

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

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

City staff present: John Orzech - Police Chief, Brian Cowie – Fire Captain, Aaron Klein – Engineer, Don Icsman - Law Director, Hank Solowiej – Finance Director, Kelly Kresser - Commission Clerk and Eric Wobser – City Manager.

Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Scott Schell, the commission voted to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2014, city commission meeting and suspend the oral reading. The President declared the motion passed.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (*agenda items only*)

Bob from Special Olympics Ohio, said he manages clothing donation boxes for Special Olympics Ohio. They have five bins in town and have permission from every property owner. There are bad actors out there just like any other business, but they are one of the good guys. Dennis Murray said he noted these particular bins are very well maintained.

PUBLIC HEARING

Dennis Murray opened a **public hearing regarding the Sandusky Transit System (STS)** and said Claire Helmers with RLS and Associates is in attendance tonight to answer any questions relating to the funding structure. This public hearing is to give consideration for a grant application being made to fund the Sandusky Transit System. Dennis Murray asked the commissioners if they had any questions. Claire Helmers said the materials provide a good overview and if there are specific questions, she can answer them. Wesley Poole asked for a short version of what and why the city is doing. Claire Helmers said essentially this is for Section 5311 Rural Transit program - a federal funding program which also goes toward our state funding. The federal dollars are only allowed to account for up to fifty percent of the transit's overall budget and has already been approved by the state; state funding can only provide up to thirty percent of the budget so there is local buy-in. STS used to be a small urban system but because of a population decrease, is now part of this rural program and this is the second year as such.

Dennis Murray asked if there were comments from the public.

John Kempton, retiree from the City of Sandusky Water Department, said he has been working in an unofficial capacity putting schedules out for the STS as no one really does this particular thing. A possible source of additional funding for STS might be from the largest beneficiaries of the SPARC service including Kalahari, Great Wolf Lodge, Cedar Point and employers along Route 250. These business have the largest share of riders and is one thing to consider locally or in-kind. Dennis Murray said this is a good point and stated this has been discussed previously.

There being no further comments, Dennis Murray declared the public hearing closed.

PRESENTATIONS

Angie George, Visitor Service Coordinator for Lake Erie Shores & Islands, said a mobile information station was set up at the Jet Express dock this summer in downtown Sandusky for visitors and tourists looking for information. After the Jet Express leaves the Jackson Street Pier, visitors have about two hours before the next boat leaves and on July 12, Shores & Islands actually assisted more people downtown than in their offices. Angie George said her husband works at the Coastal Management office on Shoreline Drive and a lot of tourists come into his office asking questions and looking for things to do and he suggested Shores & Islands try this. Dennis Murray thanked the staff at Shores & Islands for being ambassadors for Sandusky and

directing people to shops and restaurants in town. The desk information guide utilized by Shores & Islands front-line staff to assist tourists was given to each commissioner.

CURRENT BUSINESS

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

ITEM #1

PASSED AT FIRST READING 8.25.14

ORDINANCE TABLED 9.8.14: It is requested an ordinance be passed **amending part thirteen (Building Code), title five (additional local provisions) by the addition of chapter 1329 (donation drop boxes)**, of the codified ordinances in the manner and way specifically set forth hereinbelow.

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

Discussion: Patrick Kearney, Operations Manager of Planet Aid, said he understands this has been discussed previously, but this is the first time he had the opportunity to speak about. This is a good ordinance and he appreciates what the city is trying to accomplish. Planet Aid is on board, but would ask for some tweaking of the ordinance. Planet Aid is being grouped together with all of the donation box companies and they are all a lot different, but Planet Aid is a not-for-profit organization. Planet Aid recommends taking a second look at the \$100 fee to register as this is steep; other cities have implemented similar legislation and charged less to non-profit organizations. The definition regarding the boxes needs to be outlined more specifically as far as size and dimensions. The registration fee is on a calendar year basis and believes this should be prorated if passed so they do not have to pay in November and then again in January. Planet Aid does not arbitrarily drop boxes anywhere; rather, they obtain property service agreements from the owner and pledge to maintain the box and respond within 24-hours for calls for service. Patrick Kearney provided a welcome packet including a certificate of insurance, pledge and service agreements, their newspaper listing of programs and an outline of how their money is used. Their funds or donations are provided on their website and Planet Aid believes in transparency. This legislation was written to exclude a trailer which would be manned at all times when open and excludes certain organizations. This legislation also maximizes two bins per site but they recommend one company per site with two bins. The problem the city will face is sharing sites with other competitors as people move materials from one to the other and they have had occasions where bins come up missing or stolen. These changes, if made, will help the city to achieve what it is looking for to keep it clean and give back. These are charitable donations and people are not looking for anything in return which is very different than a for-profit company. Wesley Poole thanked Patrick Kearney for his suggestions and said they make sense. Dennis Murray said part of the reason we put legislation out prior to the commission meeting is to hear from the public although he would have preferred to hear these comments prior to tonight's meeting. It sounds like these are thoughtful suggestions and he would like to see them in writing. Dennis Murray asked if the commissioners would entertain a motion to table this item to consider amendments and take up legislation at the next meeting. Don Icsman said, practically speaking, he does not know how this will work and this will be delayed longer than to the next commission meeting because the commission may see the changes made, but will not be able to make a decision about them until it has been discussed again at the next meeting. The commission will have to have a public discussion about what changes may be made and this may not be voted upon at the next meeting either assuming changes are made. Dennis Murray said we want to get this right and are in no particular rush to get this done and the issue is on our radar. Don Icsman said he would want to prepare new legislation incorporating any changes to be made. The city did not invent this legislation and three of the changes requested are present in the draft. Dennis Murray said there may be amendments to look at for the next meeting and this is part of why we want to take our time and get things right and if someone travels to make suggestions to us, it is the will of the commission to give them consideration.

The President declared the motion passed.

ITEM #2 – Submitted by Hank Solowiej, C.P.A.

VARIOUS PURPOSE IMPROVEMENT NOTE SALE/RENEWAL ISSUES

Budgetary Information: This various purpose improvement note sale only includes renewal issues. \$3,035,000 in notes will mature on October 10, 2014. The new various purpose improvement notes are in an amount of:

\$1,725,000 (retire \$1,800,000) for Bay Front Urban Revitalization

\$250,000 (retire \$300,000) for Fire Truck

\$67,500 (retire \$135,000) for Ambulance

\$150,000 (retire \$200,000) for Hayes Avenue Underpass

\$500,000 (retire \$525,000) for Venice Road Grade Separation

The prior issue contained \$75,000 for the City Building and will be completely paid off.

MOTION TO ACCEPT FISCAL OFFICER'S CERTIFICATE

Upon motion of Scott Schell and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to accept the Fiscal Officer's Certificate. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Scott Schell, Wesley Poole and Julie Farrar. The President declared the motion passed.

ORDINANCE NO. 14-099: It is requested an ordinance be passed **providing for the issuance and sale of \$2,692,500 notes, in anticipation of the issuance of bonds, for the purpose of: 1) acquiring a triple combination fire pumper truck and appurtenant equipment for the fire department; 2) revitalizing the Bayfront Urban Revitalization Area by acquiring, clearing and improving certain properties in that area, undertaking the environmental clean-up and remediation of certain properties in that area, constructing road improvements and related utility and infrastructure improvements in that area, and otherwise improving that area; 3) paying a portion of the cost of improving Hayes Avenue between certain termini by replacing sidewalks, rehabilitating the related underpass including abutments, retaining walls and stairs, installing lighting and handrails, and otherwise improving the same; all together with the necessary appurtenances thereto; 4) paying a portion of the cost of eliminating grade crossings by constructing the Venice Road grade separation project in cooperation with the Ohio Department of Transportation; and 5) acquiring an ambulance and appurtenant equipment for the fire department; and declaring an emergency.**

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

Discussion: Dennis Murray said this is all short-term debt and does not represent additional borrowing. These monies were expended in 2013 or prior and we are managing our debt by taking advantage of the low interest environment. Hank Solowiej said the debt interest cost on borrowing for one year was less than half of a percent and this has been very positive for the city. The commission has benchmarked certain things in order to maintain a good credit rating and keep a minimum balance. These are examples of why we can get good rates, have money in the bank and receive a good Moody's rating. We are paying off an issue and no new money is being added. The most recent Moody's report shows the city maintains a very high rating and there are very good reasons for this rating. Our total debt is close to \$70 million but the overwhelming majority is not funded by the general fund. Hank Solowiej said he looked at the city's long-term debt in total from 2000 – 2013 and in 2000, our water and sewer EPA-mandated debt was about 42% of our total debt while our general obligation debt was also about 42%. In 2013, our water and sewer debt was 72% of our total debt while our general obligation debt was only 15%; our debt has grown over the last decade, but there was a thirty percent increase in water and sewer-related bonds compared to the general obligation bonds. Dennis Murray said the taxpayer funded debt is paid for by income, admissions, property and hotel taxes has been reduced in real and in constant dollars whereas the debt added is paid for by water and sewer services part of which is paid by the City of Sandusky and residents throughout Erie County. Dennis Murray asked if the city Audit/Finance Committee has made a

policy to keep our reserve at 25% of the general fund because of the cyclicity of the tourist business or if Hank Solowiej has a sense of what our rating would be if we were not engaged in good fiscal management. Hank Solowiej said when he looks at these numbers, we have been able to save several million dollars in interest alone by maintaining the Moody's rating at a higher level. If it were lower, we would have been paying double on interest rates similar to a homeowner with a high credit rating. This would have been several million dollars during the past several years and we have a clean audit and try to manage as best we can. Hank Solowiej said the commission has provided leadership to maintain this level. Dennis Murray said people criticize government about what we maintain in our reserve, but we have saved millions of dollars by not spending this down and keeping our reserves. Our general fund is our "rainy day" fund for a natural disaster or a catastrophic emergency and this is an important reason to maintain it.

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

ITEM #3 – Submitted by Hank Solowiej, C.P.A.

ACCEPT TAX RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE ERIE COUNTY BUDGET COMMISSION

Budgetary Information: The city is required to accept the tax rates as determined by the Erie County Budget Commission before October 1, 2014. This approval establishes funding for 2015. The total amount for 2015 is \$10,044 higher than the total amount certified for 2014. The prior year resolution was passed by the City Commission on September 9, 2013 (Resolution No. 035-13R).

RESOLUTION NO. 041-14R: It is requested a resolution be **passed accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Erie County Budget Commission; authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor;** 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 Wesley Poole, the commission voted to approve this resolution.

Discussion: Hank Solowiej said this is a statutory item for all subdivisions to certify our property tax rates and estimates, and provides our first budget number for taxes for the next year.

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

ITEM #4 – Submitted by David J. Degnan, Fire Chief

PURCHASE OF TURNOUT GEAR, FIRE COATS AND FIRE PANTS FROM WARREN FIRE EQUIPMENT, INC.

Budgetary Information: The total amount of this expenditure is \$39,049 with each set costing \$2,297 each. This purchase will be paid with funds from the Fire Department EMS Fund.

ORDINANCE NO. 14-100: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to purchase seventeen (17) Morning Pride fire coat and pant sets through the State of Ohio, Department of Administrative Services, Cooperative Purchasing program from Warren Fire Equipment, Inc., of Warren, Ohio, for use in the Fire Department;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Scott Schell asked Brian Cowie to explain briefly what the department is purchasing. Brian Cowie said there are 48 to 50 fire fighters and through the years we try to replace these sets every five to seven years. The cost of each set is approximately \$2,200 - \$2,300 and they are replaced as needed. There are 17 sets being requested and this is the going rate. Morning Pride is the company the fire department used to purchase these items from and

the last couple of times we switched companies, but this is a better company with better standards. Dick Brady asked what is done with the old sets and Brian Cowie said each fire fighter has an "A" set and a "B" set which are both serviceable and turnout gear is washed after every fire and these get several years of use.

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

ITEM #5 – Submitted by Troy Vaccaro, Fleet Maintenance Chief Foreman

DISPOSAL OF UNNEEDED VEHICLE

Budgetary Information: Proceeds from the sale of the items will be placed into the city's appropriate fund.

ORDINANCE NO. 14-101: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to dispose of personal property 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 Julie Farrar, the commission voted to approve this ordinance.

Discussion: Dick Brady asked how we know this is unfit and John Orzech said this vehicle is rusted out and was acquired through forfeiture. Troy Vaccaro said we are putting more into this vehicle than what it is worth and it would be more appropriate to update it rather than trying to keep it running.

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

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

RESOLUTION OF NECESSITY FOR COLUMBUS AVENUE, PHASE II RESURFACING PROJECT

Budgetary Information: The engineer's estimate for the total project cost including engineering, inspection, advertising and miscellaneous expenses are \$508,000. The Ohio Department of Transportation will fund 80% of the eligible costs in the amount of \$406,400. The city's 20% share of the eligible costs will be funded by the sewer fund in the amount of \$45,210 and Community Development Block Grant funds in the amount of \$56,390.

RESOLUTION NO. 042-14R: It is requested a resolution be passed **declaring the necessity for the city to proceed with the proposed Columbus Avenue, Phase II resurfacing 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;** 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 Wesley Poole, the commission voted to approve this resolution.

Discussion: Aaron Klein said this is an MPO project submitted several years ago and involves the resurfacing of Columbus Avenue from Homestead to Hayes. It will not be extensive with water mains and sewers and is scheduled in 2015; this will allow the project to be bid. Dennis Murray said it is advantageous to have our own water and sewer departments. Aaron Klein said to prepare for this project, there will be some sewer repairs made during the next few weeks. There will be about five repairs in this stretch of road.

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

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

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

FIRST STREET RESURFACING AND WATERMAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT – CHANGE ORDER #1

Budgetary Information: The original contract amount was \$955,943.93. The revised contract amount with Change Order #1 is \$888,179.63. The breakdown of the revised contract costs is as follows: \$335,793.13 from the Federal Highway Administration funds through the Ohio Department of Transportation and the Erie County Metropolitan Planning Organization, \$154,584.60 from Ohio Public Work funds, \$313,853.62 from the water fund and \$83,948.28 from the street fund.

ORDINANCE NO. 14-102: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to approve the first change order for work performed by Erie Blacktop, Inc., of Sandusky, Ohio, for the First Street resurfacing and water main replacement project and to deduct the contract amount by \$67,764.30 in relation thereto;** 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 Naomi Twine, the commission voted to approve this ordinance.

Discussion: Dennis Murray said this savings was largely achieved because we did not have to go through the difficulty of replacing a water line on First Street. Aaron Klein said some of the digging through rock helped the city realize a savings although this is not the final change order. There will be a small one coming for approximately \$4,000 - \$5,000. Dick Brady said it is important to point out these savings are not negotiated by the city; there is quite an elaborate spreadsheet detailing materials and this is done by formula. The quantities are developed very specifically for the cost and we do not rely on squeezing a contractor to give us a better job, we are getting what we pay for. Dennis Murray said this is a smart way for a government or private entity contract because of putting all of the risk onto the contractor; we buy quantities depending on how much rock and fill we need.

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

ITEM #8 – Submitted by Aaron Klein, P.E.

ANNUAL SUPPORT FEE FOR TRAPEZE SOFTWARE FOR SANDUSKY TRANSIT SYSTEM

Budgetary Information: The total cost for the annual support fee is \$15,225 and \$7,612.50 will be paid with funds received from the Ohio Department of Transportation CY 2014 Rural Transit Program grant 5311 operating funds (50%) and the required local match of \$7,612.50 (50%) will be paid with funds generated by contract revenues established by the Sandusky Transit System.

ORDINANCE NO. 14-103: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing payment to Trapeze Software Group of Irving, Texas, for the annual software support and maintenance fee for the period of July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015;** 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 Dick Brady, the commission voted to approve this ordinance.

Discussion: Julie Farrar said the city is only responsible for half of this \$15,000 and the other half is coming from a grant.

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

ITEM #9 – Submitted by Aaron Klein, P.E.**CY 2015 - SANDUSKY TRANSIT SYSTEM RURAL TRANSIT PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION**

Budgetary Information: The Rural Transit Program operating funds have a significant impact on the Sandusky Transit System budget, as it comprises a very large amount of the total operating budget. Without this funding, services would have to be drastically reduced. The required local matching funds (20%), will be generated by contracts established by the Sandusky Transit System.

RESOLUTION NO. 043-14R: It is requested a resolution be passed **authorizing the filing of a grant application with the Ohio Department of Transportation through the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Transit Administration for the CY 2015 Rural Transit program grant for the Sandusky Transit System;** 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 Wesley Poole, the commission voted to approve this resolution.

Discussion: Julie Farrar said the application is due at the end of the month and this is why it is being asked for passage under Section 14. Dick Brady said it is important to note without this grant we are out of the transit business. This represents less than half of the STS budget, but if removed, we will not be in the business and this is a very important piece of legislation. Dennis Murray said the transit system is an important lifeline to the community and this is a very important piece of legislation. Commissioners recognize and value a transit system to provide transportation for the elderly or others who need to get to their jobs.

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

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Scott Schell, the commission voted to accept a donation from the Friends of the Greenhouse account of \$600 for security lighting from Future Green LLC for the pergola at the Greenhouse. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to accept a donation from the Sandusky Main Street Association of the lease (\$1/year) of a 200-gallon water sprayer and 20 GPM pump to water plants downtown. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to accept a donation from Loris Printing for the Toft's Safety Services event - Sub Zero With A Hero - scheduled for September 11, 2014, of ten 12" x 18" posters to market the event. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to accept donations for a one-day fishing charter to be hosted by the police department on September 17 with thirty school youth chosen by Sandusky City Schools guidance counselors: Cleveland II (\$500 in-kind value for charter services), Sandusky Fish Company (\$200 in-kind value to clean fish), Marine Discount Terminal – tackle (\$300 value), Cardinal Grocery - sandwiches & chips for lunch (\$120 value), Cove Tackle Shop – bait, from the FOP Lodge #17 (\$260) and the FOPA Lodge #35 (\$130) to purchase fishing poles which the youth will keep.

Discussion: John Orzech said this was presented to him by Officer Steve Ritterbach who had an experience with a youth from Perkins Township. Officer Ritterbach put this program together and sought donations and received commitments. The FOP and FOPA then donated money for

the fishing poles. The ODNR will be taking the youth fishing on the date of the event and the school is targeting youth in Grades 7 – 9.

The President declared the motion passed.

Eric Wobser said a **city employee luncheon was held on September 4 and kicked off the 2014 United Way campaign**. A total of \$600 was raised for the United Way of Erie County and there was great participation from staff in nearly every department. This is twice the amount raised last year at this same time. Employees will continue to pledge with their 2014 – 2015 contribution(s). Dennis Murray said employees were on their own time and it was amazing to see the number of different vehicles which showed up and was an amazing commentary on the different things the city does. Employees seemed excited about where the city is now and he heard lots of great comments. Employees are working harder to provide great service for residents and businesses in town. Eric Wobser thanked Connie Nicholson for all of her work in getting donations of food and items to be raffled which helped in providing money/donations the United Way of Erie County.

Eric Wobser said **holes are being dug at two of the community garden sites for signage** as people were unaware these gardens are actually for community use. The city partners with several organizations for the gardens at Meigs and Adams Streets, Hancock Street, Churchwell Park, Harborview and Viewpoint. Partners include the City of Sandusky, Erie Metro Housing Authority, Shining Waters, the Erie County Health Department, Harborview and Viewpoint. A special thank you to Willie McCarty who has been extremely patient and a savior in feeding the needy. Eric Wobser also thanked the staff in the General Services Division including Rick Sharp, Dave Berstarack and Art Straub for their assistance.

Eric Wobser said the city recently received a **letter from a citizen** (copy attached) **regarding Alicia Schrenk regarding the service she provided**, Margaret Morris. Margaret Morris was pleased and felt she (Alicia) went above and beyond to ensure her paperwork for the city was completed in one trip as opposed to two trips.

Eric Wobser said we are making a change on the **Housing Board of Appeals** due to the resignation of Ken Lilje. Eric Wobser will be changing the status of Gary Guendelsberger to regular member, and appointing former Fire Chief Mike Meinzer to be the new alternate member.

Eric Wobser said he previously reported **Micro-cystin testing is being put into place for the algal bloom issues related to testing for toxins in our water**. The EPA has a grant available to pay for this equipment and the city will be applying for up to \$10,000 to make this grant request.

Upon motion of Dick Brady and second of Julie Farrar, the commission authorized the city to apply for this funding through the EPA. The President declared the motion passed.

Eric Wobser said the Ohio Department of Health endorses fluoridating a community's water supply, declaring it to be the single most important step a community can do to improve the dental health of its citizens. Fluoride, which is critical in preventing tooth decay, is added to the treated water at Big Island Water Works through processes monitored by highly trained operators. **The City of Sandusky has been awarded a Water Fluoridation Quality Award from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for maintaining consistent levels of fluoride in its potable water supply.**

Eric Wobser said the police and fire departments will host the **Sub Zero With A Hero event** on September 11. John Orzech said he and Dave Degnan partnered to host this event from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. at Toft Dairy. Toft's will feature deep dish apple pie ice cream for the day and the

name of the new K-9 will be released at the event. The police department's Facebook page will allow people to vote on name of the new K-9.

Eric Wobser said Monday, September 1, a group from Texas called "Saving A Hero's Place" traveled to Sandusky to present an **Honor Chair in memory of former Sandusky Police Officer Andy Dunn**. This Honor Chair has been placed in the training room in the police department. The turnout was incredible and emotion was even greater than the sum of the people who showed up and was a great remembrance of Officer Dunn and his service. This chair will ensure he will be remembered in perpetuity.

Eric Wobser thanked **Angie George from Lake Erie Shores & Islands** for coming out tonight and said the number of persons coming downtown were borne out by the visitation during the short time the table was set up. There is a growing presence of visitors in the downtown community and shows the work of the commission and entrepreneurs who have gone a long way toward building a strong downtown and making it a destination with partners like Lake Erie Shores & Islands.

Wesley Poole said a great deal of work has been done over the past year to build on our reputation and the opinions people have of the community. The staff has done a tremendous amount of work and there are a number of projects that have been started and completed. Wesley Poole said he saw staff from Water Distribution fixing a line on Sunday and he stopped and noted they were in good spirits and **employees in all departments are going out of their way to make this the kind of place people want to come to and do business in and this is gratifying.**

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Wesley Poole, the commission voted to appoint Jamien Johnson to the Human Relations Commission for a term ending October 10, 2017. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Scott Schell, Wesley Poole and Julie Farrar, 7. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to appoint Dannie Edmon to the Human Relations Commission for a term ending October 10, 2016. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Scott Schell, Wesley Poole and Julie Farrar, 7. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Dick Brady, the commission voted to appoint Dave Waddington to the Human Relations Commission for a term ending October 10, 2015. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Scott Schell, Wesley Poole and Julie Farrar, 7. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Dennis Murray and second of Wesley Poole, the commission voted to schedule a Public Hearing to take comments regarding the City of Sandusky's grant application for the Job Access and Reverse Commute program through the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration. The President declared the motion passed.

Dennis Murray said **there will be a vacancy on the Civil Service Commission** and interested persons can apply for this Commission by filling out a volunteer application. These are available in the Commission Clerk's Office, or on the city's website: www.ci.sandusky.oh.us by clicking on "Boards and Commissions".

Dick Brady asked Hank Solowiej to share information regarding the receipt of the **State Auditor's Award** as this is one more testament to how squeaky clean his department is. Hank Solowiej said he received notification last week the city will receive the Auditor's Award for a clean audit for the 2013 year. This will be presented during a state seminar at Kalahari on September 17.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street, asked about \$75,000 for the city building bond which will be completely paid off and Hank Solowiej said this was an old bond for an air conditioning unit. Sharon Johnson asked if the city building was paid off and Dennis Murray said we own it. Sharon Johnson said the Meigs Street Pier is chained off and it does not look very inviting and Eric Wobser said he will follow up about this with her after the meeting. Sharon Johnson said there has been swimming from the handicapped fishing area at Shoreline Park and asked if the city should post signage indicating "no swimming". Dennis Murray said we do not want anyone to be injured but there is no liability for the city except for hidden defects and asked Don Icsman to look at whether signage should be erected.

Matt Morgan, 1003 West Osborne Street, thanked everyone here for continuing to be a part of something as great strides and progress are being made. Matt Morgan asked if Sandusky will receive samples for algal bloom testing and Aaron Klein said these tests used to be sent to other cities to be done for Sandusky. Matt Morgan said the city is fortunate to have a Human Relations Commission and we will be a hub of professionalism. As a business owner, the commissioners are accessible and always listening.

Vicki Bird, 2114 Wilbert Street, said she would like to speak to the income tax issue on the November ballot. Last Sunday on *Face the Nation* and *Meet the Press*, there was a good interview with the mayors of Pittsburg, Oklahoma City and Detroit who spoke about how they came together through taxation. Twenty-five cents on \$100 is not much to ask for and she is willing to give and pay forward this amount personally to rebuild Sandusky, keep the fire and police departments staffed and properly trained. Children should be taught they should not be afraid of police officers and fire fighters. The school levy is also positive and will help to focus on necessary things for our children. Hopefully people are willing to give and vote yes for both of these issues. Dennis Murray thanked Vicki Bird and said it is important to remember this is a combined income tax and admissions tax issue as they are tied together. Dennis Murray thanked the leaders of Rebuild Sandusky for putting this issue onto the table and into focus. This takes a little bit of courage and is outstanding leadership from people who care passionately about the community. Vicki Bird sought signatures for petitions and some people felt this should not all fall on Cedar Point and some persons refused to sign as they felt it was a joint venture. This is for the betterment of the city and she will do what she can to help rebuild the city. Dennis Murray said code enforcement is one of the most important things city government does and both the police and fire chiefs say this is important to their jobs. People hide in these properties which creates risk for police officers and fire fighters which, in turn, hurts the schools and we need to get back on top of this. Dick Brady said these points are well taken and just as blight can spread, prosperity can spread, and we need to show success and it is contagious.

Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to adjourn at 6:28 p.m. The President declared the motion passed.

Kelly L. Kresser, CMC
Clerk of the City Commission

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