

**Dennis Murray called the meeting to order** at 5 p.m. after the **Invocation**, given by Julie Farrar, and the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

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

**City staff present:** Paul Ricci – Fire Chief, John Orzech - Police Chief, Aaron Klein - City Engineer, Rebecca Corrigan – Chief Planner, Thomas Schwan – Transit Administrator, Don Rumbutis - IT, Don Icsman - Law Director, Sally Poggiali – Senior Accountant/Auditor and Kelly Kresser - Commission Clerk.

**Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to approve the minutes of the March 24 & March 28, 2014, city commission meetings and suspend the oral reading. The President declared the motion passed.**

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

Tim Schwanger, 362 Sheffield Way, representing Save Our Shoreline Parks, said he received a call from Steve Ernst regarding use of the Jackson Street Pier during Ohio Bike Week. He is concerned about closure of the Jackson Street Pier for five days, especially for the elderly and/or disadvantaged persons. This is the only place in the city where they can enjoy their lunch or break and stated the city should try to keep this open and utilize another area instead. Ohio Bike Week is a great event and Tim Schwanger said he is not against it and to consider admissions or income tax.

Dan Leavell, 2106 Mills Street, asked if the city would consider placing benches along the walkway at Lions Park so senior citizens or other individuals would have the opportunity to sit near the water.

#### **PRESENTATIONS**

**Thomas Schwan, Sandusky Transit Administrator, provided a service report for 2013 – 2014** and noted the Sandusky Transit System (STS) has seen incredible advances during the past year in ridership and usage. The STS has point deviation routes which are fixed routes running on a one-hour loop as well as a demand/response service providing trips anywhere in Erie County. STS is now a rural system due to the last U.S. Census data and is funded by the Ohio Department of Transportation. The service began in 1992 as a city service and in 2005, it expanded into evenings and Saturday service. The JARC grant helped start the SPARC routes. Ridership has grown during the past nine years transporting 190,296 one-way trips or about a 14% increase from the previous year. STS tracks trip purposes and the largest purpose tracked is employment related. Demand response service provided 69,744 one-way trips while elderly and disabled trips served over 54,000 of these trips. Over 2,700 trips are provided each day and an ODOT standard is two trips per hour. The SPARC 1 Route provided 46,486 trips and this was the original route with 20 stops and an average number of daily trips of 151. SPARC 2 is the busiest route with 62,364 trips provided which is an 11% increase from 2012. One of the biggest reasons for the increase is to provide job trips to Kalahari from within the City of Sandusky. There are approximately 34,000 job related trips on this stop alone. SPARC 3 is the newest route and in its first full year, it generated 11,712 trips to the west end of town. Over 1,200 trips are provided monthly and people are still learning the route; projections for 2014 are for an increase as people on the west end learn they can utilize it. Funding for the STS is provided by the Job Access Reverse Commute which funds the SPARC routes and the Rural Transit Program which funds the demand response. Operating costs are split 50%|50% and capital costs of contracting are an 80%|20% split. In 2012, the budget was approximately just under \$2 million and the grant match was \$704,000. Costs are projected to go up slightly over the next three years because of fuel costs and operating costs. There are a few factors to project revenues including fare box revenue, state funding toward grants and contracts with the STS. Contracts contribute to the city's match from Erie County Board of Developmental

Disabilities and Serving Our Seniors. A Request for Proposals is out for advertising on the vehicles and there are not projections, but the STS will decide which company to go with on April 17. STS has explored becoming a Medicaid biller and rides provided would be billed directly to Medicaid at a rate of \$19.51. JFS only pays \$1 per ride currently for anyone on Medicaid, but once the city is a biller, it would get the larger amount. STS could also come up with an in-kind plan where finance or engineering helps with Transit and can actually bill these services which we currently cannot; this would help with our match. Thomas Schwan said match money was received recently from Erie County of approximately \$46,000 to order four new vehicles. Currently there are 24 vehicles in the fleet and twelve of them are owned by the city, nine are owned by MV Transportation, two are leased by the Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities and one was donated by Serving Our Seniors. STS is facing three issues and one major problem with the SPARC routes is there are not enough seats and it would be helpful to have larger ones. The city previously used TARTA buses which were too expensive to maintain. MV Transportation bills the city through their contract for use of their vehicles and state contracts could perhaps replace these vehicles. If we do not get a replacement vehicle schedule, we will have vehicles with many miles and would have to replace a majority of them at the same time. STS transit match partners are the Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Serving Our Seniors, MV Transportation, the City of Vermilion, Vermilion Community Services and Northern Ohio Medical Services. MV Transportation utilizes the city's facility and pays a lease to the City of Sandusky and the City of Vermilion has donated \$10,000 due to becoming an all-county service and providing transportation within the City of Vermilion. Vermilion Community Services has raised \$7,500 for 2014 to help fund the grant match for STS. Northern Ohio Medical Services has recently agreed to pay fully allocated trip services for medical appointments. STS is still working with other political subdivisions, area service agencies and private industries to solicit funding. STS has received eligible state assistance in the amount of \$100,000 toward our match because of high ridership. The State Elderly and Disabled Fares are billed as a half fare and the other half is picked up by the State of Ohio; the amount for 2013 was \$19,479. Medical transportation would help to greatly increase the STS match. The in-kind service program will start in 2015. Last year, actual trips for MRDD were 17,856 billed at a rate of \$12.40 for total revenue of \$221,414; trips for Erie County Job & Family Services were 3,642 with an average ride fare of \$2 - \$3 for a total billed of \$7,284. Projected numbers for Medicaid billing in 2014 are at an increase of \$126,956 with ECBDD alone; ECJFS showed a projected increase of \$63,771 simply by becoming a Medicaid provider with an investment of approximately \$5,000. There are other opportunities including the Erie County Health Department trips through Medicaid, different doctor's offices and hospitals. The bus shelters are up and there has been a lot of positive feedback about them. There is enough money left over to put up one more shelter and this may go at WalMart and/or at another location in the City of Sandusky. Ground was broken this morning at the STS facility for fencing and security/lighting which is being funded 100% through a grant. The coordinated dispatch center will be upgraded, including its technology, through the State of Ohio. This is an 80%|20% grant in the amount of \$95,000. STS continues to coordinate transportation with agencies throughout the City of Sandusky and Erie County, and to service as many persons as it can with the lowest cost possible. It is hoped STS will be a sustainable system and not have to obtain money from the city in the future.

Naomi Twine asked when it might be possible for STS to become a Medicaid transportation provider and Thomas Schwan said there is a consultant looking at this and there are not a lot of agencies which do this kind of work. Dick Brady asked how the \$50,000 will be leveraged for new vehicles. Thomas Schwan said they are coming from the 2013 rural grant for capital items. If the city does not have the match money, they do not have to accept them. The total price for the four buses is \$224,968 and the state will provide 80% with the city providing 20%. Dick Brady said Thomas Schwan made a presentation to the Erie County Commissioners and they will partner with us to provide these dollars. Public transportation is a county issue and the county sees the benefit of partnering. STS is looking at the future and to never have to look to the general fund again for money. Jeff Smith said he talks to a lot of people who ride STS and hears good things. Dennis Murray said the only criticism is the busses being too crowded and Thomas Schwan said another 35' bus is in the works for 2015. Dennis Murray said he would

appreciate looking at detailed revenue projections going forward and said he is much more comfortable with the system now.

**Steve Ernst, Ohio Bike Week, said this event is in the third year of a five-year ordinance to produce Ohio Bike week in downtown.** The first two blocks of Columbus Avenue could have been utilized the first couple of years and the event has grown since. They continue to talk with businesses in the event area to find out their concerns and how their business is affected and to author a plan that works for everyone. Steve Ernst said he would like to relieve some of the pressure of the occupancy and look into using the Jackson Street Pier area and to integrate the event into an "L" shape using Shoreline Drive. He has spoken with the ferry service providers and the operator of the marina to work proactively to approach people who enjoy the pier to showcase Shoreline Park and other areas. Steve Ernst said this is a moving operations plan and may wish to displace the ferry service parking and Shelby Street parking areas by providing directional signage to ferry service users via websites and other mechanisms. A shuttle service will be provided by STS or a private provider to these locations and they are trying to react to everyone's concerns. An economic impact study was done a couple of years ago by Lake Erie Shores and Islands showing this event produces approximately \$12 million for the area in indirect revenue and this event is largely free. A plan has been designed with respect to fire lanes and opening Washington Street on Wednesday through Friday and it is hoped SR 6 traffic can continue to go straight through so parking - once on Washington Street - would be on the Jackson Street Pier. Naomi Twine stated there have been conversations with some of the businesses in the area but wondered if there have also been some with residents. Steve Ernst said the main areas which seem to be of discussion are the 100 block of Columbus Avenue and the Chesapeake Lofts area. Information has been provided about the event with the Chesapeake officials and the event is a benefit for those who rent their properties during this week. Steve Ernst said he has worked with different city officials about issuing parking permits and who should issue them; it is preferred the police provide it. There are two lots utilized for the event for persons with special needs, one behind the Ad Writer property at Jackson and Water Streets (entry from Water Street). There are seven people at seven different access points who assist with this. Naomi Twine asked if anyone expressed opposition and Steve Ernst said people have been incredibly gracious because of the economic impact and no one has directly said this is driving them crazy, but they listen very carefully and try to react to this. Wesley Poole said he read the plan which is quite thorough and asked if staff is comfortable with the plan. John Orzech said he has met regularly about this event and the plan looks like it will be more beneficial to the Police Department because of the Washington Street access, especially on Friday. The only concern is to make sure the Jet Express and Pelee Island customers are taken care of. Steve Ernst said he provided a map which shows an inlet going for marina spots and the area around Fulton Street will be rerouted. Naomi Twine said this is the third year of a five-year contract and asked if this change will be for the remainder of the contract. Steve Ernst said they recommend increasing the footprint going west as well at some point, but does not know whether the event's growth will make sense for this. Next year, they will be approaching the city for a renewal of this ordinance. Dick Brady said it is fair to say this is a very fluid operation and they are much better at this than they were a few years ago. He gets a lot of comments from people which runs 90% positive about how the event goes, what is being contributed, and for being creative and working with businesses and individuals. Steve Ernst said there was a resident in need of a handicapped space the first year and his staff saved a parking space simply because he requested it. Don Icsman said he has a conflict with this event, but the ordinance has parameters for the venue and asked the commission to make a motion to amend these parameters if they so choose based on what Steve Ernst is asking for. The ordinance is specific in terms of the boundaries.

**Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Scott Schell, the commission voted to amend the ordinance outlining the boundaries for the event. The President declared the motion passed.**

#### **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.**

**PASSED AT FIRST READING 3.24.14****ITEM #1 – Submitted by Troy Vaccaro, Fleet Maintenance Chief Foreman****SALE OF VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT THROUGH PUBLIC INTERNET AUCTION FOR CY 2014**

**Budgetary Information:** The city is responsible for the disposition of unneeded personal property to promote operational efficiency. Using public internet auction for the disposal of unneeded vehicles and equipment will generate more revenue and make items available to a larger community of potential buyers. Proceeds from the sales will be deposited into the department's account that was financially responsible for the asset.

**RESOLUTION 016-14R:** It is requested a resolution be passed **declaring the intent of the City of Sandusky to dispose of personal property and equipment as having become obsolete, unnecessary or unfit for city use through internet auctions during the calendar year 2014.**

Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to approve this resolution. Roll call on the resolution: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Dick Brady, Julie Farrar, Dennis Murray, Jeff Smith, Scott Schell and Wesley Poole, 7. The President declared the resolution passed at second reading.

**PASSED AT FIRST READING 3.24.14****ITEM #2 – Submitted by Paul E. Ricci, Fire Chief****INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF EMS FUNDS UTILIZED TO DEFRAY COSTS OF OPERATIONS FOR THE SANDUSKY FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**Budgetary Information:** It has been determined through the budget process that it is necessary to increase the current amount of \$150,000 utilized to defray costs of operation of the Division of Fire to \$400,000.

**ORDINANCE 14-036:** It is requested an ordinance be passed **amending Part Nine – Streets, Utilities and Public Services Code, Chapter 961 – Emergency Medical Services, Section 961.01 – Charges, in the manner and way specifically set forth herein below.**

Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Scott Schell, the commission voted to approve this ordinance.

*Discussion:* Dennis Murray said they are voting on this at second reading so items are not voted on under an emergency nature every time.

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

**ITEM #3**

**PASSED AT FIRST READING:** It is requested an ordinance be passed **establishing a Bicentennial Commission and providing for the duration, power and duties thereof.**

Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Wesley Poole, the commission voted to approve this ordinance at first reading.

*Discussion:* Dennis Murray said 2018 will represent the City of Sandusky's Bicentennial and he thought it was important to have a committee in place to plan for this. Dennis Murray asked Dr. Bill Semans to speak to this legislation as he has been asked to Chair this committee. Dr. Semans said he is honored to be asked to chair this committee and this is a great opportunity for the city to look toward its future; he appreciates the love for the city, its citizens, resources and history. He does not plan to do this as many times as Steve Ernst has and he has a one shot deal to get it right and looks for a solid commission and subcommittees to take on this task. He looks forward to working with the City Commissioners, members of the Recreation Board, the Community Celebrations Council, service clubs, churches, museums, theatres, school systems, Cedar Point and others. Dr. Semans has been doing some research and this will be fun and exciting and educational for everyone who wants to get involved. Dennis Murray said once some are appointed to the committee, the members will choose the other members and a

majority should be city residents and all in Erie County have a love for Sandusky. There were people involved 50 years ago in planning the Sesquicentennial. This Committee is designed to be independent and able to do what they think is the right thing after the legislation is adopted. Julie Farrar said she hopes the city will extend an invitation to our sister city, Leamington, Ontario, for this celebration.

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

**ITEM #4 – Submitted by Aaron M. Klein, P.E.**

**PERKINS AVENUE & MILAN ROAD INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

**Budgetary Information:** No funds are required from the city unless the city requests to add construction items to the project. The city will be responsible for one hundred percent of these costs/items, if any. None are anticipated at this time.

**RESOLUTION NO. 017-14R:** It is requested a resolution be **passed adopting the consent legislation submitted by the Director of the Ohio Department of Transportation for the Perkins Avenue and Milan Road intersection improvement project, PID No. 84556, ERI US 0250 01.14; authorizing and directing the City Manager to sign the consent 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 Wesley Poole and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to approve this resolution.**

*Discussion:* Aaron Klein said this project is based on timing and ODOT is doing this, and one other intersection which was started a couple of weeks ago.

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

**ITEM #5 – Submitted by Aaron M. Klein, P.E.**

**CHEMICAL STORAGE TANK REPAIR PROJECT AT WPC PLANT**

**Budgetary Information:** The cost of the project based on the bid received for construction, engineering, inspection (in-house), advertising and other miscellaneous costs is \$40,000. The project will be funded through the sewer fund.

**ORDINANCE NO. 14-037:** It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Corrosion Prevention and Environmental Services Co., of Columbia Station, Ohio, for the chemical storage tank repair 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. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Dick Brady, Julie Farrar, Dennis Murray, Jeff Smith, Scott Schell and Wesley Poole, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Naomi Twine, Dick Brady, Julie Farrar, Dennis Murray, Jeff Smith, Scott Schell and Wesley Poole, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.**

**ITEM #6 – Submitted by Jane E. Cullen, P.E.**

**REPEAL RESOLUTION 007-14R & AUTHORIZING REBIDDING OF PERKINS AVENUE SIGNALIZATION PROJECT**

**Budgetary Information:** The engineer's estimate for the total project cost including engineering, inspection, testing, advertising and miscellaneous expenses is \$1,004,300. ODOT will fund eighty percent of the eligible costs in the amount of \$803,440 with the remaining cost

of \$200,860 being split between the City of Sandusky and Erie County. The city's portion of \$100,430 will be funded with street funds.

**RESOLUTION NO. 018-14R**: It is requested a resolution be passed **repealing Resolution No. 007-14R and declaring the necessity for the City of Sandusky, Ohio, to proceed with the proposed Perkins Avenue signalization project; approving the revised specifications and engineer's estimate of cost thereof; and directing the City Manager to advertise for and receive bids in relation thereto;** and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

**Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Scott Schell, the commission voted to approve this resolution.**

*Discussion:* Dennis Murray noted the bids came in higher than expected.

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

**ITEM #7 – Submitted by Jane E. Cullen, P.E.**

**REPEAL RESOLUTION 004-14R & AUTHORIZING REBIDDING OF CAMP STREET UNDERPASS REHABILITATION PROJECT**

**Budgetary Information:** The engineer's estimate for the total project cost including engineering, inspection, testing, advertising and miscellaneous expenses is \$2,160,963.08. ODOT will fund 80% of the eligible costs in the amount of \$1,728,770.46. The city's twenty percent share of the eligible costs will be funded by the sewer fund in the amount of \$183,701.18 and the capital fund in the amount of \$248,491.44. During the Community Development Block Grant funds planning analysis, available funding will be reviewed to possibly cover any contingent items that may require funding for the Camp Street underpass project.

**RESOLUTION NO. 019-14R**: It is requested a resolution be passed **repealing Resolution No. 004-14R and declaring the necessity for the City of Sandusky, Ohio, to proceed with the proposed Camp Street underpass rehabilitation project; approving the revised specifications and engineer's estimate of cost thereof; and directing the city manager to advertise for and receive bids in relation thereto;** and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

**Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to approve this resolution.**

*Discussion:* Dennis Murray said the said these bids also came in higher than initially anticipated. Aaron Klein said this is similar but one line item was \$120,000 more than the estimate and has been pulled out in order to save money. Julie Farrar said she wished to express the thoughts of someone who lives in this area who is glad this is finally coming to fruition and is getting done.

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

**ITEM #8 – Submitted by Jane E. Cullen, P.E.**

**SERVICES CONTRACT WITH OHIO EDISON COMPANY RELATING TO THE CAMP STREET UNDERPASS REHABILITATION PROJECT**

**Budgetary Information:** The cost for the removal and relocation for the street lights and poles is \$16,327.84. The electrical upgrade cost for the pump station is \$4,048.25 for a total of \$20,376.09. The city is requesting from the Erie County Metropolitan Planning Organization at their April 18 meeting to reallocate a portion of the Camp Street underpass MPO funds to cover

eighty percent of the utility costs. If approved, the MPO will fund \$16,300.87, the sewer fund will fund \$809.65 and the capital fund will fund \$3,265.57. Due to discussions with the MPO staff, it is anticipated this request will be approved. In the event the request is denied, the sewer fund will fund \$4,048.25 and the capital fund will fund \$16,327.84.

**ORDINANCE NO. 14-038:** It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to enter into a services contract with Ohio Edison Company and expend the funds necessary for the removal and relocation of street lights and poles and electrical upgrade for the pump station for the Camp Street underpass rehabilitation 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 Scott Schell, the commission voted to approve this ordinance. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Dick Brady, Julie Farrar, Dennis Murray, Jeff Smith, Scott Schell and Wesley Poole, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Naomi Twine, Dick Brady, Julie Farrar, Dennis Murray, Jeff Smith, Scott Schell and Wesley Poole, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.**

**ITEM #9 – Submitted by Rebecca Corrigan, Chief Planner**

**CONSULTANT TO ADMINISTER REVOLVING LOAN FUND AND MICROENTERPRISE PROGRAM**

**Budgetary Information:** The total cost for the professional services is not to exceed \$25,000 for the coordination, administration, facilitation and implementation of the city's revolving loan fund and the microenterprise program to provide assistance to businesses requiring gap financing for economic development projects within the City of Sandusky under the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant. There is no impact to the city's general fund. All funds will be allocated out of the CDBG RLF program.

**ORDINANCE NO. 14-039:** It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to enter into a contract with Reveille Ltd. of Bowling Green, Ohio, for professional services for the administration of the city's revolving loan fund and microenterprise loan program for the city's Community Development Block Grant program;** 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 Naomi Twine, the commission voted to approve this ordinance.**

*Discussion:* Rebecca Corrigan said the City of Sandusky operates a revolving loan fund through its CDBG funds and our consultant is retiring soon so the city prepared a Request for Proposals to administer the program. This will save the city approximately \$16,000 and the RLF is very important to the city.

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

**ITEM #10 – Submitted by Rebecca Corrigan, Chief Planner**

**AMENDED SUBRECIPIENT AGREEMENT WITH ERIE, HURON & RICHLAND COUNTIES, INC.**

**Budgetary Information:** The City of Sandusky will award the Community Action Commission of Erie, Huron & Richland Counties, Inc. (CACEHR) \$100,000 to provide emergency home repairs and accessibility modifications to low- and moderate income single-family homeowners in Sandusky under the rules and regulations of the Community Development Block Grant program. The maximum assistance is \$7,999 per household. Erie-Huron Counties Community Action Agency, Inc. is providing \$31,716 from other local and government program funding sources. There is no impact to the city's general fund.

**ORDINANCE NO. 14-040:** It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the City Manager to approve an amended subrecipient agreement with the Community Action**

**Commission of Erie, Huron & Richland Counties, Inc., and to expend an amount not to exceed \$100,000 from the FY 2013 Community Development Block Grant funds; 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 Jeff Smith, the commission voted to approve this ordinance.**

*Discussion:* Dick Brady asked if this is the same program the city struggled with a few years ago and Rebecca Corrigan said this is not the CHIP program which is funded by the State of Ohio, it is for CDBG programs through the Erie Huron Richland Counties CAC. This fund will help pay for items for persons who have emergent issues within their homes or are homebound. The subrecipient monitors the progress and the city also monitors to ensure they are performing in accordance with the law. Jeff Smith said he has a lot of people ask about dying trees and asked if this money could be used for that and Rebecca Corrigan said these funds cannot be used for that purpose. In a rare case, if a tree root were intercepting a sewer line, this could be unique.

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

**ITEM #11 – Submitted by Rebecca Corrigan, Chief Planner**

**PURCHASE OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT FOR LIONS PARK**

**Budgetary Information:** The total cost for this project is \$39,786 for playground equipment, delivery and installation for play equipment at Lions Park in accordance with the FY 2012 – 2013 Housing Urban Development Action Plan. This is funded through Community Development Block Grant funds. There is no impact to the city's general fund.

**ORDINANCE NO. 14-041:** It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to expend funds for the purchase and installation of new playground equipment for Lions Park through the State of Ohio Department of Administrative Services cooperative purchasing program from Service Supply Ltd., Inc. of Columbus, Ohio;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

**Upon motion of Scott Schell and second of Wesley Poole, the commission voted to approve this ordinance.**

*Discussion:* Julie Farrar asked about park benches along the walkway. Rebecca Corrigan said \$43,000 is budgeted for Lions Park for this year and benches can be planned for Phase II as they are an eligible item.

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

**ITEM #12 – Submitted by Victoria Kurt, Recreation Program Supervisor**

**AGREEMENT WITH AMELIA COFFEY TO LEASE SHORELINE PARK CONCESSION STAND**

**Budgetary Information:** The agreement will not result in any additional budgetary expenses. The city will benefit from the agreed upon rental fee income of \$70 per month and electric service reimbursement of \$30 per month.

**ORDINANCE NO. 14-042:** It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a lease agreement with Amelia L. Coffey dba Ice Cream Dream for the Shoreline Park concession area beginning May 19, 2014 through September 30, 2014;** 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 Julie Farrar, the commission voted to approve this ordinance. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Dick Brady, Julie Farrar, Dennis Murray, Jeff Smith, Scott Schell and Wesley Poole, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Naomi Twine, Dick Brady, Julie Farrar, Dennis Murray, Jeff Smith, Scott Schell and Wesley Poole, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.**

**ITEM #13 – Submitted by Victoria Kurt, Recreation Program Supervisor  
PRIORITY USE AGREEMENT FOR OHIO RAYOS SOCCER PROGRAM AT DORN COMMUNITY PARK**

**Budgetary Information:** The agreement will not result in any additional budgetary expenses. The city will benefit from the added activities offered to youth in our community. The Ohio Rayos Soccer will provide their own equipment and transportation for such equipment, and will line and maintain their own field.

**ORDINANCE NO. 14-043:** It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to enter into an agreement with Ohio Rayos Soccer for priority use of the grassy area located at Dorn Community Park beginning April 26, 2014 through October 25, 2014;** 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 Scott Schell, the commission voted to approve this ordinance.**

*Discussion:* Julie Farrar said the Rayos soccer program has been around for many years now and her children played when they were five and seven years old. You cannot find a better family to teach soccer skills and sportsmanship with a family-oriented atmosphere. Dennis Murray said this is for priority use, not exclusive use.

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

**ITEM #14 – Submitted by Lt. Phillip J. Frost  
EXPEND GRANT FUNDS FOR PURCHASE OF BICYCLES, EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES**

**Budgetary Information:** The total cost for the equipment is not to exceed \$11,174.25 and will be reimbursed by the Ohio Department of Transportation Safe Routes to School program. The breakdown of items is as follows:

200 bike helmets	\$4,998.00
475 bicycle locks	\$4,745.25
2 bicycles	\$400.00
212 T-shirts	\$1,031.00

**ORDINANCE NO. 14-044:** It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to purchase equipment and supplies for the Sandusky Police Department to conduct a bicycle rodeo and safety education classes for Sandusky school children related to the Safe Routes to School program;** 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 Jeff Smith, the commission voted to approve this ordinance.**

*Discussion:* Wesley Poole asked how these will be distributed and/or used by children in neighborhoods. John Orzech said there will be vouchers and Hobbs will fit the helmets to the children so they are the right size. These will be available to approximately 200 school-aged children and he does not yet know the process for how they will apply. The Community Church of the Nazarene will host the Bicycle Rodeo and the bike helmets will be a piece of the participation and this is an educational part of the program. Julie Farrar said former

Commissioner Diedre Cole spearheaded the Safe Routes to Schools grant and this is the reason why we have this.

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

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

**Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to accept the following donations for the Easter egg hunt for the Recreation Division: Subway (\$250), Arthur's Shoe Tree (\$250) and from McDonald's (juice and cups). The President declared the motion passed.**

**Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to accept the donation of a shed for the Waste Water Treatment Plant and 45 tons of stone for the Street Department from Nextel.**

*Discussion:* Don Icsman said Nextel removed their tower at the corner of Shelby and Market Streets and these items were no longer needed. Aaron Klein said they dropped these materials off to the city as it was cheaper to do this than take it back to their facility.

**The President declared the motion passed.**

**Upon motion of Wesley Poole and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to accept a donation from the Sandusky Main Street Association in the amount of \$800 to be used for the downtown planters. The President declared the motion passed.**

**Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to accept the following donations for the Police Department's K-9 Fund: Industrial Nut Corporation (\$100), All Styles Landscaping (\$50), Jeff Perrin (\$50), Linda Gough (\$5), Vontilla and Kim Rasnick (\$10), Melissa Creston (\$25), Chipotle - cash donations (\$65), Clifford Spurrier (\$20), Bart Carruthers (\$10), Marcia Rotsinger (\$25), Brian and Sarah Potts (\$30), Timothy Parker (\$300), Pat and Cam Shenigo (\$500), Glenn and Martha Brennan (\$500), The Glass Guys (\$600), Firelands Plumbing (\$500) and Brycen Wobser who donated all of his pennies to the K-9 (\$8.74). The President declared the motion passed.**

Don Icsman asked Paul Ricci to provide an **update regarding the Wysteria Farms, former Old Esmond Dairy property.** Paul Ricci said in April, 2012, the current owner took sole responsibility for the property and since that time, she has been working to secure the resources to have the property cleaned up. She entered into a contract to have the site cleaned up, but unfortunately, the contractor was unable to complete the job. The city, in a determination made by the Chief Building official, said this project is a hazard to life and is more significant as the demolition permit was good through February 28; the city had to wait until after this time to make sure the cleanup was complete. Paul Ricci said because of the serious nature of the problem, we are looking at a partial cleanup of this site in the amount of approximately \$9,200 and the city has received several bids. As far as resources are concerned, this funding is in the general fund and we did not budget for this because the owner was under contract. Paul Ricci is asking for a partial cleanup of the property along with support documentation from the Chief Building Official, George Poulos. Paul Ricci said this would be in the amount of \$9,200 to immediately clean these materials and the cost can be placed as a lien against the property. Partial cleanup consists of the removal of all of the construction and debris material in the western portion of the building along Campbell Street. The contractor will go in and get the brick and block and clean up the alleyway and adjoining property to reopen the alley and access from Boalt Street. The site will be prepped to use other funds later on for a

complete cleanup. This is to remove the immediate hazard and make a safer environment for the neighborhood.

**Upon motion of Dennis Murray and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to expend \$9,200 to perform this cleanup effort.**

*Discussion:* Dick Brady asked where these dollars will come from and Dennis Murray said the General Fund; Paul Ricci said the funds are in the general fund. Don Icsman said he is not sure the Vacant and Abandoned Building fund generates enough money to cover this and wants the commissioners to understand they may require money that has not been budgeted to be allocated to the general fund. There is time with the quotation for Jenkins Excavating. Dick Brady said this always is a concern and lobbies the commission to vote in favor of this. Don Icsman said the city can explore CDBG funds as well but the commission vote is to spend money that may not have been budgeted. Rebecca Corrigan said she has been trying to figure out what the CDBG's carryover is and there may possibly be money available in this fund to charge back to the general fund. Paul Ricci said the contractor indicated they could start in four to six days.

**The President declared the motion passed.**

Don Icsman said **an ordinance will be coming to the commission to ratify the second half of a contract/payment for the recycle bins.** The Cement Avenue containers have been placed. The location of the bins at the Service Center will be on the west side of the Center and will always be open. This will be more convenient of an area and Aaron Klein said people can start using them.

Don Icsman said **a communication has been received recognizing the City of Sandusky as a Tree City U.S.A. community for 2013.**

Don Icsman said **the Boy With the Boot statue has been returned to Washington Park.**

Don Icsman said he received a call from Pete Daniel about 4 p.m. today regarding a **groundbreaking with Erie County for the Bay View sewer system on April 22 at 9 a.m. at the Park in Bay View.**

Don Icsman said **city offices will close at 12 p.m. on Good Friday.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Scott Schell said he would like to **revisit the discussion about staffing levels at the Fire Department.** In light of recent high level persons moving on from the Department including Chief Paul Ricci moving up his retirement date, Scott Schell said he would like the commission to discuss utilizing these positions being lost through attrition to make up for at least two of the three firefighter positions slated to be cut in this budget season. Dennis Murray said this had been discussed with the previous commission and they took a vote to cut four firefighter positions and the question is whether there will be layoff announcements in the coming days or whether all of the cuts will occur by way of attrition. The commission has expressed a desire that these would occur by way of attrition. Currently we have one vacant position and two positions are in the process of being vacated and he is not sure if Rudy Ruiz is still on the payroll. Dennis Murray said he believes we are within one position of achieving the four cuts through attrition and asked if it is smarter to wait for this last position to be cut through attrition as there are training issues and issues with bringing people back; there is also an investment in the fire fighters to be laid off. Dennis Murray said he thinks the commission has to indicate their support of cutting this last position through attrition, by motion, whenever this occurs whether through separation or retirement.

**Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Scott Schell, the commission voted to retain three firefighters slated to be laid off because of those leaving and through attrition.**

*Discussion:* Paul Ricci said the discussion was that the positions to be laid off would be lost through attrition. Dennis Murray said the three positions would remain unfilled and instead of issuing a layoff now, to wait for this third position to be lost through attrition. Julie Farrar amended her motion to reflect this. Wesley Poole asked if the position of Fire Chief would be filled through this discussion and reflect these numbers and Dennis Murray said he thinks that it is. The Fire Chief Selection Committee, and ultimately the City Manager, decides to fill this position. If the position is filled internally, then it is not really part of this discussion; if we bring someone in from the outside and add to the department, then it does become part of it. Wesley Poole asked how this is relevant to how the numbers work out and Dennis Murray said if we hire from outside, then the commission will need to revisit this discussion. Dick Brady said for quite a while now, the commission was not about putting people out of work, they were trying to get a budget under control and we can still attain this. We will hopefully be able to get to the same goal and the same end through attrition. This is consistent and we are still speaking with one voice. Don Icsman asked for clarity as there is still one position and the layoff notice would have to go out on Wednesday and he does not want there to be ambiguity about this. Dennis Murray said he understands in his conversation with the Fire Chief the issue was there are three open positions with the Fire Chief's retirement and we only need to get to one more. Don Icsman said with the time limit, one notice would have to be done; Dennis Murray said we do not need to send out any (layoff notices). Jeff Smith asked how this will change things on the west end with the fire station. Paul Ricci said if we vacate three positions through retirements, with time off, there will be less days we will be below minimum staffing so there will be less days potentially Station 7 would be closed. Julie Farrar said there will still be closures of Station 7 on the west side, but not as many.

**The President declared the motion passed.**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

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

Wesley Poole said the **Downtown Parking Committee** has met twice in the last couple of months and is active. At the last City Commission meeting an application for the SWIF grant was approved for the Jackson Street parking lot. Additionally, they would like to **improve the signage at the county parking garage** according to the study performed and asked for a letter from the City Commission requesting **permission to put a sign on the Columbus Avenue side of the garage to advertise it a little more.**

**Upon motion of Dennis Murray and second of Wesley Poole, the commission voted for Wesley Poole to sign and send a letter to the Erie County Commissioners about signage on the Columbus Avenue side of the downtown parking garage on behalf of the city. The President declared the motion passed.**

Wesley Poole said the second proposal is for **the implementation of two temporary five-minute parking spaces in downtown in the 100 block of Columbus Avenue**. This idea provides an opportunity for businesses to expand what they are doing. This creates a place downtown for Mr. Smith's, the bar or the pizza shop to do short-term business and be provided with an extra spot to conduct their business.

**Upon motion of Dennis Murray and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to create these spaces. The President declared the motion passed.**

Dennis Murray said **there was a cleanup at Shoreline Park this past Saturday and over 500 pounds of trash were picked up**. Dennis Murray was tasked with picking up cigarette butts and urged people to throw these away.

**Upon motion of Dennis Murray and second of Dick Brady the commission voted to order in legislation for the next meeting to change the size of the city commission from seven members to five members. The President declared the motion passed.**

Dennis Murray said he has proposed to the other City Commissioners to begin **a series of off-site meetings for the city commission to take the show on the road** as early as next month. We will look at different places in the community (greenhouse, Lions Park, sewer and water treatment plants and Cement Avenue) to take people out into the community and showcase some of the city's facilities which we have made investments in. If anyone knows of a college student who would like to present a short video at these facilities, to let him know. Dennis Murray does not want to move so quickly to trip up employees and knows employees are working below minimum manpower.

#### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Rev. Thomas Darden, 1402 Wamajo Drive, representing the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance (IMA), said they at no time will support incompetence, nor will they tolerate injustice. Their hearts are made to grieve because they have been deceived by some people they have trusted. Some campaigned before the citizens of Sandusky seeking a seat on the commission and presented their platform; the IMA believed them, supported and elected them, not knowing they had a hidden agenda. They had in mind while campaigning to fire the City Manager. Rev. Darden said this was not mentioned to the people and they were deceived. Because of this dishonesty, the IMA no longer believes what they (these commissioners) say. The action to fire the City Manager so quickly after coming into office demonstrated poor judgment. Time does not permit looking at all of the details but he mentioned three precedents:

- 1) According to the March 29 edition of the Sandusky Register, the commissioners fired Nicole Ard based on a performance improvement plan given to her two months ago which stated if she did not improve her work in sixty days, they had the right to fire her. The IMA takes exception to this because at no time did the City Commission provide the City Manager with a secretary and this caused her to work sometimes until 10 p.m. When the tremendous workload is considered that the City Manager's office demands, it is un-thought of that a community the size of Sandusky does not have a secretary for the City Manager. The entire workload was placed upon the City Manager and the commissioners expected her to make bricks without straw.
- 2) Since the 1950's, the quality of life in America has greatly improved, mainly due to unions. Many benefits of non-union people which are provided today are a result of union efforts; however, we know every so often, when an employee files a grievance and there is a subsequent hearing, the employer loses and is ordered to restore their employee to their job and oftentimes, to

give them back pay. The employer cannot fault the supervisor for the decision of the Judge. When you do this you are trying to find a scapegoat and cancel or conceal your own dishonesty.

- 3) It has been stated the commissioners want to take the city in a different direction. This turn is frightening. It is frightening not only to every citizen in this city but to every black woman in this city. We had a black and female City Manager both in one. To fire the City Manager and say you want to take the city in a different direction shows lack of knowledge in black sensitivity. What has been done at City Hall in recent years is a reproach to women everywhere. Thomas Darden says he remembers well in March, 2008, when a female Police Chief was fired for some of the same accusations listed as reasons for firing the City Manager. Some of the same forces involved in firing the Police Chief have supplied the same impetus in firing the City Manager and they are still with us. Women are holding all kinds of responsible jobs: BGSU has a female President, one Corporation has a female CEO and in his opinion, America will soon have a female President. Nevertheless, there are those who still believe a woman's place is in the home with an apron around her waist, a broom in her hand and pregnant. These days are gone forever. Finally, Thomas Darden stated as the city publishes the notice for City Manager, the listed requirements should also include: "Women and blacks need not apply, we are taking the city in a different direction".

Rev. Darden said often times he thinks of the Apostle Paul who admonished the Galatians and made a statement which he likens to himself because of his involvement in Sandusky, "Have I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth."

Dennis Murray said he deeply respects the opinion of Rev. Darden and the work he has done for the citizens and residents of Sandusky, but he categorically rejects the suggestion this decision was made on the basis of either race or gender as this had no part of his decision. Dennis Murray said he knows this was not the basis for the other three commissioners' decision who so voted. Sandusky has a City Charter which provides for a City Manager to serve at the pleasure of the City Commission. A vote was taken and was not meant to cause offense and was taken in the most polite way possible and Dennis Murray said he and other Commissioners who campaigned last fall and summer made it very clear on each occasion their concern about the performance of the City Manager. There was a well-documented case in the Sandusky Register and he disagrees with this suggestion as well, but hopes they can remain friends although they may take opposite positions from time to time in their advocacy; he respects the opinion as articulated. Rev. Darden said he made an accusation and would like to be proven false. The accusation was they (the Commissioners) had it in mind to fire the City Manager when campaigning and Dennis Murray said they clearly indicated dissatisfaction and concern about how the city was being run and the performance of the City Manager. Wesley Poole said with regard to the City Manager not having a secretary, Nicole Ard did not have one because she chose not to hire one. Wesley Poole said he, in fact, encouraged her to hire one, but did not even have any discussion about it - she simply did not hire a secretary. No one kept her from having one and he thought she should always have hired one and may have had her own reasons, but he never questioned them because the Commissioners supported what she wanted to do. She was not under-supported by the City Commissioners by any stretch of the imagination. Rev. Darden said this call is not the City Manager's, it is the City Commissioners. The Commissioners do not allow a subordinate to make decisions or whether they do or do not need 'such and such', they are the governing body and the wisdom of the community and if the City Manager suggested she did not need a secretary, they should have had the wisdom to see beyond this and say they would not **not** allow her to have a secretary. Wesley Poole said he agrees wholeheartedly and represented a minority on the Commission.

Richard Davie, 115 ½ East Monroe Street, said Dave Degnan is a Captain with eighteen years on the Sandusky Fire Department. He was an instructor for EMS at EHOVE. He also works at the Firelands Medical Center's emergency room. He loves people and animals. He recently rescued a dog from the kennel. You can ask him what breed it is. He really loves being a fireman and protecting the people and property of Sandusky. His wife, Rene, works at the Court House. They have two daughters; one is married to a Marine. Both Dave and Rene were MP's in the military. Being 87 years old and having lived here all of his life, Richard Davie said he speaks for many of the citizens of our great city. We would like all of the jobs filled with local people. There are enough of them here. Please give Dave consideration for this job. He would be a great Fire Chief. Richard Davie said he saw the overpass in the west end, the demolition of the Keller Building, Apex and Sandusky Metal Products and the restoration of the Rieger Building. He hopes it does not take as long to fill this job. We have a good City Manager in Don Icsman, please keep him.

Leroy Halan, Buchanan Street, said as a taxpayer, he saw no mention of repairing potholes in the streets of Sandusky on the agenda. Perkins Township is getting onboard in dealing with theirs. Dennis Murray said we received a report indicating over 5,000 potholes have been repaired this year and we have spent more already this year than we did the entire year of 2013. This is not an agenda item because it is an ongoing item with the city. The city has stepped it up, but still needs to do more. Aaron Klein said as of April 11, 7,799 potholes have been repaired using about 87 tons of winter mix and one of the issues is the asphalt plants are transitioning from their cold mix to hot mix and we have used everything that we had and are in the process of getting hot mix to finish.

Vicki Bird, 2114 Wilbert Street, said people are swerving to avoid potholes and creating accidents. She will be taking the bus and not using Camp Street anymore. She is concerned about the closure of the fire station on the west end as she lives in this area. The overpass did not help much and people are still stopped by trains. Her parents live within 1½ minutes of the fire station and it takes seven minutes to get from Station #1 to the west end. The overpass has made cul-de-sac in the Wilbert and Wilson Street neighborhood and people are now susceptible to home break-ins. Vicki Bird said she uses a small street off of Venice Road and this is being used as a dumpsite and there are couches and chairs in this area. A lot of people born and raised in Sandusky know what it used to look like and she will be out with a spray can clearing buildings and sidewalks of graffiti and asked if she will be arrested for this. Her husband owns and operates a business in this town and upgrades her property with her own money and takes pride in this. Vicki Bird said she stopped coming to these meetings because eyeballs rolled and people were not really listening. The Commissioners were elected to represent the entire city, not thirty percent of them who make \$100,000 or more. The west end of town has been forgotten for a very long time. Vicki Bird said thanks for tearing down the Keller Building, the building on Campbell Street (former Wisteria Hill), and asked if the contractor who did not finish this job can be held liable as someone is going to get hurt.

Rubin Johnson, 1720 Buchanan Street, said the Commissioners should hire the City Manager back; she should be reinstated because all of the Commission did not vote against her, just four of them.

Fred Farris, said he has a problem with the way the city discharged its City Manager. There are three Commissioners who have been here for three months and there is no experience or knowledge of our City Manager. He asked how they can vote without this knowledge. Fred Farris asked why this is and Dennis Murray said he wants to give everyone an opportunity to speak tonight and thinks it would be more efficient to say what he (Fred) has to say and know people are listening. Fred Farris said the Commission told the City Manager she (Nicole Ard) was not doing the job because she was not communicating, but he (Dennis) is not communicating with him (Fred). Fred Farris said this is wrong and unprofessional.

Lovey Leavell, 2106 Mills Street, said she is concerned about the closure of the Fire Station on the west end and asked to please reconsider this. There are three nursing homes, a senior

citizen complex and a school, and it takes too much time to get from one end of town to another.

**The President announced a recess of the regular session at 7:28 p.m. Three executive sessions were held beginning at 7:35 p.m. The President announced adjournment at 8:50 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