

**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: Scott Schell, Julie Farrar, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole and Jeff Smith.

**City staff present:** John Orzech - Police Chief, Brian Cowie – Fire Captain, Aaron Klein – Engineer, Don Rumbutis – IT Manager, 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 Naomi Twine, the commission voted to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2014, city commission meeting and suspend the oral reading. The President declared the motion passed.**

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

Willie McCarty, 632 East Adams Street, asked the cost and the reason for purchasing the Tasers (Item #7), and if police officers will receive training for their use.

Damon Newell, 1411 Julianne Circle, said the police department is requesting replacement of two Tasers, yet they are ordering eleven for a total cost of \$13,034.69. Considering everything that has happened, the police department has bigger issues other than purchasing nine Tasers which do not need to be replaced right now.

#### **PRESENTATIONS**

**Dr. Kirk Halliday, Erie/Ottawa Counties Mental Health & Recovery Board, said he is promoting Issue #7 on the November ballot.** Dr. Halliday urges the commissioners to vote yes to maintain and modestly increase treatment and recovery support mechanisms available for persons suffering from mental illness and addiction problems. If the levy passes, it will cost the owner of a \$100,000 home approximately \$7 more per year. Hopefully this is not too much to provide the needed services. The goal of his organization is to ensure no one is denied treatment because of inability to pay. The Bronze Plan in the Affordable Care Act has a \$5,000 deductible and for a working mother with two children, this is a prohibitive cost. This levy will make it possible for persons like this to continue to receive treatment. Last year in Erie and Ottawa County there were 22,850 residents who received services from the Mental Health & Recovery Board and he is grateful to the voters of Erie and Ottawa County for making this assistance possible. There have been a lot of concerns about the increase in heroin use across the country and generally, this is one area where extra programming will help fight back evil terrorists from the Mexican drug cartels who are flooding the American market with heroin and trying to get as many people addicted as possible through cheap prices. The prices then start to go up and the crime which follows is very disturbing. There have also been 29 drug related deaths in Erie County already this year and this is a huge spike; we need to educate people. If we can give parents the information they need to speak to their children about drugs, regardless of socio-economic status, their children will be fifty percent less likely to become addicted to drugs. Some persons do not want to pay higher taxes to help support someone with addiction problems, but it is a community health problem for the same reason we do not allow someone to carry typhoid or other disease in the community. If addiction is not stopped and mental health is not treated properly, then it causes problems of crime and commotion in the community, instability and reduced property values which the Conestoga program is trying to combat here in Sandusky. Dr. Halliday asked for support as individuals and commission members to urge a vote of “yes” on Issue #7; he intends to vote “yes” on Issue #8. Naomi Twine thanked Dr. Halliday for coming and said she supports this issue. Dennis Murray said Dr. Halliday is a great advocate for mental health care and when he (Dennis) was in the State House, he educated many people and the most selfish person in the world can look at this and say it is a great bargain. Many dollars can be saved in terms of lost productivity in the workplace and other social ills, but passage of this levy is cheap medicine. Dr. Halliday said last year \$150 billion was lost in the United States because of addiction problems.

**CURRENT BUSINESS**

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

**ITEM #1**

**PASSED AT FIRST READING 9.22.14**

**CHANGE TO BUILDING CODE REGARDING FORECLOSED PROPERTIES AND BUILDINGS**

**ORDINANCE NO. 14-117**: It is requested an ordinance be passed **amending part thirteen (Building Code), Title Five (additional local provisions), by the addition of Chapter 1339 (foreclosed properties and buildings), of the codified ordinances in the manner and way specifically set forth hereinbelow.**

**Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to approve this ordinance at second reading, as amended.**

*Discussion:* Dennis Murray said this is vacant and abandoned property registration and the city is telling banks if they are going to have unoccupied properties in the city, we should know who to contact about them so they do not become a blight on the community. We want these properties to be inspected on a regular basis for high grass, broken windows and other things and this legislation was discussed at the last commission meeting. Don Icsman said the other significant provision is posting of a bond. Dennis Murray said if the city has to go in and secure the property because it becomes a blight or nuisance, we can go back on this bond and do what the property owner should have done in the first place. Don Icsman said this is essentially the big significant portion it and relieves the public from fronting money to access these kinds of properties. Jeff Smith asked if there is a mechanism in place as to how we are going to operate this. Eric Wobser said while staff is supportive of this legislation, there are some concerns due to the fact we have transitions taking place in the Building and Code Enforcement Divisions and in the Planning Department. As we move forward with the search for a Community Development Director, this is the department which will have the responsibility for overseeing the implementation of this ordinance. Through some conversations with the Law Department during this transition, there were concerns about coordinating with the courts and Eric Wobser said he is concerned with the date of the implementation if this were to go into effect in 30 days; he asked to consider a 90-day window prior to implementation to ensure we are ready to go and have a plan in place moving forward. If not, we will do everything we can during the next 30 days. Dennis Murray offered to delay the implementation for 90 days to allow staff sufficient time to gear up and be ready to do what is being asked of them. Wesley Poole said he is not sure this will make a difference; once a law takes effect, it is only as effective as our implementation and management so he sees no change here. Naomi Twine said she does not believe this needs to be delayed and it can be enacted and then we can finalize the department. We can still decide how we will respond to this even though things may not be specifically in place. Scott Schell said he thinks we all want to see this program enacted, but without having all of our ducks in a row, this could put us more behind the eight ball than solving problems. It is his preference to make sure everything is in place and ready to go prior to enacting this. Dick Brady said his experience in the private sector is people put their ducks in a row when there is a shorter timeline. It is wonderful to have everyone in place to enforce and implement this, but he does not see much value in protracting it; we need to get it on the books and challenge our people to put things into place. Dennis Murray said he does not expect this will be in place in 30 days and it should be done properly. Eric Wobser said this has been a priority piece of legislation and agrees wholeheartedly with the understanding there should be a sense of urgency to get this ready and move forward as quickly as possible.

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

**ITEM #2 – Submitted by Kim Piotrowski, Clerk****PURCHASE APPLICATION SERVER HP ML350 G8 TOWER, SOFTWARE & ACCESSORIES/ INSTALLATION & CONFIGURATION WITH HENSCHEN & ASSOCIATES**

**Budgetary Information:** There will be no impact to the general fund. The cost of the application server, software and accessories with installation/configuration is \$11,797. The funds used to pay for the server, software and accessories with the installation and configuration will be from the court's computer fund, Account number 244 9890.

**ORDINANCE NO. 14-118:** It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to purchase an application server, software and accessories with installation and configuration from Henschen & Associates, Inc. of Bowling Green, Ohio, for the Sandusky Municipal Court;** 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 if anyone from the court could answer questions about this and Dennis Murray said he understands the court needs to replace and update their server. Wesley Poole said he wondered if the improvements were to the software and what specifically they are, but he can check this out on his own.

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

**ITEM #3 – Submitted by Hank S. Solowiej, CPA & Finance Director****ANNUAL SUPPORT FEE WITH SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS INCORPORATED**

**Budgetary Information:** The total cost for the annual support fee is \$12,147.65. Of this amount, \$6,073.83 will be paid by the general fund, \$3,036.91 by the water fund and \$3,036.91 by the sewer fund. The prior year ordinance was passed by the City Commission on October 15, 2013 (Ordinance 13-111) that covered the period November 1, 2013 through October 31, 2014.

**ORDINANCE NO. 14-119:** It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing payment to Software Solutions Incorporated of Lebanon, Ohio, for the annual software support fee for the period November 1, 2014, through October 31, 2015;** 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:* Hank Solowiej said this is the annual support fee to run our financial management software for utility billing and payroll. Looking forward, we are asking for an investment to be made to update this and have been researching this with other vendors and cities as the system we have is old and out of date. Julie Farrar asked if the upgrades will allow for payment of utility bills online and Hank Solowiej said this is a function of the new software and is something we are looking into. There will be more information for the department heads to manage their financial management and this will streamline the day-to-day processes for a lot of things we do.

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

**ITEM #4 – Submitted by Donald C. Icsman, Law Director****AMENDMENT TO CONSULTING CONTRACT WITH SCOTT J. MULARONI**

**Budgetary Information:** Mr. Mularoni will continue to be paid at the rate of \$55 per hour for work performed up to an additional amount not to exceed \$6,500. The cost of this contract will

be paid with the Building Division operating budget. A portion of the plan review expense will be paid by the collection of plan review fees by the Department of Planning, Engineering and Development.

**ORDINANCE NO. 14-120**: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to enter into an amendment to the agreement for services of consultant Scott J. Mularoni for CY 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 Wesley Poole, the commission voted to approve this ordinance.**

*Discussion:* Dick Brady said Scott Mularoni and John Feick both fill in for George Poulos and asked for an explanation about this. Eric Wobser said George Poulos is an employee of the city but is also a private architect. We are able to pay him a much less salary than if we had a full-time building official and we make contributions to his pension, but he does not accumulate vacation or sick time or longevity from the city. The down side of this is George Poulos is sometimes conflicted because of his private architectural practice and is the reason Scott Mularoni and John Feick sometimes serves as our building official to approve plans. Some years there are fewer conflicts, some years there are more, and this has been one where there have been more and Scott Mularoni has had to take on more of this work. Eric Wobser said we still realize a significant savings through our relationship with George Poulos.

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

**ITEM #5 – Submitted by Jane E. Cullen, P.E.**

**CONTRACT WITH STATE OF OHIO FOR COMPLETION OF PERKINS AVENUE AND MILAN ROAD INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

**Budgetary Information:** The city is responsible for one hundred percent of the waterline costs which is estimated to be \$236,880 and will be paid with water funds. The funds are due to ODOT by October 20, 2014.

**ORDINANCE NO. 14-121**: It is requested an ordinance be **passed authorizing and directing the city manager to enter into a contract with the Director of the Ohio Department of Transportation for the ODOT Perkins Avenue and Milan Road intersection improvement project, PID #84556**; 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:* Aaron Klein said this is the waterline project at Perkins Avenue and Milan Road and when ODOT planned the corridor project, they broke out two intersections which were part of the project. The city tried to get ahead of the game and do the waterline project but did not receive bids. ODOT allowed the city to include this in their project and they are ready to bid. The city will be required to pay up front, based upon the estimate, so ODOT will have the funds to pay the contractor when it is time. The city is responsible for one hundred percent of the cost of the waterline. Wesley Poole said this is an upgrade and asked why it is a good idea and how the citizens will benefit. Aaron Klein said this is an area where there have been several water main breaks and the majority have been east of the intersection; last year this area was blocked for about one full week for repairs during the middle of winter. This is to repair a water line which is frequently damaged prior to ODOT doing their project.

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

**ITEM #6 – Submitted by Jane E. Cullen, P.E.****CHANGE ORDER #2 FOR FIRST STREET RESURFACING AND WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT WITH ERIE BLACKTOP, INC.**

**Budgetary Information:** The original contract amount was \$955,943.93. The revised contract amount with change order #1 was \$888,179.63. The revised contract amount with Change Order #2 is \$895,056.98. The breakdown of the revised contract costs is as follows: \$335,012.46 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 Works funds, \$321,706.80 from the water fund and \$83,753.12 from the street fund.

**ORDINANCE NO. 14-122:** It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to approve the second change order for work performed for the First Street resurfacing and water main replacement project in the amount of \$6,877.35 to be paid to Erie Blacktop, Inc., of Sandusky, 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 Julie Farrar, the commission voted to approve this ordinance.**

*Discussion:* Dick Brady asked if this will be the final change order and Aaron Klein said this is the final change order, but ODOT has to come in and review our project files and may ask for another adjustment. This is not typical, and he expects this will be the final change order for the project. Dennis Murray said this came in under budget and was a very well-done project.

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

**ITEM #7 – Submitted by Assistant Chief Phillip J. Frost****AGREEMENT WITH VANCE OUTDOORS FOR PURCHASE OF TASERS AND ACCESSORIES**

**Budgetary Information:** The total cost for this purchase of eleven Tasers and accessories is \$13,164.69 and \$130 will be credited for the exchange of two Tasers for a total expense of \$13,034.69. The grant award amount is \$12,398. The remaining \$636.69 will be paid with funds from the police department's operating budget.

**ORDINANCE NO. 14-123:** It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to dispose of two Tasers from the police department as having become unnecessary and unfit for city use pursuant to Section 25 of the city charter; and authorizing the city manager to purchase eleven X26P Tasers and accessories through the State of Ohio Cooperative Purchasing program from Vance Outdoors, Inc. of Columbus, Ohio, for the Sandusky Police Department;** 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.**

*Discussion:* John Orzech said the police department applied for a grant earlier this year after approval by the city commissioners and it is on a two-year cycle; one year being received by the Erie County Sheriff's office and the next by the city. It is the city's cycle this year and the Tasers have been used by the department since 2006; the warranties have expired. The X26 Tasers have been phased out and are no longer repairable or replaceable and the new X26P's are an upgrade. The officers carrying Tasers are all carrying holsters and different holsters will have to be obtained because the equipment does not fit. Officers are recertified every year to carry the Tasers and the instructors are retrained every two years so there is an annual training and recertification process. John Orzech said Taser cartridges must be discarded every two years and if we do not make a transition to the new ones, each of the patrol officers will have to shoot off two of the Taser cartridges for each of the apparatus because they could be carrying one or the other at different times. Originally, there were 18 Tasers, two of which have been

replaced because they were unserviceable. There are three marked unserviceable now and we are already seeing the effects of this and warranties not being good. The new Tasers will have a four-year warranty and will be equipped with holsters and the batteries required to operate. Dennis Murray said there are guidelines about how and when Tasers can be used and asked John Orzech to share this information as Tasers can sometimes be controversial. John Orzech said they are an important tool and in the case of someone with a knife, he would much rather use a Taser than a firearm. Officers are placed in situations where they could prevent injury to themselves or the individual by the use of a Taser. Wesley Poole said it appears Tasers are a less lethal alternative to a weapon and it makes good sense to have them. Dick Brady asked about the warranty and said this would present a whole host of issues if an unwarranted product is used. John Orzech said during the past year, five Tasers have been rendered unserviceable and if there is a possibility they are not going to work correctly, we want to ensure they are replaced. There have also been issues during big events, such as during Ohio Bike Week, where there have not been enough Tasers to supply the officers.

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

**ITEM #8 – Submitted by Assistant Chief Phillip J. Frost**

**AGREEMENT WITH PHYSIO CONTROL, INC. FOR PURCHASE OF NINE NEW LIFE PAK CR PLUS AED UNITS, NINE INFANT ELECTRODE PACKS AND THREE AED TRAINING MODEL AED'S**

**Budgetary Information:** The total cost for this purchase of nine Life Pak CR Plus AED's, nine Infant electrode packs and three AED training model AED's for a total of \$15,486. The grant award amount is \$16,736. The remaining \$1,250 will be returned to the community foundation's donor.

**ORDINANCE NO. 14-124:** It is requested an ordinance be **passed authorizing and directing the city manager to purchase nine Lifepak CR Plus automated external defibrillators, nine infant electrode pads and three Lifepak trainer automated external defibrillators through the State of Ohio cooperative purchasing program from Physio-Control, Inc. of Redmond, Washington, for the Sandusky Police Department;** 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 Dick Brady, the commission voted to approve this ordinance.**

*Discussion:* John Orzech said these will be used by officers and included in their equipment bags and will be signed out at the beginning of each shift. John Orzech said he has spoken through the donor of the local foundation and we are returning some of the money because after researching this, we were able to get a lower price than originally obtained. The training modules were purchased for certification in CPR and first aid every two years. There will also be an AED unit at city hall so in the event something happens in the building it will be available.

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

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Eric Wobser said the City of Sandusky received word last week from **the U.S Department of Housing & Urban Development our FY 2014 Consolidated Plan and Annual Plan has been reviewed and approved.** The program year starts July 1 and funding for Sandusky's CDBG program is in the amount of \$702,461.

Eric Wobser said in **the Fall issue of Lake Erie Living Magazine, the City of Sandusky was chosen as the "Best Town" and named as one of "Our Favorite Places to Eat, Drink, Explore,**

**Unwind & Enjoy our Great Lake**". Additionally, as reported in a recent Sandusky Register article, **Sandusky was chosen by [www.Motovo.com](http://www.Motovo.com) as the fourth most exciting city in Ohio.** Eric Wobser said when he looked at the top ten list of cities, Sandusky was the only one which was not a major city or college town.

Eric Wobser said **advertisements have been installed on many of the Sandusky Transit System's vehicles** since approval of the agreement with Clean Zone Marketing passed by the commission on September 22.

Eric Wobser said the city is investigating options available for purchasing **road salt for the 2014 – 2015 winter season.** We are having a hard time finding salt, let alone finding it at a reasonable price. This is part of a national epidemic because of the severity of last winter as they have greatly depleted reserves. Aaron Klein has been actively trying to find a solution. Dick Brady said he is aware the city purchased some salt at the old price while we still had the opportunity to do so and asked if we have a handle on how much we purchased. Aaron Klein said every year the city has 2,000 tons in a bin at Erie County. For 2014, we have already reached this amount and he needs to have a conversation with Eric Wobser and Hank Solowiej about an option to purchase more this year. We have already maxed out the amount under the current contract. Dick Brady said we have stockpiled 2,000 tons which is the amount we typically use in the winter. Aaron Klein said we requested 2,000 tons in our bid, but typically do not get up to this amount; because of the winter last year, we purchased a lot more. The salt dome has been filled and salt is also stockpiled next to the dome at the city service center so we could max the 2,000 tons out this year. Last year we used approximately 1,600 tons and we have maxed out the purchase amount, but the salt in storage will be used this season. Aaron Klein said Erie County bids the salt contract and there are several communities involved in this purchase. The city overestimated to approximately 2,000 tons and does not normally utilize this amount, but did last winter season because of the severity. Dennis Murray said it sounds as if we have purchased as much as we could at the old price and stored it. Aaron Klein said we have, but he is trying to see if we can exceed this amount. Dennis Murray said salt contracts are usually let out for the season and not the year, but the county engineer has extended this to allow us to purchase salt at last year's prices.

Eric Wobser said the **Boo at the Bay event** will be held this Saturday, October 18 from 12 p.m. – 4 p.m. at the Sandusky Bay Pavilion. This is a great family event.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

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

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

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

**Upon motion of Dick Brady and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to hold an executive session for personnel, city planner. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Scott Schell, Julie**

**Farrar, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole and Jeff Smith, 7. The President declared the motion passed.**

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

#### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Dave Waddington, 1446 McKinley Street, said he is asking Sandusky residents to challenge themselves to do better regarding Issues 6, 7 and 8 on the November ballot. Nothing is perfect and we should look at how these three issues will impact Sandusky. Dave Waddington said he did not support putting an issue on the ballot when he was on the city commission, but fully supports these issues and looks forward to a new community energy. If these issues fail, he does not like what he sees in the rearview mirror.

Mark Norman, 1016 Third Street, said he has been healthy throughout his life and continued to think he would have good health until the first part of September when he became ill. When he became unresponsive and EMS was called, they responded within minutes and encouraged everyone to vote for the levy to continue this great service. Mark Norman said we have the most experienced and skilled staff at the city and if they do not have the budget funds necessary, they will have to determine who the last person will be to turn out the lights. In speaking with John Orzech, Phil Frost and Eric Wobser, they are working on a vision for community policing and we need to give them the tools and finances to move us forward and he encouraged persons to vote for the levy.

Willie McCarty, 632 East Adams Street, said as a citizen of Sandusky, he is proud to live and raise his kids here and has always been an advocate of the police department because he believes they are his soldiers and are here to protect and serve him. Willie McCarty said he invited the police chief to his neighborhood last year and he introduced him (John Orzech) to a little child who said she was scared of the police; Willie said he told the chief they needed to start a program where children interact with police officers and are their friends. We have gotten to the place where Sandusky has been spotlighted on national television and is a neighborhood which does not care about family and this bugs him. No one is perfect and there is no perfect city and half the people he knows are criminals, but he also knows many persons who were criminals who have turned over a new leaf and are now decent people in the community working hard for what they have. Willie McCarty said he used to be one of these persons as well and was sent to North Coast Recovery over 20+ years ago and God is good. We are always looking at bringing out the negative and both persons in this recent incident with the police department did things wrong and education is the key. This incident was about a man protecting his family and he has seen everything else on television and people getting shot and killed and police have become "not our friends" anymore. Police officers are supposed to be professionals looking out for the citizens and he holds them to a little higher standard when they are wearing their badges and when Gunner (the K-9) was lied on, he was upset and this should not be put on him. The city paid a lot of money for Gunner, for his training and for the officer to handle him properly. Calling in the drug dog has to be made straight regarding someone suspected of having anything wrong in their vehicle or the drug dog hitting on it. Willie McCarty said he is not here to point fingers but this is his town and he loves it and the last thing he needs is someone coming to his town doing their own agenda. There are decent people here raising their families and we need to take our breath and he does not want this to become a racial thing. This is an opportunity to show other cities we are not perfect, we are here to make a change.

Andre Stockett, 202 Taylor Street, said he has spoken to a lot of people and they are swayed either way, for the police department or not, and he appreciates everyone's comments because they have given him a lot of insight. Andre Stockett said he is coming as a person who is a major part of the community and speaks for the children of the community which the

commissioners really do not pay much attention to. He does not understand the defibrillator purchase for the police department and said when someone calls 9-1-1 to report they are sick, an ambulance is dispatched and he does not understand why we are spending \$16,000 for the police department to have them. He also does not understand \$13,000 being spent on Tasers as the police could have used a Taser on the young white kid who was beaten by the police to subdue him, but instead they beat him nearly to death. Dennis Murray said he (Andre) was getting dangerously close to personalities and to please avoid this. Andre Stockett asked why we need eleven new Tasers if only two of them are broken. This only gives the police department more to misappropriate because the last time taxes were raised, Officer Denny was hired and the dog was purchased. Police misconduct is a problem when taxpayer money is abused by these types of decisions and we must take a deep look at the leadership. If he owned a business and a few of his employees indulged in illegal activity, he is responsible in the eyes of the public because it is his business. In defense of John Orzech who was not here, Assistant Chief Phil Frost, the prosecutor and the city manager stood behind their guy and said he was legal in everything he did, even though he did not act perfectly, until they saw the second part of the video where the officer actually called his (Andre) name. It was not until John Orzech did his homework did he realize what the truth was and the police have not conducted themselves in a proper manner or used funds properly in the past with the hiring of a cop who breaks the law. Andre Stockett asked why the department does not use Narcan because of the rise of heroin deaths in Erie County to help prevent overdoses and this further proves his point of incompetence by the Sandusky Police Department. They would rather subdue a suspect than to save a life and if the Tasers are not broken, why try to fix them. Andre Stockett said he opposes Issue 8 because of these things and we have to start saving lives and looking at how we use/spend money in the police department.

Damon Newell, 1411 Julianne Circle, said he is secretary of the Sandusky Amvet Baseball League and for four years, he and his father, Lonnie Newell, have been asking for a police officer at the ballpark. They get a drive-by with the windows up, a stop and a left hand turn once a night, but there is play every day and the program has increased to about 352 kids. There are six ballfields and there is play every day except on Sunday and they do not see a police officer unless they call. The police department invests money in their little toys to use to bully people but they do not invest in their community as for \$13,000, there could be two officers at the Amvet field during play time. They should get out of the car, walk around and meet parents, kids and board members and people they will come across in the community. We are being asked to invest in a police department that does not invest in the community and this is unfair. In recent times, the police department has betrayed the trust in the community and this is unfair, yet the city continues to back its people as they bully people and drive through neighborhoods with their windows up and do not know anyone's name. They continue to hire people from Edison and Huron to police the community and only stop to get out of their car and bully people. Damon Newell said he drives through town and sees so many vote yes on Issue 8 signs and sees people claiming they will help pass this, and the N.A.A.C.P. has been supportive of them, but they also say to vote yes on Issue 8. Chances are the city will get this levy and there will be extra money to do what it wants, but he will work hard to vote Issue 8 down because he has made money that he did not earn before and he never did the right thing with it. Voting for Issue 8 is giving the police department money they did not earn and they will continue to do wrong with it. If the city wants an issue to pass and for the police to get money they do not earn, let them do this in the year to come. It takes some nerve after what has been done and the practices perfected for years with John Orzech and Phil Frost; he remembers these practices for as long as he stepped off the porch. A system of bullying has been perfected for years and it takes some nerve to ask people to vote again. Dennis Murray thanked Damon Newell for his service to Sandusky's children.

Fred Farris, 1114 C Street, said he listened to the city manager talking about Sandusky being a great place to live and he goes along with this for some people, but for a minority person, a black person, it is not a good place to live. We have two obstacles - the police department and the Sandusky Register - and these are our downfalls simply because the newspaper hurts people by printing ads it should not print. They will not print the whole thing and there was a rally last week but there was nothing in the newspaper. If the Bikers have something it will be

on the front page but he/they get no recognition from the Sandusky Register. There was a gorilla pretending to be our President at Bike Week but yet they say this is still a great place to live. The police still harass people and do things they should not. There are two young people standing up for what they believe in and we need more to make Sandusky a better place. The newspaper tells one side of the story and will do anything they can to hurt people so long as they sell newspapers. As long as he has breath, he will fight for civil rights and we have been talking this talk for six years and it is time to stop talking and have action. Sandusky is not all right for black people.

Tonya Randleman, 1114 Wamajo Drive, said she is here to support a young man whose shoes she has walked in. She is not a prominent person of Sandusky, Ohio, but she pays her taxes just like anybody else. Tonya Randleman said she will vote no on Issue 8 because she had to plead guilty to something she did not do only because, at that time, of her name. Her lawyer knew what our city was so he vowed for her to plead guilty because she would be doing time just like her son is right now. She loves this community and helps people get off of drugs and has a desire to give back to the community, but cannot support the Sandusky Police Department because of what they do and they have never supported her. Tonya Randleman said she was an addict with four kids to support but there was no one there to help her and she learned to help herself. The first time helping herself, she did two years in prison and nothing was offered to her. The citizens are being asked to vote on an issue to support someone who does not help them.

Wesley Poole said some of the specifics mentioned by the individuals who spoke missed the underlying point some segments of the community feel or recognize the expenditures made by the city do not benefit them. There is room for the city commission to begin to evaluate how we spend our money and if we can provide some of the benefit to folks perhaps by providing an officer at the ballpark in exchange for Tasers, this is not a specific trade. The idea is we do need to address the community's needs in areas other than with a narrow framework.

Julie Farrar said she wishes to clear up some miscommunication. As far as Narcan, the police department does have this in their vehicles and it has saved a life already. The AED's were purchased with grant money and having them in a cruiser is a good idea and for anyone who has ever ridden with the police or fire department, there are times all of their vehicles are out on calls. Many times the first person to a call is a police officer and if someone is unresponsive, a police officer can use the AED until the ambulance is freed up to get to the scene if staff from all three fire stations are all on a call at one time. Julie Farrar said as far as a tax being passed, one has not been passed in Sandusky since 1967 and we have been living on a one percent income tax for 48 years; there have not been any new taxes. As far as the police officers getting out into the community and getting to know the youth, John Orzech, in her opinion, has been doing this. This past summer, he held the Touch A Truck event where little kids and their parents were able to interact with the police officers and other organizations and see these big vehicles. Recently, the police paired up with at-risk youth and took them fishing and these things are happening, but we need help to make this go further. Julie Farrar wanted to clear up misconceptions and said these things are happening but we cannot put a magic wand over things and make them change overnight. She understands there has been discussion about hiring more black officers similar to when she was on the school board and they discussed hiring more black teachers. There was a committee which went out to recruit African American teachers but they did not have a signing bonus or cultural things in the community. We can expand on this to attract African American teachers and police officers to apply and she would like to see the glass as half full rather than half empty.

**The President announced a recess of the meeting at 6:27 p.m. At 6:35 p.m., the commission went into executive session; at 7:50 p.m. the President announced adjournment.**