

**John Hamilton 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, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe and Jeff Smith.

**Upon motion of Keith Grohe and second of Pervis Brown, the commission voted to excuse Julie Farrar. The President declared the motion passed.**

**City staff present:** Paul Ricci - Fire Chief, John Orzech - Police Chief, Jane Cullen – Project Engineer, 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 Pervis Brown and second of Diedre Cole, the commission voted to approve the minutes of the May 13 city commission meeting and suspend the oral reading. The President declared the motion passed.**

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

None.

**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 Jane E. Cullen, P.E.**

**Budgetary Information:** The project cost is estimated at \$738,670. The city's estimated portion is \$224,556 which will be paid out of Community Development Block Grant funds.

**RESOLUTION NO. 019-13R:** It is requested a resolution be passed **adopting the preliminary legislation submitted by the Director of the Ohio Department of Transportation for the ODOT 2014 urban paving program project, PID #84826, ERI-US-0250-00.00; authorizing and directing the city manager to sign the preliminary legislation and to execute any necessary contracts with the Director of Transportation to complete the project; and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

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

**ITEM #2 – Submitted by Kelly Kresser, Commission Clerk**

**A request has been received from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control requesting the transfer of C1 (*Beer only in original sealed container for carry out only*) and C2 (*Wine and mixed beverages in sealed containers for carry out*) liquor permits for Dolgen Midwest LLC dba Dollar General Store 11, 2609 Venice Road, Unit 4 to 1701 Tiffin Avenue, 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 Pervis Brown 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: Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe and Jeff Smith, 6. The President declared the motion passed.**

**ITEM #3 – Submitted by Kelly Kresser, Commission Clerk**

**A request has been received from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control requesting a new C2 (*Beer only in original sealed container for carry out only*) liquor permit for Party Store LTD dba The Party Store, 803 Hancock Street, Unit A. 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 Pervis Brown 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 permit. Roll call on the**

**motion: Yeas: Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe and Jeff Smith, 5. Abstain: Diedre Cole, 1. The President declared the motion passed.**

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

**Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Wesley Poole, the commission voted to accept a donation from Edward Will in the amount of \$150 for the green fund. The President declared the motion passed.**

**Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Keith Grohe, the commission voted to accept a donation from the Munchie Monkey of a \$30 gift certificate for the Sandusky Fire Department in appreciation for work performed recently at a house fire. The President declared the motion passed.**

**Upon motion of Keith Grohe and second of Wesley Poole, the commission voted to accept 156 frosties from Wendy's and 200 ice cream tickets from McDonald's to support the Click It or Ticket campaign to the recreation division for the annual Take the Kids Fishing Fun Day.**

*Discussion:* Nicole Ard thanked Chief John Orzech, Lt. Bob VanScoy and the staff from Wendy's and McDonald's for their efforts during the **Click It or Ticket campaign**. During the Wendy's campaign, 84 vehicles were checked for seat belt enforcement in 30 minutes, 10 warnings were issued, and those wearing seat belts were given a Frosty. During the McDonald's campaign, 170 vehicles were checked and 32 warnings were issued. In addition, 12 warnings were issued during one hour of patrol for different violations and one misdemeanor warrant was issued. Nicole Ard said the Click It or Ticket campaign runs through June 2, but wearing a seatbelt is always the right thing to do and it is the law. Wesley Poole said "good job" with this program and this was an innovative way to run the program; getting an ice cream warning is just as effective with what we are trying to accomplish.

**The President declared the motion passed.**

**Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Keith Grohe, the commission voted to accept a donation from Haag Environmental of a used Spectra Fouier Flow Meter and a used HACH DR/2010 Spectrophotometer.**

*Discussion:* Nicole Ard said she does not know the condition of this equipment nor does she know the estimated value.

**The President declared the motion passed.**

Nicole Ard said **a boat show is scheduled at the Paper District Marina and the Shelby Street boat launch facility** on June 15 through the Sandusky Area Maritime Museum.

Nicole Ard said **five housing demolitions** took place last week and an additional five will take place this week.

Nicole Ard provided updated cost information regarding the **Wisteria demolition**. Diedre Cole said she was under the impression the city would have a limited exposure with this and Paul Ricci said this was an emergency demolition brought about by partial collapse of the structure. In concert with George Poulos and the Chief Building Official, it was determined the structure was an extreme life hazard and it was necessary to be demolished, similar to the CW Body demolition. Paul Ricci said the demolition itself was approximately \$4,000 and the city is responsible for the asbestos contaminated materials removed and the landfill bill alone was \$24,000. Diedre Cole asked if any of this money can be recouped and Paul Ricci said only if this was CDBG money. The city is still trying to determine whether it is practical or possible to recoup money given through a grant process and this is being pursued now. The larger problem is a portion of the building in front of the one already torn down.

Nicole Ard asked for a motion to approve **a request from the son of the late Melvin and Barbara White to reduce the amount of money to be repaid to the city upon the sale of 1828 Hayes Avenue** as he is currently attempting to sell this property. The original loan amount was \$28,355 and the reduction in the amount of repayment will be from 100% to 20% due to a state mandate which was recently passed. Nicole Ard said staff members of Ohio Regional Development Corporation, state legislators and the city attorney have looked at this legislative change and this reduction is in order.

**Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Diedre Cole, the commission voted to reduce the loan repayment amount from 100% to 20% for this CHIP program participant. The President declared the motion passed.**

Nicole Ard said John Biechele submitted a request indicating interest in purchasing city-owned property on River Avenue. The city is working on documenting this request accurately.

Nicole Ard said **downtown property owners should provide residential parking permits for their tenants**, especially with the upcoming Ohio Bike Week event. Property owners can contact the city for information about obtaining these permits. Residents also have the ability to park in the area between the Chesapeake building and the Jackson Street Pier during Ohio Bike Week.

Nicole Ard thanked **Jeff Meinert, Waste Water Superintendent, for the positive feedback received regarding operations at the waste water plant.** He has applied for, and has one year, to obtain a Class IV Operator license to become capable of treating up to 42 MGD peak wet weather flow.

Nicole Ard **thanked staff members for their efforts with the recent, and upcoming, police and firefighter civil service testing.** This includes completion of fire lieutenant testing as required by contract. This weekend, police recruits will undergo assessment at the high school, returning to city hall later in the day for agility testing.

Nicole Ard said the city will be working on its **storm water permitting with the Ohio EPA and with Crystal Dymond from the Erie Soil & Water Conservation District** ensuring the city is in compliance with storm water inspections. There are state and federal mandates for private property owners which may be a change for people here.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

John Hamilton said 5,100 persons attended **the recent KidsFest event at the Sandusky Bay Pavilion** which is about 20% of the community. This was a great turnout and this is the first of many events to be held at the Sandusky Bay Pavilion this year. Other events include Passport to Fishing, Civil War Camp, Sandusky Bay Science Camp, Toast of Ohio Wine Festival, Bash Before the Splash and the Big Splash Raffle, Paws Up Pet Expo, Boo at the Bay and Pirate Day, and the Holiday Lights by the Bay all sponsored by the Sandusky Area Maritime Museum. The SBP property is also available to rent for reunions and family events. John Hamilton said the commission has said they will use the SBP as an event park and thinks this is just the beginning of other good things that will be happening. In 2011, the city gave the park to the Sandusky Area Maritime Museum to manage for about six months after which time the city voted to give it to them again for special events. The city voted to provide a five-year agreement for the museum to operate the facility for the city and they have been quite successful with it. Wesley Poole said this property has been used for several years for events and the public, including the Sandusky Area Maritime Museum, has indicated a willingness to develop the area. It is time to organize the area to work toward clarity of purpose.

**Upon motion of Wesley Poole and second of John Hamilton, the commission voted to direct the City Manager and staff to meet with current organizations involved with events at the Sandusky Bay Pavilion to determine their ideas for the use of this property, and to identify what permanent improvements are needed to support the current and potential future needs.**

*Discussion:* Jeff Smith said he contacted Nicole Ard recently and he believes she is already working on this. Diedre Cole said she appreciates the motion and the work being done by Nicole Ard and others in the community. Diedre Cole said she had an opportunity to tour the SBP property with representatives from Bowling Green State University who were very excited about it. There is potential for an inclusive collaboration or partnership with the Sandusky City Schools, BGSU and the city for educational programming, tech prep classes and K-12 learning enhancements. Personally, Diedre Cole said she believes this is an avenue worth exploring and a discussion worth having. Any time a major university wants to come into a community and collaborate with existing organizations, it is a good thing and she asked that BGSU be included in this dialogue. Wesley Poole said this motion is meant to be inclusive of folks from BGSU to determine what amenities are needed and what can or cannot be accommodated. Wesley Poole said if commissioners want firsthand information, they are welcome to sit in to listen. He would like to know what the community wants and in what direction to go as we move forward. Many of the events have things in common in order to be successful and no one is to be excluded. Keith Grohe said he is a little confused as there is currently an agreement with the Sandusky Area Maritime Museum and asked if they were contacted first. John Hamilton said they were, as well as the

foundations involved thus far. Wesley Poole said the city has a five-year agreement with the Sandusky Area Maritime Museum to manage the existing facility and is not sure if they are recruiting other events. What is being proposed has no impact on this. He is trying to find out what additional amenities are needed to make these events successful and this will help the city to be more informed. Wesley Poole said what is being done by the museum and the recreation division is good, but this is not addressing the things we want to do long-term to make this a better facility. The only way to do this is by talking to these persons. Jeff Smith asked Nicole Ard to talk about what she has been working on with the National Trust for Historic Land (NTHL). Nicole Ard said she received a memorandum regarding their proposal to the foundations. The NTHL is proposing the foundations conduct a campaign to raise funds to pay for a master plan for the property. Nicole Ard said they talked about making sure they bring all the different ideas together to bring a balance. Nicole Ard said there is interest in vending at both the SBP and Shoreline Park concession areas. There are people interested in the facilities and more needs to be done than the restroom renovations and this will require a little bit of a balance. Some people may not like to see the concessions return; rather, they would like a nice quiet spot. There must be destinations for tourists and the city should promote small businesses. There may be potential future expansion at the SBP and the idea is to generate what we can for them to blossom. There is a little bit of discussion that needs to take place to ensure the outcome. There was a former golf course in Cleveland where NTHL has worked and they previously worked in Sandusky at the former drive-in property on Cleveland Road. Keith Grohe said he is not against the idea, but has been getting a lot of calls regarding the museum and it seems the city is in another ninth hour deal where something was done quickly, and he does not want anyone to be offended. John Hamilton said he is trying to be all inclusive, not mutually exclusive, with this. Wesley Poole asked at what point would the NTHL meet with people and present ideas for this property and Nicole Ard said the commissioners are all saying the same thing: to meet first and then work out the larger details with the organization as they probably do not have this type of money just sitting around. They will have to do some fundraising to obtain this kind of money. Nicole Ard said the city needs to first figure out what the complete needs and improvements are for the facility and how we pay for these kinds of improvements and involve our community partners. Jeff Smith asked if this motion is to continue what Nicole Ard has already started, or to do something different. Nicole Ard said as she understands it, the motion is to meet with all of the different entities. Pervis Brown said this is what is being done now and asked why a motion is needed. Wesley Poole said everyone is working through various channels and each individual commissioner is getting feedback from different people. The idea is for those currently using the facility to meet with Nicole Ard and all talk in the same room. From this, the city will end up with a vision that can be turned into something. As a commission right now, there is nothing but hearsay and individual bits and pieces of information about what someone might want to do.

**Roll call on the motion: Yeas: John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe and Jeff Smith, 5. Nays: Pervis Brown, 1. The President declared the motion passed.**

Keith Grohe said the **New Day Family Resource Center** is an all volunteer organization helping single mothers in the area of the facility. The center has issued free diapers to 236 families (708 children benefitted) and 630 families have been served by their food pantry (2,025 persons). This makes a total of 824 families or 2,736 persons served. Persons who are interested in volunteering can help address the needs of the community through this organization. John Hamilton said they also offer a play area where mothers can bring children to play or read books. Keith Grohe said he is also helping them work on a garden area and is waiting for the completion of soil testing.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Wesley Poole asked if the city can prepare **statistics about Ohio Bike Week** overall (issues and problems) after the event. John Orzech said this was started last year and he will continue to provide an assessment and present ideas for improvement.

Diedre Cole said shortly before the meeting, she received news that the **Safe Routes to School grant** was not funded for infrastructure. However, the city will receive \$28,000 for bicycle safety, education and enforcement and training programs. Diedre Cole thanked everyone who helped with this effort and stated none of the Erie County applicants received funding.

#### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Dave Waddington, 1446 McKinley Street, thanked the city's staff members, on behalf of the Wightman Wieber Foundation and both of the mothers (Darlene Wightman and Karlene Wieber), for helping get the Sandusky Bay Pavilion ready for the recent KidsFest event. He believes the city ended up utilizing

approximately \$6,000 for the restroom improvements. Dave Waddington said he read comments in the newspaper about all of the parks being in deplorable condition and stated they usually are at the beginning of each season. There were a lot of good compliments about the SBP property after KidsFest and he cannot fix the pool area, but the rest of the property looked good.

Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street, asked if all of the work was completed on the restrooms at the SBP as she saw port-a-potties at this location. Nicole Ard said for larger events, additional restrooms may be provided. Dave Waddington said the port-a-potties were brought in for handicapped accessibility. Nicole Ard said construction work needs to be done to ensure the men's restrooms are ADA accessible. Sharon Johnson asked for an update on the former Keller, Apex and D.C. Filter properties. Nicole Ard said the demolition specifications have not yet been received for the Apex property and the first drawdown was just made and submittals are being accepted for demolition contractors. Testing and work is still being done with the D.C. Filter property and one drawdown has been made. Sharon Johnson said Erie County recently said they will try to increase their water rates and asked what is going on with this. John Hamilton said this has no bearing on the city. Keith Grohe clarified this was for raising sewer rates. Nicole Ard said she understands there was a meeting between the City of Huron and Erie County regarding the waste water plant and this does not impact the city nor does it impact the rates charged to city customers.

Tim Schwanger, 362 Sheffield Way, asked where the city is in the process with the National Trust for Public Lands and Nicole Ard said there will be a pre-meeting before any discussion with the foundations. Tim Schwanger asked if the foundations have said no and Nicole Ard said they have not said no, they are awaiting feedback from the city. Nicole Ard said the city is preparing RFP's for the concession areas at Shoreline Park and the Sandusky Bay Pavilion. Tim Schwanger said Huron Park (practice) baseball fields are in pretty bad shape and asked if there are plans to fix or paint the fence or drag the fields. Tim Schwanger asked if there are still plans to build a Walk of Fame at this park. John Hamilton said he had contact from Julie Farrar about this project which has fallen to the backburner because of funding issues. Tim Schwanger said the city should not be herding all of the city kids to Dorn Community Park to play ball; rather, the individual neighborhoods should offer them. Diedre Cole said she sent an email this weekend as she noticed there were little league teams practicing at Huron Park. Nicole Ard asked in the future for the commission to give direction to do this as the current practice is to drag the fields at Dorn Community Park and Jaycee Park once each season. Those who utilize the fields during the season drag the fields themselves. Nicole Ard said the city's grounds maintenance crews are short-handed and the city is currently left with two part-time, seasonal employees. She could pull one employee from the forestry division, but he and a current street department employee are currently performing tree work to address these calls as they are hazards. Nicole Ard said if this is the direction the commission would like to take or if staff should be redirected, consideration should also be given for Kiwanis Park which is utilized by Special Olympics and other leagues. Spraying for weeds at city locations has already been delayed by one week because of a death in the family of an employee which must be done by a certified individual. Nicole Ard said this will make for a change in the work that is done.

John Hamilton said there is a big race to get everything ready before Memorial Day each year and things will be completed as fast as everyone returns to work. Wesley Poole said agreements with the leagues are separate from what is being discussed. Dragging the fields at neighborhood play parks is the same as cutting grass in terms of making the field safe and available for kids to play. This is a priority and once dragged and cut for the first time, fields can be drug once every couple of weeks to be made sufficient for kids to practice. Wesley Poole said it is not an incredible burden to get them into playing condition and this should be worked into the schedule. Jeff Smith said everyone assumes this little project is a small one, but little projects add up and the city is down 40 employees from five years ago. We continue to pull one employee from a job to put a band aid on another and we will get to things when we possibly can, but employees are already running around like crazy doing what they have to do. Wesley Poole said with the city having a list as large as it has with no end in sight, the question is not about how much time it will take, it is about what we will do first; if the fields do not get dragged, kids do not play on them at all. If there are 300 trees needing to be trimmed, and workers take 1½ hours out of one day to drag a ball field, this does not seem to be unreasonable. There are choices, but none have been made. Nicole Ard said if the city is to drag Huron Park, they would also have to drag Foxborough, Churchwell and others. Repairing the restrooms at the SBP was made a priority and it was indicated by the commission to stop work in the streets and at the other parks. Nicole Ard would like confirmation from the city commission to not stop work in the forestry area to do this. Tim Schwanger said he could get some people together to at least fix the fence and make it look presentable. There are people in the community who want to help and this is being done in Detroit to help cut grass in the parks and it seems the city manager did not even know the parks were supposed to be dragged. Don Icsman said there are priority use and license agreements for some of the city's parks; there are not enough people or resources to take care of some of these facilities. This was a way to put together citizens who wanted to

do things for the kids and this is the exchange. The genesis of the agreement with the Sandusky Area Maritime Museum for the SBP is to help with weed cutting and cleaning up for events in exchange for creating other events for the city. These people have stepped forward in the right way in the right format to help the city as best as they can. The city manager is not ignoring the fields and this is not due to neglect, rather, the city manager is caught between a rock and a hard place in terms of resources to address the problems. Diedre Cole said the easiest solution is for an Adopt-A-Park group to adopt what they can.

Andy Ouriel, Sandusky Register, said the Erie County Commissioners sent a letter to the Sandusky City Commissioners inviting city officials to consider the downtown county administration building as a potential site for a new city hall. Andy Ouriel asked if the city commission considered this invitation and if they have made a decision whether this should be reviewed and has the potential as a cost effective option. Andy Ouriel asked if any decision has been made or if a response has been provided to reject the offer. John Hamilton said as a group, the city commission has not met to discuss this and personally, he never received a written offer. Wesley Poole said the offer was rescinded this week so this is a moot issue. Andy Ouriel said the offer was rescinded because Erie County Commissioner Bill Monaghan said he had not received any word from the city. Wesley Poole said the county came up with another use for the facility. Wesley Poole said his opinion is he did not think this was a suitable location to move city offices and he has no desire to move the city building from its present location. Andy Ouriel asked if the city *rejected* or *ignored* this offer and Wesley Poole said it is not one or the other, it was simply not brought up for discussion. Wesley Poole said you (Andy) do not get to put words in the mouths of the commission and no one thought this was important enough to bring up and this is his personal decision. This was not something he wanted to do and he did not bring it up for discussion. John Hamilton said he first read about this offer in the newspaper and an offer came in the mail after the fact. Andy Ouriel asked if it is a standard city practice that if the city is presented with something they do not like, they do not address it. Wesley Poole said for him, if there is something which needs to be discussed with his fellow commissioners which is in the best interests of the public, he brings it up for discussion and he assumes the others do the same. If not, he discusses this with the individual who brought it to him. He does not think this area was big enough or suitable enough for the operations that go on in city hall. Andy Ouriel asked about the relocation of the police department and the municipal court to Perkins Township and Wesley Poole said he does not consider this an opportunity. Once Perkins Township decided they were going to build their own facility, this set the mark for what they wanted to do. The city going there after the act and building a facility alongside would not be an improvement for the City of Sandusky. Wesley Poole read an excerpt from an email received from Bill Monaghan: "At the County Commission meeting this morning, I have asked that we take our offer off the table so the county can move forward with our planning for that facility's third floor." Wesley Poole said all of the additional things he (Andy) said about "why" are not included in this email.

**Upon motion of Wesley Poole and second of Pervis Brown, the commission voted to adjourn the meeting at 5:57 p.m. The President declared the motion passed.**

---

Kelly L. Kresser, CMC  
Clerk of the City Commission

---

Diedre Y. Cole  
Vice President of the City Commission