

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

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

City staff present: John Orzech - Police Chief, Dave Degnan – Fire Chief, Aaron Klein – Engineer, Angie Byington – Chief Planner, Don Rumbutis – IT Manager, Don Icsman - Law Director, Hank Solowiej – Finance Director and Eric Wobser – City Manager.

Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2014, city commission meeting and suspend the oral reading. The President declared the motion passed.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (*agenda items only*)

Erna Kahey, 220 Perry Street, said she is graduate of Sandusky High School and works and pays taxes for the privilege of living here and was assaulted by a police officer on July 4. Erna Kahey said a mother and daughter were fighting and asked her to call the police, but when she got back to her home, her dogs were going crazy and she stepped down from her porch and was handcuffed; the officer grabbed her right hand and twisted it and she asked why she was being arrested, but he said nothing and choked her. Erna Kahey said she was told to shut up while being handcuffed, was choked, and has had surgery on her arm. She is the one who calls about people fighting all of the time and felt she did the right thing by calling but was arrested. Dennis Murray said John Orzech will follow up with her if she will provide contact information.

Tim Stookey, 1307 Fifth Street, said the city has been negotiating with Erie County about water and asked about having a separate sewer agreement (Item #3). Dennis Murray said this will be discussed when the commission gets to this Item.

CURRENT BUSINESS

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

ITEM #1 – Submitted by Aaron M. Klein, P.E.

TABLED 10.17.14

ENCROACHMENT LICENSE FOR PORTION OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 217 WEST WATER STREET (REAR)

Budgetary Information: There is no budgetary impact with this item.

ORDINANCE NO. 14-130: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing the city manager to enter into a license agreement with RFP Properties, Inc. to provide for the use of a certain portion of the city's rights-of-way as described in the grant of a license for encroachment, a copy of which is attached to this ordinance, marked Exhibit "1" and incorporated herein;** 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: Dennis Murray said this was tabled on October 27 because it lacked additional information and asked what has occurred since this time. Aaron Klein said this has gone through Planning Commission review, has been signed off on and recommended for approval. This item has not changed since originally submitted a few weeks ago.

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

ITEM #2 – Submitted by Aaron M. Klein, P.E.**DISPOSAL OF VEHICLE AND MISCELLANEOUS PERSONAL PROPERTY**

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

ORDINANCE NO. 14-131: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to dispose of a vehicle and miscellaneous 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. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Scott Schell, Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Julie Farrar and Jeff Smith, 7. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Scott Schell, Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Julie Farrar and Jeff Smith, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.

ITEM #3 – Submitted by Aaron M. Klein, P.E.**AMENDMENT TO THE SEWER SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH ERIE COUNTY**

Budgetary Information: This legislation has no budgetary impact.

ORDINANCE NO. 14-132: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to enter into a second amendment to the sewer services agreement between Erie County and the City of Sandusky to extend the ending period to December 31, 2058;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

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

Discussion: Dick Brady said this has nothing to do with the water agreement; it is singularly an extension of the sewer services agreement with Erie County. The primary reason for extending this is because Erie County is working in an effort to sell bonds to finance the Bay View sewer project. One of the requirements of obtaining this financing is having a sewer services agreement with the City of Sandusky to dispose of sewage for a specific number of years and there were not enough years left in the current agreement; this merely adds years to an existing agreement.

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

ITEM #4 – Submitted by Aaron M. Klein, P.E.**ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FOR FY 2015 ELDERLY & DISABLED TRANSIT FARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Budgetary Information: The state grants have a significant impact on the transit system's budget, as they comprise approximately 10% of the total operating budget. These funds are also used as matching funds, which allows the City to draw down its funds from the Ohio Department of Transportation Rural Transit Program Grant. Without this state funding, service would have to be restructured or reduced. The E&D Program provides state funds to reimburse STS reduced fares, no greater than one-half (1/2) the regular adult fare, to the elderly and people with disabilities in The City of Sandusky and Erie County. These funds offset the fare box loss incurred by STS as a result of offering this reduced fare.

RESOLUTION NO. 048-14R: It is requested a resolution be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to accept a grant in the amount of \$29,231 from the Ohio Department of Transportation FY 2015 Elderly & Disabled transit fare assistance program 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 Naomi Twine and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to approve this resolution.

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

ITEM #5 – Submitted by Eric L. Wobser

RATIFICATION OF TRUST FOR PUBLIC LANDS (TPL) GRANT APPLICATION TO OFFICE OF COASTAL MANAGEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SANDUSKY

Budgetary Information: Coastal Management grants are awarded on a competitive basis with applicants providing a minimum fifty percent (50%) match of the total project cost. This is a reimbursement grant program and the City of Sandusky would be expected to make the initial outlays for the project and then request reimbursement from the Office of Coastal Management. The City can apply for up to \$50,000 in State funds and with the additional match funding, the project may be \$100,000. The application process is ongoing and must be submitted by November 21. It is anticipated the city's fifty percent (50%) match will be covered by local Foundation support.

RESOLUTION NO. 049-14R: It is requested a resolution be passed **approving and ratifying the submission of a grant application to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Office of Coastal Management for financial assistance through the Coastal Management Assistance Grant program for the development of a Master Plan for the Sandusky Downtown East Bay area;** and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

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

Discussion: Wesley Poole asked what the city will have when this is complete as it is a significant amount of money. Eric Wobser said ultimately this study will provide us with a blueprint as it relates to the 27.5 acres owned by the City of Sandusky between city hall to the Sandusky Bay Pavilion property and determine how these properties connect to the Bayfront Corridor. Other studies are being done and planning for the future economic development of the property. We know all three of these parcels are significantly underutilized and this is an opportunity for the city to improve waterfront access while at the same time better activating this space. The public/private partnership with the Battery Park development and the Surf's Up property were meant to provide the best space activation, but Surf's Up has been closed for some time and the expiration of the Tax Incremental Financing for Battery Park is coming to the end of a 30-year agreement. These resources will go toward planning for these spaces and will include cost estimates, visual renderings for use of the space and up to ten percent for design and engineering of a project for construction costs. This is a significant amount of acreage so while the price tag of the planning seems significant, it is not what we are asking the TPL to look into. Angela Byington was instrumental in pulling together this grant application. Angela Byington said we are asking the TPL to look at current land use against proposed land use and to look at this as it relates to our zoning code to improve public access and preparing a buffer or area along the waterfront for public use. Dennis Murray said this will involve significant public process. Angela Byington said there will be stakeholder meetings, public meetings, Planning and City Commission meetings, along with other public input. Eric Wobser said this process, per the terms of the grant, will not begin until the summer of 2015. We will be conducting strategic planning between January through June 30 and we will obtain critical feedback from the public during this process as well. The idea is to improve the space around city hall and make decisions. Julie Farrar said this grant will fund fifty percent, but it is anticipated the matching fifty percent will come from local foundations.

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

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

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

CONTRACT WITH N & N CONSTRUCTION FOR CURRAN STREET PROJECT

Budgetary Information: The total estimated project cost including engineering, inspection, testing, advertising and miscellaneous expenses is \$58,767.50 The City is responsible for the entire project cost and \$34,576.30 will be paid with Sewer funds and \$24,191.20 will be paid with Street funds.

ORDINANCE NO. 14-133: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to enter into a contract with N & N Construction of Wakeman, Ohio, for the Curran Street pavement and drainage improvements project;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

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

Discussion: Dick Brady asked Aaron Klein to provide a brief explanation of the extent of this work. Aaron Klein said this is to resurface Curran Street from Cove Street to Sandusky Bay. Storm sewer and roadway repair work will be completed. Dick Brady said this is a true example of competitive bidding.

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

ITEM #7 – Submitted by Aaron M. Klein, P.E.

AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL DESIGN SERVICES FOR 2014 TTHM REDUCTION ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS PROJECT

Budgetary Information: The estimated amount of the Consultant fee for professional design services is \$78,451.00 to be paid with Water Funds.

PASSED AT FIRST READING: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to enter into an agreement for professional design services with CT Consultants of Toledo, Ohio, for the 2014 TTHM reduction alternatives analysis project.**

Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to approve this ordinance at first reading.

Discussion: Dennis Murray asked for background what we hope to accomplish and the general nature of this project. Aaron Klein said this is a project that has been in the making for about eight months and initially started because we were getting disinfection by-products in our water distribution system as far out as our rural water supply with Northern Ohio Rural Water (NORW). There were not problems in the city and we investigated options and looked at different scenarios including equipment, chemicals, new materials and processes to help maintain NORW as a customer. There was one chemical (chlorine dioxide) presented, but when we approached the EPA, they were concerned with the splitting apart of the algae cells which would create more toxins in the water. This morphed into a project involving this, the harmful algal bloom experiences and the toxins, and both are critical so that we maintain safe levels for the public and they play off of each other as far as the chemicals and processes we use. We will be looking at coming up with an analysis, developing several options as listed in the scope of services as far as the algae is concerned, as well as the distribution itself by the City of Sandusky, Erie County and NORW. There have already been discussions with these groups about different things we could do and this will be a collaborative effort to see what the best operational and most cost efficient plan will be. Dennis Murray said when we talk about harmful algal blooms and the overloading of Lake Erie tributaries with phosphates, this is where the rubber hits the road and this will cost us and our rate-payers money to begin to further study how to deal with this problem. Down the road we anticipate the probability there will be

some engineering capital costs as well. Aaron Klein said based on the options presented, different options will be analyzed and they will figure out which one or two is best and will proceed with design and details. Dick Brady said it seems like a secondary benefit is the city will be able to sell water to service additional customers.

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

ITEM #8 – Submitted by Hank S. Solowiej, C.P.A.

APPROVING ALTERNATIVE DISTRIBUTION FORMULA FOR CY 2015

Budgetary Information: This formula provides a level percentage share of local government distribution funding for the 2015 calendar year. This will provide for the same share of this funding as it did for the years 2013 and 2014.

RESOLUTION NO. 050-14R: It is requested a resolution be passed **approving the alternative distribution formula for the undivided local government funding for Erie County for the calendar year 2015 as proposed by the Erie County Budget Commission;** 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 adopt this resolution.

Discussion: Hank Solowiej said this request will help allocate our percentage of local government funding as received by Erie County for 2015. This will be a one-year approval and maintains the same level we have had for the past two years. Dennis Murray said there is nothing terribly new with this and we continue to follow the same guidelines and the formula has not changed, although the state has reduced its funding.

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

ITEM #9 – Submitted by Hank S. Solowiej, C.P.A.

PAYMENT TO ARTHUR J. GALLAGHER & COMPANY FOR PROPERTY, CASUALTY AND LIABILITY INSURANCE COSTS FOR 12.1.14 – 11.30.14

Budgetary Information: The annual cost has become part of the annual operating budget and the City of Sandusky's total cost for 2014-2015 will be an amount not to exceed \$400,000. The insurance year is December 1, 2014 through November 30, 2015. Based on exposures, the cost will be distributed to the General Fund (\$234,000), Street Fund (\$34,800), Water Fund (\$62,280), and Sewer Fund (\$68,920). The prior year ordinance was passed by City Commission on November 25, 2013 (Ordinance No 13-124) that covered the period December 1, 2013 through November 30, 2014, for an amount not to exceed of \$390,000.

ORDINANCE NO. 14-134: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager and/or finance director to make payment to Arthur J. Gallagher & Company for property, casualty and liability insurance costs for the period of December 1, 2014, through November 30, 2015;** 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 Naomi Twine, the commission voted to approve this ordinance.

Discussion: Dennis Murray said Hank Solowiej explained to him this is what the Audit/Finance Committee set up last year to look at insurance alternatives. This insurer was chosen and we are simply renewing the policy. Hank Solowiej said two years ago the Audit/Finance Committee members were part of an involved process and there were six companies interested which was then narrowed down to two. This is not typically something we see every year but the rates are competitive and we will revisit this as necessary during the next several years.

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

**ITEM #10 – Submitted by John Orzech, Police Chief & Dave Degnan, Fire Chief
REPLACEMENT AND MAINTENANCE COSTS FOR 9-1-1 AGREEMENT**

Budgetary Information: There e total amount of this expenditure is \$16,961.47. The replacement cost is \$9,342.22 and the maintenance cost is \$7,619.25. The cost will be paid with funds from the Police Department's 2014 operating budget in the amount of \$8,480.73 and from the Fire Department's 2014 operating budget in the amount of \$8,480.74. The funds for this expenditure have been budgeted for in the Police and Fire's 2014 Operating Budgets.

ORDINANCE NO. 14-135: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing payment for replacement and maintenance costs pursuant to the 9-1-1 agreement between the City of Sandusky and Erie County;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the charter.

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

Discussion: Dennis Murray said this is routine and we have been doing this for quite some time. John Orzech said this is the cost for maintenance and upkeep for the 9-1-1 system in collaboration with Erie County. This is the city's portion of the cost which has been rather consistent through the years. Dick Brady said this is not to be confused with our cost on dispatching as one rate is based on calls, the other is based upon a percentage.

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

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$1,000 from Ruth Parker for the Oakland Cemetery Tree Fund. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$143.02 from Sandusky Bay Investments, Battery Park slip holders, for the drug task force. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$500 from Foster Chevrolet for the K-9 fund. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Scott Schell and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$100 from Edward Marks III and Victoria Marks for the Oakland Cemetery Tree Fund.

Eric Wobser said he would like to provide a **recommendation for the upcoming strategic planning process and comprehensive planning process** being undertaken. After the voters approved the passage of Issue 8 (1/4% increase in income tax) for the community, we will have new resources available. Many of these resources will be critical to sustain existing services as well as to provide an opportunity and it is imperative we do not go back to what we used to do, but to plan how to use our resources wisely to create a brighter future for Sandusky. Rather than rushing in to determine how we want to spend these resources to eliminate blight and/or attract economic development and rebuild our infrastructure, we want to refine our programs as strategically as possible. In addition, we have not updated our business Master Plan in eleven

years and Eric Wobser said he would like to present a draft RFQ to the commission at a future date for preparation of a Master Plan tied to the strategic planning process. Eric Wobser said he would like to have this completed around July 30, 2015, and obtain feedback from the commission for a potential budget and deliverables as well as determine specific issues to look at. Dennis Murray said he is glad Eric Wobser is looking at this and said the commission is very excited about it and the smart thing is to plan this out so we contract for revenues and investments in the city and will not have to go back to the voters in the future. Dennis Murray asked if Eric Wobser has a sense of when a revised budget will be presented. Eric Wobser said there have been preliminary conversations since presenting to the members of the Audit/Finance Committee, but hopes there will be an update in conjunction with the next committee meeting in December. The budget must be finalized by March 31 and there are things which need to be done prior. Eric Wobser said he is hoping to place staff members due to cuts which have taken place the past few years and would like to begin making these decisions and keep costs as minimal as possible so the additional monies approved by the voters will be ready to go with adoption of the strategic plan in June or July. Dennis Murray asked the next date for budget purposes as required by the Charter; Hank Solowiej said the budget must be passed by March 31 and there will be some general discussion at the December Audit/Finance Committee meeting. There will be due diligence so this can be presented and discussed. Once there are actual 2014 numbers, additional public discussion and public hearing(s) will be scheduled. Eric Wobser said since the passage of Issue 8, there has been an outpouring of excitement and ultimately, the staff and commission is excited by this momentum and optimism and we are excited to get things right because we did make a lot of promises throughout the course of the campaign. We believe this is a pivotal watershed moment for Sandusky and these next six months are critically important to ensuring these resources are invested in a way which provides for a future we all want to see for the city.

Eric Wobser said the city received correspondence from the **Erie County Veterans Memorial Park Committee requesting the adoption of a Master Site Plan for Veterans Memorial Park**. A copy of the letter from Mark Faust, President, and Steve Matune, Recording Secretary, was provided as well as a copy of the Master Plan as prepared by John Feick of Feick Design Group, Inc. Eric Wobser said this will be submitted through the Planning Commission and said this came up because it has always been an informal Master Plan but recently, there has been a strong sentiment to support Veterans from Sandusky and persons have stepped up to recognize them. During this process, a meeting was held with members of the Erie County Veterans Memorial Park Committee and Eric Wobser said he wanted to make sure if there was a Master Plan to be strategic in its implementation and not merely approve things as they come along, but to strategically be open to the donations as they relate to a Master Plan and then find appropriate sites for them. Wesley Poole asked why the Planning Commission needs to be involved with the Master Plan for Veterans Park and suggested if changes are being made to the Master Plan for this park, it should come before the commission so the public can look at it. Wesley Poole said this should be presented to the public as it belongs to the citizens opposed to the committee members. This park essentially exists as it is and changes or additions may be made to it. Eric Wobser said normally the city commission has relied on the members of the Erie County Veterans Memorial Park Committee to determine what does or does not get placed in this park. There was some confusion related to a new proposal and whether or not they should vet the addition and ultimately, Naomi Twine and Kelly Kresser worked together to meet with them to discuss how we might handle these issues in the future. It will ultimately be up to the commissioners whether these items will be left to the committee members and currently there is not a Master Plan in place. Eric Wobser said he has not been a part of the parks Master Planning process for the city during his short tenure; historically, in working with other employers, this would go through a Planning Commission process for recommendation to the City Council or Commission, but he is open to working toward the best way to bring this before the commission. Naomi Twine said this formalizes the process for the Veteran's Park Memorial Committee who have been overseeing the park. Recently, some ideas were presented for other things to be placed in the park and in order to formalize this, we wanted to put a process in place so things could not be placed haphazardly. Wesley Poole asked what the process is now or will be; the process is that the park belongs to the city as all parks do and any citizen who would like to utilize these parks for any reason should make a presentation to the city commission and they, speaking for the people, say this is a good idea or not. This process

already exists and this is the process which this committee followed when it started; subsequently, anything added to this park has followed the same process. Wesley Poole asked what the new process is. This is a public park and if we are going to change what is in it, this should go before the commission. Eric Wobser said the specific issue we are looking at changing is the mechanism to involve this private entity (the Erie County Veterans Park Committee). Any improvements to a specific park will be run through the administration and the Planning Commission to determine the plan coincides with any adopted Master Plan for the park and ultimately to adopt a Master Plan to make these improvements. Eric Wobser said he would like to create a five-year capital improvement plan as there are not a lot of Master Plans in place for our parks at all, including Veterans Park. He would like to systematically adopt this Master Plan so there are capital resources available to determine what happens at them. The second piece which applies specifically to Veterans Park is in addition to having our own Master Plan for the park so when someone wishes to make a permanent physical improvement to the park, there is a process in place to approve its placement. When this issue came up, Eric Wobser said he asked the engineer and greenhouse foreman to determine whether or not to make a recommendation to the commission and if this was aesthetically appropriate and feasible from an engineering perspective. They then began the process to recommend ultimately approving it, but in the process discovered the members of the Erie County Veterans Park Memorial Committee claimed they had a formal authority and nothing should be placed in this park without their oversight as they have a Master Plan which the city agreed to. Eric Wobser said a meeting was held with these committee members and city staff members and options were discussed to recognize their formal role to ensure a group of veterans support our commission. It was recommended this was not the best scenario and it was decided this Master Plan should be formally adopted so in the future, this committee would provide the oversight after adoption by the Planning Commission and City Commission. Ultimately, we had a group who believed they had formal authority and this is a compromise in which we can ensure their commitment to the park for the future. Wesley Poole said he is not big on starting new bureaucracy and the commission will ultimately decide, but there is a process in place and if we now want to add something to a specific park, the Planning Commission is deciding whether or not it should be there and he thinks what we are dealing with is a decision about the aesthetics and appropriateness, not whether it meets some legality about what the Planning Commission oversees. Wesley Poole said he would prefer the staff and commission maintain control of the parks since they are owned by the public rather than giving another body the authority to review something being added to a park. The veterans group is a special deal and we should never do anything in this park which is offensive to them, but turning over authority and essentially the decision-making about what goes in public parks to a private entity is not something he thinks is a good idea. Wesley Poole said he does envision if the staff is going to work with anyone else who wants to bring something into the park, they be merged together with this committee which has been doing this long-term and work something out as opposed to stepping back and saying we are going to have a process giving them the authority as the citizens would not be happy with shifting this authority. Dennis Murray said there was some miscommunication between the staff, members of the committee and individuals who wanted to make a contribution and part of this was due to changes in personnel at the city, but all concerned are now talking. There should have always been an informal process and this will remain the same with the staff and commission having the final authority on behalf of the residents in the community to decide what will happen. We are formalizing the consulting process which has already existed and was forgotten about for a short period of time.

Eric Wobser said he is proud to announce the **Lake Erie Shore & Islands Events Committee has awarded two grants to City of Sandusky's Recreation Division:**

1. \$4,500 for promotional expenses associated with the 2015 Rayovac FLW Series scheduled to take place August 26 – 28
2. \$4,250 for promotional expenses associated with the 2015 Bassmasters Northern Open scheduled to take place September 23 – 26

Eric Wobser said funding from Lake Erie Shores and Islands goes a long way toward attracting events and have a great deal of economic impact on the city.

Eric Wobser said a **Winter Fun Guide** was recently distributed which lists a large number of events, some of which are being undertaken by the city, others which are being marketed on behalf of others.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Upon motion of Dick Brady and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to sell 15 tons of salt to the Sandusky City School system at the city's cost (from last season).

Discussion: Dick Brady said he had an opportunity to have an informal discussion with the Facilities Manager of the Sandusky City School (SCS) system to share a dilemma regarding their purchase(s) of salt. Salt came in at \$147 per ton this season and the city was fortunate to go back into a previous contract to purchase it at \$33 - \$34 per ton. Without a formal request from the SCS, Dick Brady spoke with Aaron Klein and Don Icsman to research this and be proactive in reaching out to them to sell approximately 15 tons of surplus salt as we are sitting on approximately 2,100 tons of salt. Last year, during a very harsh winter, we used approximately 1,700 tons and Aaron Klein is comfortable considering the sale of 15 tons of salt to them so they can start the winter season. We will evaluate additional request from them as we go through winter based upon the harshness. This is not because of a formal request by the SCS. Dennis Murray asked Aaron Klein to confirm there are 15 tons of salt available and Aaron Klein said this amount is available to be sold to the school.

The President declared the motion passed.

Wesley Poole said members of the **ADA Advisory Board** met this week and they do not have a budget, but would like to purchase a 10' x 12' shelter to utilize at the Stars and Stripes celebration as they have borrowed one for the past several years. All departments could utilize this at other times and it will cost approximately \$300.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street, asked about the \$500,000 donation from Cedar Point and if it is year-to-year and how long it will last; Dennis Murray said the answer is 'yes'. Sharon Johnson asked about the legislation from admissions tax and Dennis Murray said he anticipates this will be on the December 8 commission agenda.

Andre Stockett, 202 Taylor Street, said there comes a time when a man needs to assume responsibility. As a city, a state and as a nation we are obligated to support those who implement policies that make up the moral standards of this country which shall be reflected by the many communities that make up this nation. If those who establish these policies allow themselves to not live up to the same standards as those who are affected by it, there is a problem. As policymakers and politicians, Andre Stockett said you have all failed in the way you have handled this civil infraction enforced by the police department. Police misconduct is destroying this nation with relationships between the police and the people they serve and you (the city commission) has done nothing nor said anything to the people to explain themselves about the actions of police officers. Andre Stockett also said you (the city) have yet to assume responsibility. The commission has been given a platform to be leaders and can step down from their bureaucratic high horse and show support for the people they serve instead of the people they work with. Andre Stockett said the city is hoping this goes away or that he says or does something stupid to compromise the integrity which he stands for now, but he is here to say do not hold your breath. No one has made an official statement to inform the public on what measures have been taken to ensure the safety of the citizens against police misconduct in the form of incrimination, intimidation and complete disregard of the safety and federal laws and policies the department supports. Andre Stockett said he realizes he was underestimated and

did not think a person with his background could be articulate or could change; the laws are too oppress a person like him and then turn around and vindicate the same individual and set him free from confinement and taken out of the negative statistical categories and into those with more positive implication. The city has shown arrogance and narcissism and said Eric Wobser stood by his officers and the only statement given by the Chief of Police had no facts and he danced around every question asked allowing the City Manager to stand by the problem going on in the police department. Andre Stockett said Eric Wobser has blindly made comments defending a department and he has no idea the internal problems it has. This is an excuse. Andre Stockett said Lynne Gast-King stated if the charges were dismissed and left like this it will, in turn, inform the officers in cases like this (where an officer has lied and obstructed justice and violated the civil rights of a person) to not be charged with obstruction, but in failure to comply because this will stick. These are hurtful words. Andre Stockett asked if Lynn Gast-King realized this cleared him of all wrongdoing but he accepts the responsibility which should vilify us when we are actually the victims, as in this particular case, which all falls back on policy. Andre Stockett said charging people for failure to comply instead of obstructing justice in these cases is left to be done. Andre Stockett asked Eric Wobser and John Orzech if they realize the seriousness of falsifying a police report and in cases where cameras are not present, the only evidence a Judge has in front of him is a sworn statement which can, and has, sent people to prison for what an officer alleges, but the city does not see this as a problem. The city has been aware of this for six years but has done nothing and if he were to falsify a police report, he can be jailed and fined, but these laws do not apply to the city. Andre Stockett said he attended a recent Human Relations Commission meeting about why Officer Estep has not been investigated and has conversed with several K-9 trainers and experts who have said the dog gave a false positive meaning the dog handler made the dog indicate there were drugs in the car yet no drugs were found, but people sit quietly as if nothing has happened. Dennis Murray indicated five minutes were up and Andre Stockett said silence is allowed to sell and he is accusing the city of a crime and the commission remains silent about broken laws. Andre Stockett challenged anyone to go on record and explain the position of the police department and do something and say something now.

Vicki Bird, 2114 Wilbert Street, said she was asked to come to the meeting with ideas. This is nothing personal and she means no offense, but we need to understand some statistics in the United States of America. Small cities, large cities, in urban and rural areas, there is a tolerance policy and people simply nod their heads 'yes'. Vicki Bird asked if anyone was familiar with the reference of a school-to-prison pipeline which has taken effect in this country since implementation of zero tolerance within our schools which is quite disproportionate. Vicki Bird said she is reading about children aged eight to ten years old being charged with crimes that are beyond what she can think of. Vicki Bird said there are policies which are supposed to be followed and training procedures implemented and when she says the Pledge of Allegiance it is liberty and justice for all no matter who we are, how old we are, or our standing in the community we live in. There is an organization called *Strategies for Youth and Gain Resistance, Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.)*, and this is where we should start. This program builds a community and teaches children life skills and ultimately this responsibility falls with us from beginning to end. Vicki Bird said she does not put a whole lot of blame on kids as they live what they learn and learn what they live by things they see and hear. Vicki Bird said she would like to start by reaching out with *Strategies for Youth*, the only 501-C-3 organization within the nation that offers nationwide training to police departments within schools. Their philosophy is a person who is developmentally competent recognizes children and youth in how to proceed, process and respond to situations as a function of their developmental stage, and secondly, their life and experiences. Developmentally competent adults align their expectations with responses as well as institutions and organizations to the developmental stages of the children and youth they serve. *Strategies for Youth* is an empowerment group development program and studies show U.S. police officers lack training for interacting with youth. In 2014 in Cambridge Massachusetts and the death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, has raised concerns about adequate police training with youth. This program provides police training for agencies throughout the United States and we must equip officers with the tools and skills to work effectively with youth and this works for teachers in our school system as well. Failure to do so is not good for teens nor for law enforcement, and recently, the Director of *Strategies for*

Youth said this group provides positive youth interactions and reduces disproportionate minority contact within organizations. Vicki Bird asked if not now, when? A survey of juvenile justice center training at police academies indicated American police spend six hours, on average, in their training which is less than one percent in total on juvenile justice topics. Less than nine academies throughout this country train officers in tactics and skills for communicating effectively with youth including those compromised by mental illness. We do not know how children are raised, we do not know what they go through, we do not know what they are born with or what they are dealing with. We need to take the children into consideration first and foremost if we want to make this city better and, in fact, we need to start focusing on the kids. Only eight academies made mention of the federal obligation for police departments to reduce disproportionate minority contact and a friend of hers called an expert in corrections who said New York, Oregon, Massachusetts and Maryland, a board member noted the absence of national law enforcement standards to guide and assess police interactions with youth is another way officers are not adequately equipped, but it is not always their fault, it is the training procedures. While progress has been made in police training during the last twenty years, a current study indicates only three states have implemented guidelines on policies for youth interactions. Vicki Bird said since 2013, this organization has called on the U.S. Department of Justice, Offices of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention about the Office Community-Oriented Policing having an absence of national standards to guide police youth interactions. While the details in the Ferguson incident remain under investigation, what is clear is national data on police about male teens of color: there are extreme disparities in arrests compared to court and police treatment. This organization, the community and law enforcement should, at the very least, be served a wake-up call to make officer training a priority. Vicki Bird said she is not disrespecting anyone here, but asked to do some research and pay attention; Sandusky is a beautiful city and she grew up in it and wants her children and grandchildren to continue living in it and speaks as a parent and a mother who has gone through the juvenile justice system and adult children who have paid their time and made their commitment and she herself has broken the law and three years ago got a D.U.I. and deserved it and did not fight it, although she argued with the State Highway Patrolman as she got her ride to S.R. 6 headquarters; she was also intoxicated and will not deny she was wrong. Vicki Bird said too much has gone on during the last ten years and there is a new group called Citizens for the Betterment of Sandusky and there is discussion about starting police substations and to please think really hard before doing this again. The last time there was a substation, Vicki Bird said she was not real comfortable with what happened. Vicki Bird said if she has something to say she will walk into the police department or will call the non-emergency number and does not want to go to a secret house.

Fred Farris said from what he saw a few minutes ago, everyone should be professional and Dennis Murray is no rookie and respects him as a person, but people should have the freedom of speech and the last time he was here, was rushed and could not speak and this is wrong too. Black people have rights too and cannot just put anything out of the way and should be able to take criticism in the job. In Sandusky, perhaps because of Ferguson, Missouri, black people are not being treated right. The city has found a good leader, but asked how the community can trust an officer who has made a false statement. Fred Farris said Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole and Naomi Twine fired City Manager Nicole Ard for not doing her job and it was impossible for her to satisfy the seven city commissioners. Fred Farris thanked Julie Farrar, Scott Schell and Jeff Smith for not following along with the other commissioners. What Officer Denny did was extreme and very difficult, unpleasant and inferior quality by breaking departmental rules and making false statements, lying, showing dishonesty and being highly disrespectful. He brought shame to the police department and to the citizens and community and should be held accountable for what he did. There are laws for blacks and laws and we need a justice system because of what he did, yet he only got a slap on the wrist, not justice. Officer Denny had no probable cause to stop Andre Stockett and Kathryn Denslow; they were stopped for racial profiling and harassment. Instead, Officer Denny received a one-month paid suspension and he should not be working. Nicole Ard was made to look like a black fool but this man was allowed to keep his job and this is racism. Fred Farris said something should be done about making false statements and his (Officer Denny) credibility is no good and the reports are untrue and he cannot be trusted and asked how he can show goodwill to the community. It is a

disgrace to the citizens of Sandusky, there is no professionalism, and this man should not be here in the City of Sandusky with his record. This man kept his job but asked how people can believe someone who lied and his credibility is shot. A lot of people are afraid to voice their opinion, but not him, and they are being treated like second class citizens and it is getting worse and worse every day.

Andre Stockett apologized for lashing out against Dennis Murray and speaking out about his character and said he was emotional at the time and he was under his time limit and timed himself over twenty times on his speech. Dennis Murray said he accepted this apology and apologized to Andre Stockett; these are tense conversations.

The President announced adjournment of the meeting at 6:22 p.m. the President announced adjournment.

Kelly L. Kresser, CMC
Clerk of the City Commission

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