the event of forfeiture to the State of Ohio, in which case the property will be exempt from taxation and the city will not be able to assess the property for the cost of mowing and maintenance. By returning this abandoned nonproductive land to tax producing status, the taxing districts will begin collecting approximately \$4,278.70 yearly in real estate taxes, which will eventually increase with rehabilitation and development of the property.

RESOLUTION NO. 018-13R: It is requested a resolution be passed **approving and accepting certain real property for acquisition into the land reutilization program;** 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 Julie Farrar, the commission voted to approve this resolution according to Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole and Keith Grohe, 7. Roll call on the resolution: Yeas: Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole and Keith Grohe, 7. The President declared the resolution passed.

ITEM #5 – Submitted by Anna Enderle, Assistant Planner

ORDINANCE NO. 13-046: It is requested an ordinance be passed **amending the official zone map of the City of Sandusky to rezone nine (9) parcels from "RRB" residential business district and two (2) parcels from "PF" public facilities district to "LM" limited manufacturing district;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take effect under suspension of the rules as contained in and in accordance with Section 13 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Diedre Cole and second of Wesley Poole, the commission voted to approve this ordinance according to Section 13 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole and Keith Grohe, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole and Keith Grohe, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.

ITEM #6 – Submitted by Anna Enderle, Assistant Planner/Enterprise Zone Manager

Budgetary Information: The project will have an ongoing positive impact on the general fund as 25% of the increase in value will be subject to real estate taxes during the abatement period. The project also involves payments to local construction workers and will result in the employment of an estimated 10 full-time equivalent restaurant employees all of whom will pay city income tax.

ORDINANCE NO. 13-047: It is requested an ordinance be passed **ratifying the community reinvestment area agreement and community area compensation agreement with Sandusky Renaissance Properties, LLC; authorizing the city manager to execute the community reinvestment area agreement substantially in the same form attached to this ordinance;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Pervis Brown, the commission voted to approve this ordinance according to Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole and Keith Grohe, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole and Keith Grohe, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.

ITEM #7 – Submitted by Anna Enderle, Assistant Planner

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

ORDINANCE NO. 13-048: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to accept a consolidated entitlement grant in the amount of \$641,841 total community development block grant funds for the program year of July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014, and to submit to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development a FY 2013 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 Jeff Smith, the commission voted to approve this ordinance according to Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole and Keith Grohe, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole and Keith Grohe, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.

ITEM #8 – Submitted by Don Rumbutis, IT Tech

Budgetary Information

- 1) **Bandwidth** – The cost of the increased internet service is \$1,275 per month, and funds for this service are routinely included in the IT operating budget. This is an increase of \$775 per month.
- 2) **Phone PRI** – The cost for two (2) PRI circuits is \$585 per month per PRI circuit for a total cost of \$1,170 per month and the proportionate cost is included in each department's annual budget. There is also a one-time installation fee of \$225 per PRI. Changing vendors from AT & T to Ohio Telecom will reduce the city's telephone costs by approximately \$4,000 per month.

A. **ORDINANCE NO. 13-049:** It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to enter into a five (5) year contract with Ohio Telecom, Inc., of Port Clinton, Ohio, for the purchase of a 20MB fiber connection for internet service for the City of Sandusky;** 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 Wesley Poole, the commission voted to approve this ordinance according to Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Julie Farrar asked if this had anything to do with printing in city offices and Nicole Ard indicated it does not.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole and Keith Grohe, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole and Keith Grohe, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.

B. ORDINANCE NO. 13-050: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to enter into a three (3) year contract with Ohio Telecom, Inc., of Port Clinton, Ohio, for telephone services to maintain two (2) primary rate ISDN (PRI) circuits;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Keith Grohe and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to approve this ordinance according to Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole and Keith Grohe, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole and Keith Grohe, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.

ITEM #9 – Submitted by Jane E. Cullen, P.E.

Budgetary Information: The cost of the pergola is \$14,200 and will be paid with Battery Park TIF funds. The Sandusky High School adult vocational carpentry class will be supplying labor at no cost to the city to construct the pergola.

ORDINANCE NO. 13-051: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to expend the necessary funds for the purchase of one free standing pergola for the Paper District Marina from Outdoor Dreamscapes, LLC of Avon, Ohio in the amount of \$14,200;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Diedre Cole and second of Wesley Poole, the commission voted to approve this ordinance according to Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Wesley Poole asked when this project will be completed and Nicole Ard said she had no idea.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole and Keith Grohe, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole and Keith Grohe, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.

ITEM #10 – Submitted by Nicole Ard, City Manager

Budgetary Information: The city benefits from the use of Dockside to provide management of the marina at \$500 per month instead of hiring a city employee to manage the marina at a higher cost. In addition, the marina concession lease at \$500 per month is much higher than the annual license fee charged of food vendors city-wide, including at other city parks, which ranges from \$250 - \$600 per year. In addition, city staff estimates that seasonal dockage could generate over \$52,000 per year helping cover the cost of marina operations.

ORDINANCE NO. 13-052: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to enter into a five year agreement with Dockside Hospitality, LLC of Sandusky, Ohio, for the management and use of the Paper District Marina;** 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 Jeff Smith, the commission voted to approve this ordinance according to Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole and Keith Grohe, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole and Keith Grohe, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.

ITEM #11 – Submitted by Kelly Kresser, Commission Clerk

A request has been received from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control requesting the transfer of **D1 (beer only for on premises consumption or in original sealed containers for carry out only until 1 a.m.), D2 (wine and mixed beverages for on premises consumption or in original sealed containers for carryout only until 1 a.m.), D3 (spirituous liquor for on premises consumption only until 1 a.m.) , D3A (extend issued permit privileges until 2:30 a.m.) and D6 (sale of intoxicating liquor on Sunday between the hours 10 a.m. or 11 a.m. and midnight) liquor permits from Milan 1640 Ltd. dba Fireside Lounge to 4 Points Bar, LLC, 1640 Milan Road, 1st floor and patio, Sandusky. It is requested the commission clerk be authorized to notify the Ohio Division of Liquor Control the city has no objection to this request.**

Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Wesley Poole, the commission voted for the clerk to notify the Ohio Division of Liquor Control the city has no objection to this transfer. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole and Keith Grohe, 7. The President declared the motion passed.

ITEM #12 – Submitted by Kelly Kresser, Commission Clerk

A request has been received from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control requesting a new D5A (*spirituous liquor for on premises consumption only, beer, wine and mixed beverages for on premises, or off premises in original sealed containers, until 2:30 a.m. for hotel or motel with 50 or more rooms for transient guests*) liquor permit for J. M. Sciarppa, Inc. dba South Shore Inn, 2047 Cleveland Road, Sandusky. It is requested the commission clerk be authorized to notify the Ohio Division of Liquor Control the city has no objection to this request.

Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted for the clerk to notify the Ohio Division of Liquor Control the city has no objection to this permit. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole and Keith Grohe, 7. The President declared the motion passed.

ITEM #13 – Submitted by Kelly Kresser, Commission Clerk

A request has been received from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control requesting a new C1 (*Beer only in original sealed container for carry out only*) liquor permit for North Coast Oasis Cleaning Service, LLC, dba Variety Village, 332 East Market Street, Sandusky. It is requested the commission clerk be authorized to notify the Ohio Division of Liquor Control the city has no objection to this request.

Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted for the clerk to notify the Ohio Division of Liquor Control the city has no objection to this permit. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Wesley Poole and Keith Grohe, 6. Abstain: Diedre Cole, 1. The President declared the motion passed.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Diedre Cole, the commission voted to accept the donation of an Ohio State lamp for the Mills Creek Golf Course Clubhouse from Bob Jensen. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Diedre Cole and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$150 from Arnold Oliver, Jr. and Mary Jane Hahler for the Green Fund. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Diedre Cole and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$200 from the Western Basin Sportfishing Association, LLC for the annual Take the Kids Fishing Fun Day event. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Pervis Brown, the commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$150 from Ed Sprague to offset the costs for a tree to be planted in the boulevard. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Pervis Brown, the commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$50 from Julie Dendinger to be used at the greenhouse in memory of Mrs. Ruth Sehmeyer. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of John Hamilton and second of Diedre Cole, the commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$25 from John Py for the greenhouse in memory of Mrs. Miriam Py. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of John Hamilton and second of Diedre Cole, the commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$25 from the American Association of University Women for the Greenhouse. This check was presented to Tom Speir for speaking at their monthly meeting. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Wesley Poole and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$10,000 from the Wightman Wieber Foundation to be used to make repairs at the Sandusky Bay Pavilion property.

Discussion: Nicole Ard thanked members of the Wightman Wieber Foundation for their continued support with the Sandusky Bay Pavilion and noted the city is waiting for one set of fixtures for the restroom area. Nicole Ard thanked city staff for their efforts to ready the property for upcoming events in a most cost efficient matter.

The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Wesley Poole and second of John Hamilton, the commission voted to accept a donation of plants, seeds and flowers from Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur to be used at the community garden in Churchwell Park. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of John Hamilton and second of Diedre Cole, the commission voted to thank the sponsors of the "Take the Kids Fishing Day" event held recently at Shoreline Park and to accept their donations of food, night crawlers and prizes. The donors include: Erie Shore Hookers Bait & Tackle, Port Sandusky Family Restaurant, Nickles Bakery, Kreimes Cardinal Grocery Store, Western Basin Sportsfishing Association, Dick's Sporting Goods, Sassy Sal Charters and the Clevelander II. The President declared the motion passed.

Nicole Ard said the **City of Sandusky recently hosted the America Water Works Association annual conference** which was very well attended. Everyone at the conference participated in plant tours of the city's water and wastewater plants and the Sandusky Transit System provided transportation. Those who attended were very impressed with our facilities and the knowledge of the staff at each location. Nicole Ard thanked the employees who cleaned and prepped the facilities for these tours.

Nicole Ard **thanked Victoria Kurt and the sponsors of the recent Kids Fishing Derby.**

Nicole Ard said **seasonal dockage applications for the Paper District Marina will be available May 15.**

Nicole Ard said the contract **has been finalized with Goodwill Industries to help take care of nuisance properties in the city** and thanked the president and board members for allowing the city work with them. This will help to lighten the load for the city's grounds maintenance staff and will provide more time to take care of and maintain city parks. Nicole Ard said similar work is also being done for Oakland Cemetery.

Nicole Ard said by the end of the week, information will be added to the city's website regarding **policies for tree planting, removal and trimming, including a permit/application for having this work performed by a private contractor (via the homeowner).** Currently, the city takes care of trees on a first come, first served basis, and this option is available for persons who do not want to wait. Nicole Ard thanked Tom Speir and members of the Tree Commission for their efforts in completing this task.

Nicole Ard said the **Building Division's monthly report** is attached to the city manager's report and as of March 13, approximately \$13 million in construction has been performed. This is approximately \$89,000 in permit fees and shows there is activity taking place in Sandusky unlike some other communities.

Nicole Ard said there are a series of sponsors for the **"Movies By the Bay" at the Paper District Marina** including Kharma Salon, the Sandusky Register, Port Sandusky Restaurant, East Side Café, Cameo Pizza and Subway (downtown location). There may be one additional movie added.

Nicole Ard said Galen Marten will be the first concert for **"Beats By the Bay" at the Paper District Amphitheatre** on May 26.

Nicole Ard **thanked Cedar Point for hosting a reception on opening day for their new ride, The Gatekeeper.**

OLD BUSINESS

Pervis Brown said as he approached the city building today and reflected on activities happening around the nation, **the city building is unsafe, is not secure, and security needs to be addressed.** The city should

do something rather than wait another 50 years to address the security of the building for the people who work for the city. Pervis Brown said the employees should be secured in some manner to ensure they are comfortable working here and stated the commissioners should think about doing something rather than continue putting this off. There are issues in the country and the city must face reality as things can happen here like they have happened everywhere else and Sandusky has already experienced some of this. John Hamilton said there are also security concerns for the citizens of Sandusky with the water and sewer treatment plants.

NEW BUSINESS

Julie Farrar said she spoke with Keith Grohe prior to the meeting and **Don Icsman's evaluation will be completed on June 10.**

Julie Farrar and John Hamilton said they will both be **absent from the next city commission** meeting (May 28) and to please excuse them.

John Hamilton asked Diedre Cole how the **meeting went, which she recently attended, with staff from Bowling Green State University at the Sandusky Bay Pavilion.** Diedre Cole said on May 1, seventeen faculty members from BGSU main campus along with several persons from the Firelands Campus, Dr. Eugene Sanders and Faith Denslow from Sandusky City Schools, and Tim Schwanger from Save Our Shoreline Parks, met to spotlight this jewel of our waterfront. It was a beautiful day and was an opportunity for the faculty department chairs to take a look at the facility and try to figure out how to think outside the box, as instructed by Dean Balzer and to investigate possible collaborative efforts in terms of an educational research facility. Diedre Cole said this was very exciting and was an opportunity to hear the history of the facility and determine at some point in the future if there may be something to partner with for children in the community. Diedre Cole said when the visit was made to Gibraltar Island, she learned the algal bloom in Sandusky Bay is a different toxin than the algal bloom in Lake Erie, and this provides a unique research opportunity. She looks forward to seeing a collaborative effort in the future.

Julie Farrar said a recent **"Viewpoint" article in the Sandusky Register stated there are clearer, better choices how to spend taxpayer money** such as by improving neighborhoods, fixing streets and tearing down abandoned homes. The city has had a land reutilization program since 2007 and this was in place before Erie County had a program and it was not news to the city when the Ohio Attorney General gave \$470,000 for the Move Ohio Forward program. The city will cash in on this money, but the Sandusky city commission does not ignore neighborhoods. The city has utilized Neighborhood Stabilization Program monies to tear down 33 units; CDBG money has been used to tear down 6 units; and several rehabs have been accomplished for a total of 95 structures torn down. The city has an opportunity to tear down 16 additional structures with Move Ohio Forward monies and the commission has not sat on its hands and ignored the residents, homes and buildings. Julie Farrar said the city helped locate Fox Cycle Works at the former Ramone's property on Fremont Avenue and this was part of the city's reutilization program. This property is being taken care of, taxes are being paid, and these properties are now generating \$16,000 in property taxes each year. Three parcels were sold at a profit and \$113,926 was refunded to the taxing districts. The city commission is not sitting on their hands and was moving way before the Move Ohio Forward and/or Erie County's program began.

Julie Farrar **asked if Sandusky is being hit with a race lawsuit** as a recent article in the Sandusky Register stated the city is being sued by a black woman for discrimination regarding a job application. This in fact a county issue and Erie County is being sued. Julie Farrar said this annoys her and this makes Sandusky look bad as no one is suing the City of Sandusky with a race suit; this is another black eye for Sandusky.

Wesley Poole said **he will be out of town during Memorial Day weekend**, but plans to be back for the next city commission meeting on Tuesday, May 28.

John Hamilton announced there will be **a meeting at 4 p.m. on Monday, May 20 at the Erie County Services Center to gather information from local elected officials (city, township and county) regarding transportation services in Erie County.** A study is being performed by RLS and Associates of Dayton, Ohio to evaluate transportation services in Erie County and the surrounding areas, and to make recommendations regarding the future of public transportation.

John Hamilton said the city commission recently received several **letters from residents of Dietrick Street regarding feral cats** and said it may be time to contact the Humane Society regarding their trapping program. Pervis Brown said he spoke with Don Icsman about this and asked if the city can do anything to help these citizens. Don Icsman said he did not receive the letters, but he did receive a copy of an email from Barb Hargreaves of the Erie County Humane Society. The city's current Chapter 505 of the Code of

Ordinances is in place and cats are included in the definition of "animal" and are prohibited from running at large. Don Icsman said ear tipping or the Trap, Neuter Release (TNR) program is no longer offered by the Humane Society and John Hamilton said previously the city had an arrangement with the Humane Society. Don Icsman said the Humane Society utilized a portion of the service center for this program. Prior to this program, the city had an animal control officer. It is a question of who will do this and who will find the time or ability, but the city does not need any more rules. There was a process in Chapter 505 about catching animals and keeping animals (3 days prior to humanely euthanizing them), but this is no longer in place.

Pervis Brown said the commission received these letters from citizens of the community and they are looking for assistance to alleviate the situation and asked if the city is going to ignore them. Diedre Cole said from her perspective, she believes the city should be communicating with the Humane Society to partner with them and to help locate funding for this program as an option. Diedre Cole said perhaps CDBG money could be used or some other source of funding as this should not be too much money. Nicole Ard said there have been discussions in the past about funding, but does not believe CDBG funds would be appropriate for this purpose. Pervis Brown asked if the city is going to tell these people to wait until the city contacts the Humane Society and John Hamilton said he will get out to the neighborhood and look at the situation. Diedre Cole asked Pervis Brown what he would have the commission do, and Pervis Brown said he would like to help the people who are suffering now in the community by helping find a solution to their problem and place traps in the neighborhood. Pervis Brown said the city has resources to help solve a problem and these are taxpayers who are expecting help with a situation. These are probably older people who need help and the city should be helping them, not pushing them off somewhere. John Hamilton said it would be good for the city to contact the Humane Society first as the city partnered with them previously. If this does not work, the city can look into something else. Don Icsman said the process in place right now regarding animal control allows for cats found running at large to be impounded, held for two hours and then be subject to destruction. Feral tipping is a different issue and is not the process described in Chapter 505. Wesley Poole said this is an operations issue and the city manager is supposed to manage. If the commission wants to provide suggestions that is fine, but the city manager should be looking at the ordinance and determining how to enforce it. She may come back with a proposal or suggestion, but it is not the commissioners' job to do this. Wesley Poole said he is not a cat fan, but it is up to the city manager to come up with a plan for approval or disapproval.

John Hamilton said the **city building will be closed on Monday, May 27 in observance of Memorial Day.** The next regular city commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 28 at 5 p.m.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Tim Schwanger, 362 Sheffield Way and representing Save Our Shoreline Parks (SOSP), said there have been a number of volunteers who have assisted the city with painting and cleaning the Sandusky Bay Pavilion property during the last couple of years. This offer was made again this year but the city manager, rightfully so, declined the offer. It looks like the city is freeing up city crews to do maintenance work at the parks, but this volunteer issue does still exist and they will work with the city to address some of these issues. Nicole Ard said she told Tim Schwanger via email there is another group of volunteers from the Wightman Wieber Foundation who indicated they were pleased with the work staff had done and she will keep this under advisement for other things. Tim Schwanger asked if there is a plan to get additional funding to repair the roof at the SBP if all of the \$20,000 donated by the Wightman Wieber Foundation is not spent on restroom repairs; SOSP also has \$3,000 to add to this. Even if a master plan is done soon, it will take 3 – 5 years to start anything. Tim Schwanger said he followed up with members of the Wightman Wieber Foundation and the Sandusky Area Maritime Museum regarding the May 1 meeting at the Sandusky Bay Pavilion assuring them BGSU is not looking to take over this site. Tim Schwanger said he assured the Sandusky Area Maritime Museum they will continue to have their agreement with the city for this area and assured members of the Wightman Wieber Foundation that the KidsFest event will continue to operate at this facility. Tim Schwanger said he would like BGSU - Firelands Campus - to do something with the small area of the SBP where the pool is located and noted this area is protected because of a Land and Water grant provided over 30 years ago. Tim Schwanger asked if the agreement has been finalized with the Sandusky Rowing Club for property on River Avenue and John Hamilton said the last he knew, they were working to determine correct ownership of the property. Tim Schwanger said last year, Dockside Café gave the city \$500 per month and the city returned this \$500 to them each month. This year, it looks as if Dockside will pay an additional \$200 for utilities but the city is still paying for garbage removal; he asked if the city is paying an additional cost to take care of this. Nicole Ard said they calculated half of the garbage and utilities and is what Dockside is paying. Tim Schwanger said he noticed the city has been painting curbs throughout the city which has been needed for a long time. He also noticed there are some streets being re-stripped and most of them lead to Cedar Point which is great. Tim Schwanger asked if the city has hired a company to do this. Nicole Ard said as indicated in

an email to Tim Schwanger, Cedar Point staff has been performing work and the city did not do any work on Cedar Point Drive. There were also utility companies working in this area. Tim Schwanger said people pay \$15 to park in the parking lot and there is a causeway toll of \$.50.

Sharon Johnson asked for an update regarding the position of city engineer and Nicole Ard said there should be an announcement made this week. Sharon Johnson said the only evaluation performed for the charter officers so far has been for Hank Solowiej and Don Icsman's evaluation will be next. Sharon Johnson asked what specific interest Bowling Green State University has in the Sandusky Bay Pavilion property and Diedre Cole said she (Sharon) would have to ask them. Sharon Johnson said she is concerned about when the Paper District Marina is opening and how building of the pergola will affect business. Nicole Ard said seasonal applications will be accepted as of May 15, and she does not have an exact schedule yet for construction of the pergola. The vendor (Cesare Avallone) is aware and the adult education students will be performing construction. Nicole Ard said Cesare Avallone is the person asking for this and he will be working around the construction. Sharon Johnson said she understands Thomas Fortin is looking into the Keller Building once again and there is not much time left. Nicole Ard said the city is moving forward with preparing bid specifications, regardless.

Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:08 p.m. The President declared the motion passed.

Kelly L. Kresser, CMC
Clerk of the City Commission

John F. Hamilton
President of the City Commission