

**Dennis Murray called the meeting to order** at 5 p.m. after Naomi Twine offered a moment of silence in memory of former Officer Andy Dunn who was killed in the line of duty on March 19, 2011, the **Invocation, and the Pledge of Allegiance.**

The clerk called **the roll** and the following Commissioners responded: Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine and Wesley Poole. (Scott Schell was later sworn in as a City Commissioner.)

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

**Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to accept the resignation of Keith Grohe, with reluctance.**

*Discussion:* Dick Brady thanked Keith Grohe for his service and said when people run for this office, they really never know what they are getting into. Dick Brady said he knows Keith Grohe would have liked to remain on the commission, but wished him to be well. Dennis Murray said he knows Keith Grohe wanted to come back and said he appreciates his service.

**The President declared the motion passed.**

Dennis Murray said he would like to begin a new tradition going forward, and said he asked for a Resolution to be prepared honoring Keith Grohe for his service to the City of Sandusky.

**RESOLUTION NO. 009-14R:** It is requested a Resolution be passed **accepting the resignation of Keith A. Grohe and recognizing his outstanding services as a member of the Sandusky, Ohio, City Commission;** 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 Julie Farrar, the commission voted to approve this resolution in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine and Wesley Poole, 6. Roll call on the resolution: Yeas: Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine and Wesley Poole, 6. The President declared the resolution passed.**

Dennis Murray said the commission candidate with the next highest number of votes in the last municipal election automatically takes the first position vacated, and Scott Schell is here to be sworn in.

**George Mylander asked Scott Schell to raise his right hand and repeat the following:**

*"I, Scott J. Schell, 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."*

**Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to approve the minutes of the February 24 city commission meeting and suspend the oral reading. The President declared the motion passed.**

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION** (agenda items only)

Mark Norman, 1016 Third Street, thanked the staff for the exceptional snow removal efforts this winter season.

**PROCLAMATION**

Jeff Smith read a Proclamation declaring March as **National Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month (MS)** in the City of Sandusky, and said he asked to read this in honor of his mother who was diagnosed with MS in 1992.

**CURRENT BUSINESS**

Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to accept all communications. The President declared the motion passed.

ITEM #1 - Submitted by Jane E. Cullen, P.E.

**PASSED AT FIRST READING 2.24.14**

**RESOLUTION OF NECESSITY FOR PERKINS AVENUE WATER LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

**Budgetary Information:** The Engineer's estimate for the total project cost including engineering, inspection, advertising and miscellaneous expenses is \$283,417.09. The project costs will be paid with water funds.

**RESOLUTION NO. 010-14R:** It is requested a resolution be passed **declaring the necessity for the city to proceed with the proposed Perkins Avenue water line replacement 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.

Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to approve this resolution in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter. Yeas: Scott Schell, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine and Wesley Poole, 7. The President declared the resolution passed.

ITEM #2 – Submitted by Amanda Meyers, Paralegal

**PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT FOR PARCEL LOCATED ON CAMP STREET THROUGH THE LAND REUTILIZATION PROGRAM**

**Budgetary Information:** The cost associated with this purchase and sale agreement is the total amount of the title search, deed preparation, recording and transfer 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 three hundred and seventy nine dollars (\$379) required to be paid by the purchaser. The taxing districts will begin collecting approximately seventy nine dollars and twenty four cents (\$79.24) per year in real estate taxes.

**ORDINANCE NO. 14-015:** 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 #59-00285.000 located on Camp 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 Wesley Poole and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to approve this ordinance in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Scott Schell, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine and Wesley Poole, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Scott Schell, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine and Wesley Poole, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.

ITEM #3 – Submitted by Amanda Meyers, Paralegal

**PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT FOR PARCELS LOCATED ON WEST MONROE STREET THROUGH THE LAND REUTILIZATION PROGRAM**

**Budgetary Information:** The cost associated with this purchase and sale agreement is the total amount of the deed preparation, transfer tax and recording fees charged in the normal course of the purchase and sale transaction. The sale of this nonproductive land will enhance the surrounding neighborhood and help to stabilize property values by the responsible maintenance of the open green space and in the future, with the potential addition of a garage and off street parking. The city will be saving demolition costs or approximately ten thousand dollars

(\$10,000). The taxing districts will once again begin collecting real property taxes in the approximate amount of one hundred thirty seven dollars and twenty five cents (\$137.25) per year, which will increase with any improvements made.

**ORDINANCE NO. 14-016:** 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 No's. 58-00500.000 and 58-02059.000 located on West Monroe Street, are 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 Julie Farrar and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to approve this ordinance in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Scott Schell, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine and Wesley Poole, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Scott Schell, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine and Wesley Poole, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.

**ITEM #4 – Submitted by Amanda Meyers, Paralegal**

**PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT FOR PARCELS LOCATED ON ROCKWELL STREET THROUGH THE LAND REUTILIZATION PROGRAM**

**Budgetary Information:** The cost associated with this purchase and sale agreement is the total amount of the title examination, title insurance policy, deed preparation, escrow fees and recording 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 by responsibly maintaining open green space, and in the future with potential expansion. Although Firelands Regional Medical Center is a non-profit corporation that is exempt from paying real estate taxes, they are one of the largest employers in the city for which the city will benefit from future expansion with the provision of more employment opportunities for city residents and also enhance the city's income tax base.

**ORDINANCE NO. 14-017:** 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 No's. 57-01072.000 and 57-03452.000 located on Rockwell Street between Hayes Avenue and Campbell Street are 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 Naomi Twine and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to approve this ordinance in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Scott Schell, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine and Wesley Poole, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Scott Schell, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine and Wesley Poole, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.

**ITEM #5 – Submitted by Amanda Meyers, Paralegal**

**PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT FOR PARCEL LOCATED ON DEWEY STREET THROUGH THE LAND REUTILIZATION PROGRAM**

**Budgetary Information:** The cost associated with this purchase and sale agreement is the total amount of the title search, deed preparation, recording and transfer 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 and forty dollars (\$240) required to be paid by the purchasers. The taxing districts will begin collecting approximately one hundred thirty nine dollars and eighty cents (\$139.80) per year in real estate taxes.

**ORDINANCE NO. 14-018:** 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 No. 57-03726.000 located on Dewey 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 Dick Brady and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to approve this ordinance in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

*Discussion:* Julie Farrar said this lot is the reason the mow to own program started in the city and she is glad to see this finally come to fruition. Her neighbors have mowed and taken care of this lot and other neighbors appreciate that it now can now be called "their home". Dennis Murray thanked the Knoll's for taking care of this property.

**Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Scott Schell, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine and Wesley Poole, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Scott Schell, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine and Wesley Poole, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.**

**ITEM #6 – Submitted by Amanda Meyers, Paralegal**

**PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENTS FOR PARCEL LOCATED ON TIFFIN AVENUE THROUGH THE LAND REUTILIZATION PROGRAM**

**Budgetary Information:** The cost associated with these purchase agreements is the total amount of the title examination, survey and deed preparation. Any such costs shall be recouped by the city from the nonrefundable earnest money deposits required to be paid by purchasers upon sale. By returning this nonproductive land to tax producing status, the taxing districts will begin collecting real property taxes once again.

**ORDINANCE NO. 14-019:** 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 No. 59-00077.000 located at 330 Tiffin Avenue, Sandusky, is no longer needed for any municipal purpose and authorizing the execution of purchase and sale agreements 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 Julie Farrar and second of Wesley Poole, the commission voted to approve this ordinance in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Scott Schell, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine and Wesley Poole, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Scott Schell, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine and Wesley Poole, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.**

**ITEM #7 – Submitted by Paul E. Ricci, Fire Chief**

**AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR FY 2013 FIRE PREVENTION & SAFETY GRANT WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

**Budgetary Information:** The total amount of the grant funds applied for is \$4,400 to purchase school kits, toy fire helmets environmentally friendly totes, and oven mitts that all display a fire safety message to encourage fire risk reduction within the City of Sandusky. The matching funds required for this grant are 5% or \$220 which can be obtained from donations.

**RESOLUTION NO. 011-14R:** It is requested a resolution be passed **authorizing the filing of a grant application to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for the FY 2013 Fire Prevention and Safety Program grant for the Sandusky Fire Department;** 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 Naomi Twine, the commission voted to approve this resolution in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Scott Schell, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine and Wesley Poole, 7. Roll call on the resolution: Yeas: Scott Schell, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine and Wesley Poole, 7. The President declared the resolution passed.**

**ITEM #8 – Submitted by Aaron M. Klein, P.E.****AUTHORIZATION TO DISPOSE OF BICYCLES AND OTHER EQUIPMENT**

**Budgetary Information:** Proceeds from the sale of each item will be placed in the respective department's accounts. Proceeds for items in the Police Department will be placed into the Police Department's trust account.

**ORDINANCE NO. 14-020:** It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to dispose of personal property and equipment as having become unnecessary and unfit for city use pursuant to Section 25 of the city charter;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

**Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Wesley Poole, the commission voted to approve this ordinance in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

*Discussion:* Dennis Murray said this is quite a collection and asked how we can let people know about this auction and the contents. Aaron Klein said a press release will be issued and information will be placed on the city's website. Lt. VanScoy from the Police Department acts as the auctioneer and doors will open at 8 a.m. for inspection of items.

**Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Scott Schell, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine and Wesley Poole, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Scott Schell, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine and Wesley Poole, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.**

**ITEM #9 – Submitted by Aaron M. Klein, P.E.****CONTRACT WITH NEWCOMER CONCRETE SERVICES, INC. FOR SANDUSKY TRANSIT SYSTEM PARKING LOT AND FENCE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**

**Budgetary Information:** The cost of the project based on bids, including engineering, inspection, advertising and miscellaneous costs is \$105,955.15. The project will be funded with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant money at a maximum amount of \$150,000. There is no city-funded match required so there will be no impact on the city's general fund.

**ORDINANCE NO. 14-021:** It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to enter into a contract with Newcomer Concrete Services, Inc., of Norwalk, Ohio, for the Sandusky Transit System (STS) parking lot and fence improvements project;** 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 Naomi Twine, the commission voted to approve this ordinance in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

*Discussion:* Dick Brady said it is important to highlight the benefit to Sandusky which will receive \$119,057, and stated this project has been competitively bid. Dennis Murray said the STS serves the entire county, and this is good for Erie County as well. These are stimulus dollars provided by the federal government with a matching portion by the City of Sandusky.

**Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Scott Schell, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine and Wesley Poole, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Scott Schell, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine and Wesley Poole, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.**

**ITEM #10 – Submitted by Aaron M. Klein, P.E.****BRIDGE INSPECTION PROGRAM SERVICES PROJECT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Budgetary Information:** There is no budgetary impact for the city. In 2012, the city paid approximately \$10,000 to a consultant to inspect two bridges in the city.

**PASSED AT FIRST READING:** It is requested a resolution be passed **adopting the preliminary legislation submitted by the Director of the Ohio Department of Transportation for the bridge inspection program services project, PID No. 97103;** authorizing and directing the city manager

to sign the preliminary legislation and to execute any necessary contracts with the Director of Transportation for this project.

**Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Wesley Poole, the commission voted to approve this ordinance in accordance with Section 13 of the city charter.**

*Discussion:* Aaron Klein said he has had discussions with ODOT and they have a program with federal funds to perform bridge inspections for communities which choose to participate. This is a relatively new program and the city is getting in at the right time as we have two bridges which need to be inspected.

**Roll call on the resolution: Yeas: Scott Schell, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine and Wesley Poole, 7. The President declared the resolution passed at first reading.**

**ITEM #11 – Submitted by Aaron M. Klein, P.E.**

**CHANGE ORDER WITH ED BURDUE & CO., LLC FOR THE FORMER SANDUSKY CABINETS PROPERTY**

**Budgetary Information:** The current contract with Ed Burdue & Co., LLC is \$297,377. The additional amount of \$464,860 would be paid entirely through the CORF grant. The total contract amount would be \$762,237.

**ORDINANCE 14-022:** It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to approve the first change order for work performed for the demolition, remediation and re-grading project relating to the former Sandusky Cabinets property project;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

**Upon motion of Dick Brady and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to approve this ordinance in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

*Discussion:* Dick Brady said he knows there is justification for this change order and Ed Burdue did not hit the lottery; he asked Aaron Klein to explain. Aaron Klein said this project is a Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund (CORF) project and the city received approximately \$1.8 million in CORF money to do this work. When bid in the fall, there were some changes in staffing levels at the EPA and they changed their opinion about the background arsenic levels and required additional samplings which are paid one hundred percent by the city. Non-construction costs are considered soft costs paid by the city. There were potential groundwater concerns and the consultant, Mannik and Smith, came up with the idea of removing material from the entire site rather than from pockets of the site. The EPA was very happy about this and thought it was a conservative approach and told the city to proceed. The contractor provided an estimate and additional sampling did not have to be done at the edge of the excavation. The clean edge will now be the property edge. The most important thing is the cost is funded one hundred percent by the CORF grant; no additional city funds will be spent. Additionally, the property will now have cleaner materials left on it and this will bring the property into residential standards and it can be marketed for any purpose. Aaron Klein said the cost from the initial base bid by the contractor was so low we are able to pursue this. Dennis Murray said an issue placed on the ballot several years ago helps to fund the CORF and older communities with contaminated properties.

**Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Scott Schell, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine and Wesley Poole, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Scott Schell, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine and Wesley Poole, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.**

**ITEM #12 – Submitted by Aaron M. Klein, P.E.****2014 URBAN PAVING PROGRAM WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Budgetary Information:** The city's share of the cost is now estimated at \$201,560 and will be paid with Community Development Block Grant funds. Striping for parking spaces will also be the responsibility of the city including materials and labor.

**ORDINANCE NO. 14-023:** It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to enter into a contract with the Director of the Ohio Department of Transportation for the ODOT 2014 urban paving program project;** 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 Wesley Poole, the commission voted to approve this ordinance in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

*Discussion:* Dennis Murray asked for some background about this program. Aaron Klein said by state law, municipalities are required to pave state highways and ODOT started this program to assist with this. They do the project design and construction oversight, and contribute toward asphalt. Other incidental expenses would be the city's cost. The engineer's estimate is approximately \$480,000 and the city's cost is \$201,560. If there are change orders during construction related to the city's portion, we will have to take care of this. Dennis Murray asked the difference between the estimate and the cost. Aaron Klein said the state pays a portion at 80%|20% while there is another portion paid at 100% by the city. Dick Brady said it is important to be clear about what roads are being paved: Cleveland Road, down Sycamore Line to 48<sup>th</sup> Street, in addition to West Park, going north to Washington Street. Aaron Klein said the two state highways are U.S. 250 from Cleveland Road to 48<sup>th</sup> and S.R. 4 from West Park to Columbus Avenue. Dennis Murray said everyone has had conversations with constituents about potholes and to proceed with a great deal of caution because these cannot be fixed when it is wet and we are doing the best job we can. We have spent a great deal of money on these already this year and a number of communities contract this out. Monies from this particular fund must be used for state routes and cannot be used in or for other areas. Aaron Klein said the city's contribution for this project is coming from CDBG funds.

**Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Scott Schell, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine and Wesley Poole, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Scott Schell, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine and Wesley Poole, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.**

**ITEM #13 – Submitted by Jane E. Cullen, P.E.****APPLICATION TO OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES RECREATIONAL HARBOR EVALUATION GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE EAST BAY CHANNEL DREDGING PROJECT**

**Budgetary Information:** The estimated cost of the East Bay channel dredging project is \$500,000. The city is applying for 50% funding by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources in the amount of \$250,000. This grant is set up as a reimbursable type of grant. The city will pay 50% of the estimated cost which would be \$250,000 and then submit to ODNR for reimbursement. The remaining 50% of the estimated cost of the project will be paid out of funds donated by the East Bay Channel Association in the amount of \$250,000.

**RESOLUTION NO. 012-14R:** It is requested a resolution be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to file an application with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Watercraft, to participate in the Recreational Harbor evaluation program grant for the East Bay channel dredging project;** and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

**Upon motion of Wesley Poole and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to approve this resolution in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

*Discussion:* Dick Brady asked who will pay for this. Aaron Klein said this is a \$500,000 grant being sponsored by the city and fifty percent will be funded through the ODNR, while the other fifty percent will be funded by the East Bay Channel Association. Dennis Murray asked who is

represented by the East Bay Channel Association and Aaron Klein said he believes this is Cedar Point and one other entity. Dennis Murray said he will abstain from voting on this item.

**Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Scott Schell, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine and Wesley Poole, 5. Abstain: Dick Brady and Dennis Murray, 2. Roll call on the resolution: Yeas: Scott Schell, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine and Wesley Poole, 5. Abstain: Dick Brady and Dennis Murray, 2. The President declared the resolution passed.**

**ITEM #14 – Submitted by Victoria Kurt, Recreation Supervisor**

**LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH PANTHER BASEBALL CLUB FOR PRIORITY USE OF KIWANIS PARK BALLFIELD**

**Budgetary Information:** The agreement will not result in any additional budgetary expenses. The city will benefit from the agreed upon ball field maintenance performed by the Panther Baseball Club.

**PASSED AT FIRST READING:** It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to enter into a three year license agreement with the Panther Baseball Club for priority use of the Kiwanis Park ball field located at 2227 First Street, Sandusky, Ohio, for the Firelands Interleague Baseball League program (June 1 through July 31) beginning June 1, 2014.**

**Upon motion of Dick Brady and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to approve this ordinance in accordance with Section 13 of the city charter.**

*Discussion:* Dennis Murray said this will be for priority scheduling of this ball field, not for exclusive use. In exchange for this, the Panther Baseball Club has agreed to make certain improvements to the field and this is a good deal for the City of Sandusky.

**Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Scott Schell, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine and Wesley Poole, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed at first reading.**

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

**Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to accept five donations for the new K-9 Officer from: 1) Ruth Parker (\$5,000), 2) Affiliated Environmental Services (\$100), 3) S & S Realty/Sortino's (\$100), 4) Mathews Ford (\$250); and, 5) Sandusky Steel (\$100). The President declared the motion passed.**

Nicole Ard said there will be a fundraiser on April 4 at Chipotle and 50% of the proceeds/sales will be donated toward the Police Department.

Nicole Ard requested the commission approve the appointment of Sharon Johnson to the **Housing Appeals Board**. **Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to approve this appointment. The President declared the motion passed.**

Nicole Ard said the city is continuing to work on the planning effort for the **Sandusky Bay Pavilion (SBP) property** with a comprehensive effort for city planning. There has been discussion over the past several months and a community meeting was held at Sandusky High School to gather input. The National Trust for Public Lands (NTPL) submitted proposals to the Sandusky/Erie County Community Foundation requesting support to be able to provide a Master Plan for the Pavilion. At this point, what has been proposed is to have an additional set of proposals for CDBG or for a Comprehensive Plan for the entire city. The zoning code requires updates and would include the work done at Lions Park. A component of this Comprehensive Plan is the preparation of a Master Plan for the SBP property. It is suggested the city leverage funds through the foundations and the city's CDBG funding. Dennis Murray asked where this leaves us with respect to a plan to refurbish the SBP area. He is fully supportive of where we stand with redoing the city's Master Plan, but does not follow how the NTPL and the SBP fits

with working with the foundations and a Comprehensive Plan. This sounds like a project over a couple of year and we are pushing the lease of the SBP back quite a way. Nicole Ard said the SBP is the focus area; the Master Plan process was supposed to take a specific amount of time and the Comprehensive Plan would address the SBP. The budget has included funds for the Comprehensive Plan update; the proposal from the NTPL to the foundation from our original plan and everyone has limited resources so we are trying to do things with lower cost alternatives which will be effective. Dennis Murray said he understands the Comprehensive Plan encompasses the whole city so we are looking at something that would be only a couple of components. Nicole Ard said she would like to have the entire budget but we are just a little bit shy of that. What was proposed and what the city has looked at is if there are other proposals. Dennis Murray asked if Nicole Ard has a sense of when this may be complete and Nicole Ard said she would anticipate having proposals in the next couple of weeks to take back to the foundations. She will touch base with private sector folks as well as the foundation group. Dennis Murray asked if this would have an impact on the BGSU/Firelands proposal and Nicole Ard said last week, an RFP came back to lease the SBP and one person is interested in this area and in Shoreline Park. She had comments last week from BGSU/Firelands and this is in line with what they recommended in terms of a three-year outlook for the facility. Jeff Smith said we do not want to come up with a plan for one piece of property if we do not know what the plan is for outer-lying pieces of property. The idea is to not put one thing "here" just because a few people wanted it if it does not work with our grand plan. Nicole Ard said the focus will be the SBP area. The larger comprehensive plan has a lot of different components to it.

Nicole Ard said the **Police Department's Facebook page** is up and running and has only been up for a week, but already has quite a bit of activity. This can be accessed through a link on the city's website.

Nicole Ard said the Police Department has received very positive feedback about the recent **Travel Channel segment which aired recently highlighting Ohio Bike Week** in Sandusky. The officers were cordial to our visitors and Nicole Ard commended them.

Nicole Ard said a **Request for Proposals to operate the city's boat launch facility** will be released this week.

Nicole Ard said **Mills Creek Golf Course passes** will be available at the Clubhouse starting March 14 when the golf course opens.

Nicole Ard reminded folks there is an **online survey on Virtual Voices for CDBG funding** and questions are being finalized from each of the departments for citizens to provide feedback about the services we provide. Feedback can be provided directly to the city and is shared with the city commissioners. This is another forum to provide feedback for persons who are unable attend commission meetings.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Dick Brady said a month or so ago, the city had an **offer from FSI Disposal to partner for recycling** and it was recommended the city work on a contract to facilitate this. Don Icsman said he and Aaron Klein met with Duke Fultz of FSI Disposal and went to both sites and this contract is about three quarters finished. The city just received another invoice and the commission has already said publicly to get an estimate for the cost, but he would be comfortable with the commission authorizing payment for these invoices and then paying fifty percent down (of the \$23,000), and then work the details out for the contract. This would be consistent with what has already been ordered in. Dennis Murray said sometimes you need to spend a buck to save a buck, and this is where we are. Don Icsman said we are talking about some things that have already been discussed, but the city will save money in the long term and there will be an agreement with FSI; they have also agreed to buy the bins back using some type of formula for fair market value if the contract would be terminated for any reason before its term. The city is not at risk. Dick Brady said the city is going to spend money to purchase bins for \$23,000 which will ultimately save the city \$45,000 per year. Dick Brady said he made a

formal application for the Erie County Solid Waste Committee for some funds and he is not terribly optimistic this will be successful, but it is worth a Hail Mary.

**Upon motion of Dick Brady and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to proceed with payment for half the cost (\$11,500) of the additional twelve bins up to \$23,000. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Scott Schell, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine and Wesley Poole, 7. The President declared the motion passed.**

Jeff Smith said he went to one of the **Town Hall meetings where the 2015 and 2016 budgets** were discussed and knows these years will be even worse than 2014. Jeff Smith asked Dennis Murray if, based on these meetings, and feedback from citizens, he knows what he would like to do. Dennis Murray said he would like to get more feedback and will be attending couple of parent sessions with Dr. Sanders of Sandusky City Schools next weekend. Dennis Murray said he has heard people say they support a levy for a property tax increase and perhaps a combination of **safety service levy** and streets; some have said they will support a quarter of a percent **income tax increase** for five years while others have said they would not support any of these things. **Admissions tax** has been discussed although this is not something he can take up. Dennis Murray said he is hearing mixed feedback but he thinks the community is accepting of the fact the city does not have enough funds to do what people want us to do. There will always be people who believe government is a compilation of waste, fraud and abuse but he knows people who work for the city and knows this is just not true. If you look at your own checkbook or budget at home, there will be dollars that will slip away from you and people occasionally may have to pay a late fee or things like this, but these things happen to a government too, although a lot less in the City of Sandusky than in other communities. People are thinking about this we need to continue having conversations and there are people in this room who volunteer to do this. Jeff Smith said he is in favor of economic development and the majority of people he has talked to would support a safety service levy rather than an increase in income tax. Dennis Murray said some people say the State of Ohio took all of the lottery money away and used it for themselves, but an auditor could track every single penny and one hundred percent has been put toward the schools as they said they would. The State has taken other money away instead, and this is his concern with displacement budgeting. We would run the same risk with this being placed on the ballot. Five or ten years down the road, different people will be here and there will be different needs. Naomi Twine said she believes starting these conversations is very important with the public and from the feedback she has heard, we need to share information in order to receive information. This is important to determine how we plan to move forward and she has heard mixed feelings and emotions and the commission needs to share information and put together a plan. Julie Farrar said her concern is we are going to be right back here putting a budget together and the revenue is such an issue now. The time is ticking and it will be a very short turnaround to making decisions. Dennis Murray said 2014 was tough, but wait until we look around the corner at 2015 and 2016. The dilemma for the city is the schools are looking at what they have to do and if they decide to put an issue on the ballot and the city puts an issue on at the same time, he fears how this will turn out and this may be too much to ask people all at once. Julie Farrar said we should have this conversation with Dr. Sanders and the school board and look at how we can approach this issue for both entities. Dennis Murray said this is how he ended up agreeing to attend the SCS forum on Saturday and hopefully will get some additional feedback. He will send information about the sessions to the commissioners. Dick Brady said he does not think we can wait eight months to start discussing the next budget and we should start discussing this now. We are only going to find so many \$65,000 holes like we did with the recycling, and there are only so many things we can cut and the city is doing a heck of a job with just over two hundred employees. It comes down to generating more revenue or cutting more expenses and we have already cut. People have said to him if the city is specific with their requests and where these dollars will go, they will support an income tax increase. We do not have a great history of passing income tax levies, but being good stewards of these dollars will hopefully account for something. We can build a little bit of trust and need to be responsive about where the dollars will go. Dennis Murray asked how we find out what people will support and we do not have the money to poll them and the people who attend these meetings is only a specific group, not a cross section. Dennis Murray said this is a rhetorical question. Julie Farrar said perhaps the newspaper can

help us get the word out and we can host more Town Hall meetings to open dialogue with the public. Julie Farrar is thinking about the safety of the residents and it is our duty to keep fire fighters and police officers and the hardest thing was being on the commission when Officer Andy Dunn was killed and she is not blaming anyone, but feels we should make sure we have appropriate staff (including two officers in a cruiser), especially on the weekends. Julie Farrar said the lottery was supposed to save the school system and this money was given to the schools, but they took it away in other places and we still have issues with school funding. If we go with a safety service levy, we know our police and fire departments will be taken care of. Scott Schell said he could not agree more with Commissioners Farrar and Brady, this discussion needs to take place now because of the projections. He has spoken to people in the community and agrees with being specific and identifying what we are going to attack with a safety service levy. Scott Schell said he was a city employee the last time the city had an income tax issue and it did not pass - dramatically - and was partly because the commission, at that time, did not identify what we were going to do with the money. We can use newspaper, radio, electronic surveys or our website to reach as many residents as possible. Dennis Murray said he thinks there are some lessons we can learn from the outcome of the last income tax proposal and the commission did not back it. Although this may not have been wrong at the time, it is what the commissioners felt and was the right proposal.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Upon motion of Dick Brady and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to hold an executive session regarding personnel, Fire Department. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Scott Schell, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine and Wesley Poole, 7. The President declared the motion passed.**

**Upon motion of Dick Brady and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to hold an executive session regarding pending litigation. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Scott Schell, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine and Wesley Poole, 7. The President declared the motion passed.**

**Upon motion of Dick Brady and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to hold an executive session regarding personnel, City Manager. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Scott Schell, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine and Wesley Poole, 7. The President declared the motion passed.**

Dennis Murray said there are **vacancies on the Human Relations Commission** and interested persons may contact the Commission Clerk or log onto the city's website.

Dennis Murray noted the **Audit/Finance Committee meeting** has been rescheduled for Friday, March 14 at 7:45 a.m.

#### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Mark Norman, 1016 Third Street, said he encourages the commission to come up with a vision to help citizens have something to believe in and look forward to. The commission has the political capital necessary to provide this. Mark Norman thanked Dick Brady for taking care of the agreement for the dumpsters on First Street. A lot of the issue was with the timing of emptying them; they filled up on the weekends and then became a mess. Dick Brady said it is important to note the city is going to let private enterprise take hold here and to keep in mind the vendor (FSI Disposal) will make money doing this and the city will no longer have to pay for this every month. He is optimistic this private enterprise will help government.

Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street, asked for clarification about the executive sessions and Dennis Murray said the City Manager requested to meet with the commissioners about her personnel situation; the other session is regarding pending litigation. Sharon Johnson said the

commission is chomping at the bit about relocating city hall, but she is not for passing an income tax increase or a fire safety service levy to do this.

Matt Morgan, 1003 West Osborne Street, said he draws a lot of people into the downtown with the nature of his business (The Hero Zone) and announced a regional and state championship card game championship winner came from his store. These people are passionate about their hobby and are willing to represent their community. Matt Morgan asked the progress with Erie Blacktop leasing property from the city on King Street and Dennis Murray said we are awaiting a response from them currently. Matt Morgan said as long as the explanation is provided, people would be receptive to the city's plan for an income or safety service levy and would be willing to step up and help spread the message.

Timothy Work, 517 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, said he believes the city has made as many cuts as possible and needs to look at capitalizing on assets we have as a community such as the waterfront and our historic downtown. The city could increase revenue by increasing the rental registration and this will also help to make homes more attractive in Sandusky. Jeff Smith said Timothy Work is a member of the Sandusky Crime Prevention Council and is also a member of the Erie County Real Estate Investors Association and has done some research on the Crime-Free Rental program in Painesville, Ohio. They charge an additional fee to landlords, in addition to their rental registration, which makes them a crime-free rental property, and are also required to participate in a six-hour course. These properties are inspected by the city to ensure they are up to the crime-free rental code. If landlords choose not to do this, they pay an additional fee. The burden is taken off of police and fire by the landlords who do not pay the fee and choose to be a crime-free rental. For landlords who prefer to pay the money, this goes toward code enforcement. Timothy Work said the University of Texas did a study about rental registration programs in larger cities which noted complaint-driven systems do not work. Mandatory inspections take care of these types of things. Dennis Murray asked if this information can be forwarded to the commissioners; they have been working on some type of a homeowner protection initiative which will be rolled out later in the year. Dick Brady said this information should also be shared with Paul Ricci who oversees the city's rental registration program. Paul Ricci said the money generated from the rental registration program can only go toward this program, it cannot go toward enforcement unless the rules are changed. There is a mandatory program for landlords in violation; after two violation notices they fall into the mandatory inspection program.

Dennis Murray reminded people to **shovel their sidewalks within the first four hours of daylight** after two inches of snow or more has fallen, per city ordinance.

**The President announced a recess of the regular session at 6:38 p.m. Three executive sessions were held beginning at 6:45 p.m. The President announced adjournment at 8:38 p.m.**

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Kelly L. Kresser, CMC  
Clerk of the City Commission

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