

**CITY OF SANDUSKY COMMISSIONERS -
SWEARING-IN CEREMONY & ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

January 3, 2014

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Jeff Smith called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. after an **Invocation**, given by Dick Brady, and the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

Charlie Murray asked Dick Brady to raise his right hand and repeat the following:

"I, Richard R. Brady, do solemnly swear that I will support, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States and the State of Ohio and the Charter and Ordinances of the City of Sandusky; that I will honestly, faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of my office as a City Commissioner and not be influenced by any consideration except that of merit and fitness in the appointment or discharge of employees; that I am currently qualified to hold the office and will maintain all of the qualifications throughout my term in office in compliance with Sec. 4, Sec. 6 and Sec. 43 of the City Charter; So help me God."

Martha Murray asked Dennis Murray to raise his right hand and repeat the following:

"I, Dennis E. Murray, Jr. do solemnly swear that I will support, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States and the State of Ohio and the Charter and Ordinances of the City of Sandusky; that I will honestly, faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of my office as a City Commissioner and not be influenced by any consideration except that of merit and fitness in the appointment or discharge of employees; that I am currently qualified to hold the office and will maintain all of the qualifications throughout my term in office in compliance with Sec. 4, Sec. 6 and Sec. 43 of the City Charter; So help me God."

Don Icsman asked Naomi Twine to raise her right hand and repeat the following:

"I, Naomi R. Twine, do solemnly swear that I will support, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States and the State of Ohio and the Charter and Ordinances of the City of Sandusky; that I will honestly, faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of my office as a City Commissioner and not be influenced by any consideration except that of merit and fitness in the appointment or discharge of employees; that I am currently qualified to hold the office and will maintain all of the qualifications throughout my term in office in compliance with Sec. 4, Sec. 6 and Sec. 43 of the City Charter; So help me God."

The clerk called **the roll** and the following responded: Julie Farrar, Wesley Poole, Jeff Smith, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray and Naomi Twine.

City staff present: Aaron Klein – Engineer, John Orzech – Police Chief, Paul Ricci – Fire Chief, Rebecca Corrigan – Chief Planner, Nicole Ard – City Manager, Don Icsman – Law Director, Hank Solowiej – Finance Director and Kelly Kresser – Commission Clerk.

Upon motion of Wesley Poole and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to excuse Keith Grohe. Jeff Smith declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Wesley Poole and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to accept the certificates of election from the Erie County Board of Elections. Jeff Smith declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Wesley Poole, the commission voted to accept the bonds for the commissioners-elect. Jeff Smith declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Wesley Poole and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to nominate Dennis Murray for President of the city commission. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Wesley Poole, Jeff Smith, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray and Naomi Twine, 6. Jeff Smith declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Dennis Murray and second of Wesley Poole, the commission voted to nominate Dick Brady for Vice President of the city commission. Jeff Smith nominated for Julie

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Farrar for Vice President of the city commission. Ballots were then distributed and tallied by Kelly Kresser and Don Icsman.

Kelly Kresser announced the new Vice President of the city commission is Dick Brady.

Dennis Murray thanked everyone for being here today and said elections bring opportunities for fresh starts. In particular, today marks an occasion for Sandusky to renew its relationship with our citizens, our businesses and our neighbors. Each person in this room has a role in that, as elected representatives, as appointed officials and employees, as interested citizens, and as reporters and bloggers and commentators. Each of us has a role in shaping public debate, in impacting our perception *and reality* as a place to do business, and in attracting the economic development that our communities need to help position Sandusky and Erie County as places to raise a family, grow a business and live our individual dreams. For my part, I make the following promises to you.

To my colleagues at this table, I promise to hold the gavel with which you have entrusted me with fairness and impartiality. If I sometimes miss a hand or mistake the order in which someone is to be recognized to speak, I ask for your understanding that it not intended as a slight. I also promise to do more than simply wait my turn to speak, but to genuinely listen to you. Each of us is a duly elected representative of our neighbors -- each has a right to be heard and each an obligation to try to understand the perspective of the others gathered around this table.

To the city officials who attend these meetings, I promise as often as possible to provide you with notice of my concerns or questions in advance of the meeting. Too often, commission meetings have been set-ups for department heads, leading to embarrassment or a hesitation to answer fully. All of us who have served before, me included, have been guilty of this. It has to stop. It is counterproductive, leading to less discussion, less innovation and less consensus. Naturally that is a two way street and presentations need to be known in advance to allow for adequate consideration.

To my colleagues, city employees and city residents, I promise full preparation for these meetings. The materials are not terribly long and usually of manageable complexity. I hope that we never again witness a commissioner opening the packet at the commission table.

To the remarkable men and women who really do the job in Sandusky – the 200 plus people who answer calls for emergency services, who plow the streets and beautify the parks, who provide the best water and waste water services in northern Ohio at prices far lower than other governments – to you I promise the respect and admiration that you earn and deserve.

To our neighbors, both governments and citizens, I promise that if you contact me, I will respond. If you propose cooperation, I will listen and be actively engaged in the conversation. Commissioner Brady and I both played roles in the early efforts at joint dispatch. That took a lot of twists and turns – and we got our share of bumps and bruises -- but look at where we are today, saving money, often with better services. Of course, there is room for improvement, but the important thing is to start the conversation. Where does it go next? County-wide fire? A water and sewer district? I do not know, but I promise we will be talking.

To our businesses and investors, I promise to do everything that I can to assure that you receive a swift and clear answer. The answer can't always be "yes" given our limited resources, but we will provide a timely and courteous response, and those who fail to do so will be held accountable.

Finally, and most importantly, to our citizens, I promise to do my best to answer your questions as best as I can, to foster a government attitude of transparency and accountability. I know that you will not always like the answers, but facts, budgets and past decisions are stubborn things that often constrain our choices. But each of our citizens are entitled to as swift and complete an answer as we can muster. In that vein I plan to conduct a series of town halls to

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discuss city issues, the budget over the years, our services and hear from residents about what they want Sandusky to be.

Sandusky is a city of great bones and legacy assets as well as liabilities. If we address both with equal honesty and enthusiasm, we can accomplish what few communities our size can even imagine. This is the last full commission elected before Sandusky's 2018 bicentennial. It is our job to serve as stewards of this community and prepare Sandusky for its third century. With your help, we will do just that.

Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to adjourn at 1:22 p.m. Dennis Murray declared the motion passed.

Kelly L. Kresser
Clerk of the City Commission

Dennis E. Murray, Jr.
President of the City Commission