

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

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

City staff present: John Orzech - Police Chief, Dave Degnan – Fire Chief, Aaron Klein – Engineer, Angie Byington – Chief Planner, Matt Lasko – Chief Development Officer, Brad Link – Public Services Director, Don Rumbutis – IT Manager, Don Icsman - Law Director, Hank Solowiej – Finance Director, Eric Wobser – City Manager and Kelly Kresser – Commission Clerk.

Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2015, city commission meeting and suspend the oral reading. The President declared the motion passed.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Sharon Johnson, said Item #5 is to pay the Erie County Economic Development Corporation (ECEDC) over the next five years including making up a payment for 2014. ECEDC is not under a signed contract with the city and she does not understand why the city has to make up a payment; this is their (ECEDC) fault and if they want to continue services, they should issue an invoice. Sharon Johnson said there should be a scope of services and a contract for this type of money. Dennis Murray said this item will be passed over until the next commission meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING

Dennis Murray opened the Public Hearing regarding the proposed CY 2015 budget for the City of Sandusky.

Eric Wobser said from another perspective, the budget is being proposed with increased revenue and an opportunity to increase services and productivity for the citizens and has been made possible because of the passage of Issue 8 which increased income taxes. The commission, in the beginning of 2014, made a comprehensive effort to let the residents know how dire the circumstances had become, in addition to a loss of state funding and the drop in the number of employees from 300 in 2004, to just over 200 in 2014. Pledges were made to the community to preserve safety services, invest in the city's infrastructure (streets, parks, trees and sidewalks), as well as to look at how we preserve the physical structures so they do not continue to decline, particularly our housing stock. Eliminating blight, increased code enforcement, and focusing on economic development/attracting investors and jobs to the city have also been identified as priorities. Because of this, voters for the first time approved approximately \$2.8 million of new revenue for the city which is included in this budget as well as an increase in expenses. It is important to highlight the city is holding back \$1.65 million in revenue specifically which will not touch operations or staff, but instead is meant to finance projects including pledges made as part of Issue 8. One million dollars will be earmarked toward new infrastructure specifically to repave streets considered ineligible for matching dollars. Some of the streets done more recently were eligible for matching dollars through the Metropolitan Planning Organization. We are also setting aside money for local streets and later this year will be presenting a formal five-year capital improvement planning process which will include results of the road survey, the comprehensive Master Plan and local utility projects (sewer and water lines). An additional \$400,000 will be dedicated to major infrastructure including the large projects which leverage state and federal dollars as dictated by the Master Plan. In the past we have set aside a portion of our CDBG funds for infrastructure improvements. In addition, we will set aside \$75,000 annually for vehicles as most of the vehicles in our service departments, other than in sewer and water, were purchased 10 – 16 years ago and this fleet is becoming old. We need a long-term plan in place for how to replace these vehicles and will put together a five-year plan to begin replacing these vehicles as soon as this year. Additionally, \$75,000 will be set aside for trees and sidewalks as trees are important for the city's economic and environmental health in general, and perhaps an increase in our

storm water funds would assist in this purpose. As part of the infrastructure improvements, \$55,000 is set aside for planning and design of projects by staff. An additional \$650,000 is being set aside specifically for the results of the strategic plan and comprehensive plan as economic development funding to save jobs, preserve vacant buildings and attract positive business to the city. There is a laundry list of items which may be funded but to put this in perspective, this is a serious investment in economic development for the city and we are making resources available to increase the amount of private investment in our buildings. Limited resources can go a long way toward targeting investment. The last \$250,000 is in the area of housing and blight elimination and specific programs have been identified but ultimately will determine how these dollars will be deployed after the completion of the strategic and comprehensive plans. Rehabilitation dollars to bring homes up to code, demolition dollars, remediation dollars and funding for land acquisition will all go a long way to help with several years of decline with blighted properties. This leverages potential dollars which have come through the County's land bank and we need to make our local dollars work to begin tackling this blight. Eric Wobser said the city was projecting a deficit of approximately \$500,000 before the passage of Issue 8. This deficit grew to approximately \$800,000 after receiving an estimate of \$500,000± for health care for the coming year which is a significant increase from the previous year. The city also made a pledge with public safety and honored this through the operating budgets of the police and fire departments.

Eric Wobser said John Orzech would like to add one police officer and then reassign one current officer to the position of Community Impact Officer with the additional funds generated by Issue 8. He will begin to tackle quality of life issues and nuisance issues. In addition, according to the 2010 ICMA study, there are too many detectives doing paperwork which takes them away from actual investigatory tasks and it was suggested adding an administrative assistant position to the department to assist them as well as to track nuisance and false alarm claims. After so many violations, there needs to be a billing structure (which is not in place currently) and this will allow the department to collect more revenues. Eric Wobser said there were 47 full-time equivalents (FTE) in the police department in 2014 but with the passage of this budget, this number would increase to 49. This includes hiring one additional officer and one administrative assistant. One current police officer would be reassigned as the community impact officer. There are plans to hire three new police officers in 2015 but two of them are because of retirements in the department.

Eric Wobser said Dave Degnan's recommendation for the fire department is not to hire new, rather, to release targeted overtime dollars allowing us to preserve services and keep all three fire stations open 24/7 without brownouts. Permanent hires in the fire department will be delayed. With these increase investments, we will honor the pledge and commitments made with Issue 8 funds. Dennis Murray said he cannot remember the last time a budget was taken up in early February and thanked the department heads who worked to bring all of this together with a totally different budget picture after the vote in November. The city has the luxury of time to consider this over the course of at least two meetings. Eric Wobser thanked Hank Solowiej and the staff in the Finance Department as they were very accommodating in putting all of this together. Eric Wobser said the highlight of the fire department is to maintain 47 fire fighters, one administrative assistant plus the fire chief in 2015. The 2015 fire department budget dedicates new resources to ensuring all three of the city's fire stations remain open at all times and it accomplishes this by freeing up overtime resources necessary to maintain staffing flexibility. Long-term decisions on new hires for the department will be made as a part of the 2016 budgeting process after monitoring service levels this year. Dave Degnan said he would like to hire new fire fighters, but with the increase in the health care costs and renegotiation of the current contract taking place later this year, it would not be affordable. We can do the job very effectively with current staffing and he would rather improve upon training and equipment so the fire fighters can do a much better job. Eric Wobser said the commission has pledged one quarter of one percent of the income tax dollars for safety services and this would allow us to do more than what this budget shows. Health care costs need to be brought under control this year as this is not sustainable as currently funded. Traditionally our police and fire departments are staff heavy because of the services they provide, and these increases limit our ability to add staffing in these departments.

Eric Wobser said the Public Works Department has been restored and the highlights are the \$1 million from Issue 9 to implement projects as well as significant capital projects for both sewer and water. The management of these projects will be a major obligation for this department as we move forward and we want to plan well for these investments. The five-year capital plan will be up and running by the end of the year and tied to the strategic plan. There were several capital projects already planned prior to the passage of Issue 8 including Warren Street, Camp Street, Perkins Avenue, Columbus Avenue, the traffic signal at Columbus Avenue and Parish Street, Water Street and Curran Street improvements. There were four FTE's in 2014 in this department and this will be increased to five in 2015 as they have saved resources by transitioning tasks into different areas. The water department budget will be affected by going from 13 to 14 FTE's, in large part because Doug Keller plans to retire at the end of the year and his replacement will be hired prior to his departure to provide overlap. The sewer plant and sewer collections will be holding at the same numbers in 2015.

Dennis Murray said he does not recall the commission voting on a capital budget and asked when this will be presented. Eric Wobser said this will be driven by the Comprehensive Plan and the pavement condition report and a five-year capital plan will be brought for commission approval, including budget numbers. Eric Wobser said he believes the fall of each year would be a good time to present this. Aaron Klein said he would like to get something started right away although it may be fall before approvals of projects to take place in 2016. Dennis Murray asked if the commission has traditionally voted on a capital budget and Don Icsman said when the city had money, there was an approved capital budget and this is refreshing. Some projects are already forthcoming if approved by contract, and projects are approved one by one so the commission would see them as the contracts are approved, as well as when the capital budget is presented for approval. Dennis Murray said this works for the commission to know what is in the plans and they have buy-in and support. There are capital dollars being invested as a result of Issue 8, but ordinary receipt of income taxes allow 6.25% for capital projects. Eric Wobser said this process will be as transparent as possible through updating of the Comprehensive Plan which will not sit on a shelf; it will help us to tie investments into the Comprehensive Plan with long-term investments.

Eric Wobser said the Community Development Department includes the Sandusky Transit System, Planning and Zoning, Economic Development, Building Division, Code Enforcement and Housing. It is recommended to increase this department to 14 FTE's in 2015; in 2004, there were 19.5 persons working in these divisions of the city. While this is an increase in staffing, this department realized the largest decreases in staffing during times of recession. Eric Wobser said there have been commitments made to the community to preserve and maintain our housing stock while at the same time attracting development and this is putting our money where our mouth is. Staff will be put into place to ensure the programs and projects in economic development and housing are completed. There will be one housing officer to bring back zoning inspections and housing inspections with a focus on rentals and commercial inspection; the commission has made this a priority. This also includes a community development management position which is being posted currently; it will pay for itself. We do a lot of project management with CDBG funds but this position will help us to bring more programs back in-house as well as manage grants the city makes to others. We are taking on a lot of responsibility to make sure these grants are maintained to the letter of the law and this will allow us to provide more direct oversight throughout the course of the year and to pursue grants available to the city. This person will also assist with new housing programs, oversee the attraction of new business and the existing Revolving Loan Fund and the creation of new funds. Matt Lasko said the code enforcement division has been terribly depleted but with the addition of the new code enforcement inspector, they will be able to be on the streets and diversify how this department is being utilized for zoning and nuisance violations with an increase in building inspections focusing on rental housing. Matt Lasko said he would like to aggressively get this up to a fourth person in 2016 if the need is there. We need to hit a level of stabilization and this is where code enforcement comes in and we will get more aggressive with this.

Eric Wobser said the Public Services Department has a new director, Brad Link, to manage the divisions housed in the service center on a day-to-day basis. In 2014, there were 27 FTE's in this

department; in 2015, this number will increase to 30 or 31. The Forestry Division has greatly reduced their services and our urban forest is important to maintaining property values and one full-time Maintenance II position will be added, although it will not necessarily be exclusively a forestry position. We have too many divisions within public services and would like to consolidate four divisions into two: the forestry and greenhouse operation will be consolidated into Horticultural Services and a Chief Foreman position will be created and an existing staff person will be promoted. The Forestry and Greenhouse employees will be cross-trained and work where needed and will broaden the ability to do the necessary work on a day-to-day basis. The Grounds Maintenance Division provides maintenance in parks and playgrounds and will be consolidated with Building Maintenance to become a Property Maintenance Division with a Chief Foreman position. The most important piece of this is promoting from within the divisions and cross-training employees. New part-time and/or seasonal employees will also be hired to help keep up with the work needed to be done in our parks and public areas. Dennis Murray said he appreciates the thought given to the organizational chart and said some responsibilities have been broken apart while others have been consolidated. It has taken a lot of time and he is grateful to Eric Wobser for doing this work. Eric Wobser said he wished to give a great deal of credit to the department directors regarding the departmental structure and could not feel better about the direction we are heading and the team in place. This starts with the commission and their empowerment to the City Manager and it does feel like a supportive, collaborative environment where everyone is pulling together. Dennis Murray said the commissioners would like to see an updated organizational chart for each department showing where we will be later in 2015 as well as in 2016.

Eric Wobser said this is a good transition point and it is critically important to put some resources into the administrative side of things as well. Similar to public service, we have taken a great deal of hits in staffing levels and one issue has been adding an Assistant Law Director on a part-time or full-time basis to assist the Law Director in reducing outside legal costs. Some new resources have been put into the Law Department budget to help Don Icsman make a decision about what type of a position he would like to add. Eric Wobser said he and the Commission Clerk have together added the position of Administrative Assistant by hiring McKenzie Spriggs. A lot of time is spent on day to day duties which keep them from high level duties and previously there were 5½ FTE's between these offices. Eric Wobser said with three people in these two departments, it is adequate at this time.

Eric Wobser said both the Human Resources and Information Technology Divisions within the Administrative Services Department should be supplemented with additional staff and this is being analyzed to best determine how. The status quo is not sustainable and we need to be as fully staffed as possible, especially while heading into contract negotiations. Eric Wobser said he has spent time on service delivery, but there are deficiencies in this area and plans will be put together to facilitate making this better for everyone.

Julie Farrar said the information provided is very in depth and everything the community has asked for and voted for is in black and white; she has every confidence in the team put together and feels very hopeful for the city. This is not about building anything new, it is what Eric Wobser has written into this budget document.

Hank Solowiej said we are starting off the year at \$4.2 million and projecting to the end the year with \$4.3 million which will leave us with an ending balance of approximately 22%. This is a good range and we will continue to work to build this percentage up. We are using resources and this percentage may be a little lower, but we will work on it for the long term. The members of the Audit/Finance Committee, through the support of Issue 8, will be another set of eyes or a safeguard for the community to ensure we are accurately reporting what the resources are being spent on. Hank Solowiej thanked them for their willingness to step up to the task of holding the city responsible and doing what they said they would do. At their January meeting, the members voted to unanimously approve the budget document as submitted to the commissioners. Health insurance will be an issue and the committee members have agreed to help look at this with us. Dennis Murray said the financial statements

are on the city's website each month and citizens can see how our money is being spent as compared to previous years and this is a very transparent process.

Dick Brady said at this point in time where we go from playing defense to playing offense, having money makes a big difference. We did not need a capital budget when we did not have capital to spend, but now we do and we now will have the opportunity to do something about many of the promises made. We can make a stand and make a change in housing and in code enforcement and we can keep the Venice Road fire station open. We now have money, a plan and an obligation. Naomi Twine thanked the city staff for their ability to work together to make sure we fulfill the promises made. Naomi Twine thanked Eric Wobser for his leadership.

Dennis Murray asked if there were any comments from the public.

Mark Norman, 1016 Third Street, said he is excited and said Eric Wobser made a remarkable presentation and has command of the details. This is the most impressive performance he has seen and the staff is part of the conversation at the meetings. Mark Norman said Eric Wobser is not just with his own leadership, he is hiring people through his reach and experience to bring people here with specific skills.

The President declared the Public Hearing closed.

CURRENT BUSINESS

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

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

SECOND READING

AMENDMENT TO PART NINE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES (WATER REGULATIONS AND RATES)

Budgetary Information: The purpose of this modification of the Water Regulations and Rates Ordinance is to increase rates to fund capital improvements to the water utility and provide for operation and maintenance costs.

ORDINANCE NO. 15-020: It is requested an ordinance be passed **amending Part Nine (Streets, Utilities and Public Services Code), Title Three (Utilities), Chapter 939 (Water Regulations and Rates), Section 939.10 (Water Turn-on) and Section 939.13 (City Rates) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Sandusky in the manner and way specifically set forth hereinbelow.**

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

Discussion: Dennis Murray said this legislation was presented at the last commission meeting and a very lengthy and detailed presentation was made about this Item as well as for Item #2. Members of the Audit/Finance Committee also took up this question and the two largest users of water and sewer services in the community are represented on this committee (Cedar Point and Firelands Regional Medical Center) and they recommended approval of these new rates.

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

ITEM #2 – Submitted by Aaron Klein, P.E.

SECOND READING

AMENDMENT TO PART NINE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES (SEWER REGULATIONS AND RATES)

Budgetary Information: The purpose of this modification of the Sewer Regulations and Rates Ordinance is to increase rates to fund improvements associated with the wastewater utility,

provide for operation and maintenance costs and meet mandated improvements by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

ORDINANCE NO. 15-021: It is requested an ordinance be passed amending Part Nine (Streets, Utilities and Public Services Code), Title Three (Utilities), Chapter 933 (Sewer Regulations and Rates), Sections 933.07 (Definitions), 933.25 (Rates) and 933.28 (Miscellaneous Charges) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Sandusky in the manner and way specifically set forth hereinbelow.

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

ITEM #3 - Submitted by Amanda Meyers, Paralegal

SECOND READING

ACCEPTING PROPERTY THROUGH THE LAND REUTILIZATION PROGRAM

Budgetary Impact: There is no cost associated with this property transaction, other than administrative costs associated with taking the time to meet with each of the boards of the taxing districts. The property will remain exempt from taxation.

ORDINANCE NO. 15-022: It is requested an ordinance be passed approving that certain real property be retained by the city for devotion to public use as a public parking lot for the Sandusky Transit System.

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

ITEM #4 – Submitted by Dave Degnan, Fire Chief

SECOND READING

AUTHORIZATION TO MAKE GRANT APPLICATION FOR PURCHASE OF PATIENT POWER COTS

Budgetary Information: We are seeking \$40,000.00 from the OBWC to purchase the powered cots. The OBWC will fund 75% of the cost for the purchase of the cots up to \$40,000.00. Each power cot costs \$14,650.96. The total cost for four powered cots is \$58,603.84. The remaining balance of \$18,603.84 will be paid with EMS Funds.

RESOLUTION NO. 006-15R: It is requested a resolution be passed authorizing the filing of a grant application to the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation for the safety intervention grant program for the Sandusky Fire Department.

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

ITEM #5

PASSED AT FIRST READING: It is requested an ordinance be passed making general appropriations for the fiscal year 2015; and declaring this ordinance be passed at first reading.

Upon motion of Dick Brady and second of Julie Farrar the commission voted to approve this ordinance at first reading.

Discussion: Wesley Poole thanked the staff for all of the work they put into this and said this is the most information he has had going into the budget process since he has been here. Wesley Poole said he will vote yes on this at the first reading but now that he has the information, he would like some time to go through it and will get with the staff between now and the next meeting and determine how much money we spend in each area and program(s) to flesh out some details. For example, Wesley Poole said budgeting \$75,000 for trees does not seem to be enough and he would like to see what the plan is for this before he gets fully behind it. The

decision for the Fire Department to invest in training to directly provide an improved service with a measurable result is what he is looking for. The positions hired up to now were good ones and it is obvious we needed them, but as we get deeper into the departments and their hires, he would like to get more comfortable about what the outcome will be before adding them. He would like additional conversation about measurable results and benefits to the community for what we are doing.

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

**ITEM #6 – Submitted by Angela Byington, Director of Neighborhood Development & Planning
SALE OF PROPERTY ON PIPE STREET**

Budgetary Information: The proposed sale of land does not have a negative impact on the city's budget and will provide approximately \$45,000 of revenue, which will be deposited into the general fund.

ORDINANCE NO. 15-023: It is requested an ordinance be passed **declaring that certain real property owned by the city, identified as parcel #57-64018.000 and located on Pipe Street, is no longer needed for any municipal purpose and authorizing and directing the city manager to enter into an agreement to sell the designated real property to Scott McCune;** 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 under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Wesley Poole asked if there is a plan for disposition of this revenue and noted the commission should give thought to setting aside these types of funds in the future for acquisition or new development. Eric Wobser said this property has been underutilized by the city and previously was a tree farm. The property was placed on the market in 2011 and has been since that time. Scott Biechele did not receive an offer during that time, but recently received one from the property owner to the North of this parcel. The proposed purchaser put in an offer at a slightly higher price per acre which was discussed internally; based on the fact it is surplus property for the city and had a good comparable, the documents were drafted for the sale. Eric Wobser said it is a good practice to set aside monies made by sale of property into a fund for the ability to purchase another permanent or fixed asset and agrees with this recommendation. Dick Brady said he checked the Auditor's website and the value is listed at approximately \$150,000 but not to be fooled by this; the market always sets the price and the city has not had an offer in four years because the value was not realistic. Dick Brady does not want the public to get the feeling the city is selling assets at a fire sale discount and we have found out the parcel is actually worth \$45,000 through this sale. Dick Brady said the idea of setting aside these kinds of proceeds for future economic development purposes is a terrific one and perhaps we can put a policy in place to figure out what to do with these kinds of monies as properties are sold.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Wesley Poole, Scott Schell, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Jeff Smith, Naomi Twine and Julie Farrar, 7. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Wesley Poole, Scott Schell, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Jeff Smith, Naomi Twine and Julie Farrar, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

ITEM #7 – Submitted by Amanda Meyers, Paralegal

SALE OF PARCELS ON COLUMBUS AVENUE THROUGH LAND REUTILIZATION PROGRAM

Budgetary Information: The cost associated with this purchase and sale agreement is the total amount of the title examination, deed preparation, escrow fees and any other customary fees that may be due and payable in the ordinary course of the sale and purchase transaction. The city will recoup these expenses from the purchase price paid by the purchasers. However, the

city will not recoup the delinquent taxes for which it was foreclosed upon in the approximate amount of \$21,855.32. Upon the sale of this property, the taxing districts will begin collecting approximately \$3,564.90 per year in real estate taxes. The sale, rehabilitation and owner-occupancy of this property will revitalize the neighborhood and enhance surrounding property values. It will also provide the opportunity for a low income family to become responsible homeowners and be removed from public housing assistance.

ORDINANCE NO. 15-024: It is requested an ordinance be **passed declaring that certain real property owned by the city as part of the land reutilization program identified as Parcel No's. 57-03723.000 and 57-03724.000, located at 2012 Columbus Avenue, Sandusky, are no longer needed for any municipal purpose and authorizing the execution of a purchase and sale agreement with respect to that real property;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Julie Farrar the commission voted to approve this ordinance under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Dennis Murray asked for some background regarding this property. Amanda Meyers said this property has been owned by the city for quite some time and is positioned next to the railroad tracks which is probably not the best place. Several civic groups looked at the property, but it is set up more for a home than for any other use; it is zoned residential. The proposed purchasers, Jevin and Cassandra Florio, visited the property in December with a contractor to know exactly what they were looking at. Initially, the land bank committee turned the proposal down because they did not think it would have been a viable situation with the property taxes and insurance. Mr. and Mrs. Florio, who were subject to a house fire in Port Clinton in 2008 came back with a significant budget according to their income and payments. They have been on Erie Metropolitan Housing since, but will be able to get off of public housing which is a big step for them. With the budget created, this is viable and the members of the land bank committee thought so as well. Matt Lasko said this purchase request was initially denied by the committee members but after requesting further financial documentation, was reconsidered to ensure this could remain a viable household in the long-term. Part of this assessment is to understand from a household expense standpoint whether income exceed expenses. A traditional bank may require at 25% down payment while the buyers were only able to place 15% down. From a debt to income ratio, overall household debt would be 40% while the Florio's were at 25%, a significantly lower threshold than a traditional lender would look at. It is important, moving forward, for the land bank to be used for rehabilitation and owner occupancy rather than demolition and to crystalize how we do the financial analyses. Dennis Murray said this is somewhat unusual, but stated he is going to vote yes because of the Florio's' tenacity; this is the kind of thing we would like to see in the city and we have a good land bank committee which vetted this and determined it appropriate and he is happy to support it. Julie Farrar said the money being earmarked for code enforcement and the land bank started to help with blight when there was not any money. We do not always demolish properties, rather, we try to find someone who will make them their own and bring them up to a livable standard and help the city with blight. Julie Farrar said she toured the house last year and is happy to be voting yes for this. Jeff Smith said after reading this story, he is happy the Florio's have taken the tools and done what is necessary to "get off of the system". Naomi Twine expressed her thanks to the Florio's and said she will be voting yes. Dick Brady said so often we sit through legislation and tear houses down, but he does not want to live in a city with a bunch of empty lots. This is the outgrowth of how the land bank has evolved to help the city. Scott Schell said he knows in his experiences, the land bank sometimes picks up properties and can provide more hope and promise with putting families in homes rather than demolishing them and wished the Florio's lots of luck.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Wesley Poole, Scott Schell, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Jeff Smith, Naomi Twine and Julie Farrar, 7. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Wesley Poole, Scott Schell, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Jeff Smith, Naomi Twine and Julie Farrar, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

ITEM #8 – Submitted by Amanda Meyers, Paralegal**ACCEPTING PROPERTY INTO THE LAND REUTILIZATION PROGRAM**

Budgetary Information: The estimated cost associated with these acquisitions will be approximately \$795 which includes title exams, recording fees and transfer fees, of which the city will recoup upon sale. The taxing districts will not collect the \$34,258.47 owed in delinquent property taxes, nor the \$7,831.94 owed in penalties and interest, totaling \$42,090.41. The city will not collect the \$16,900.70 owed to the city for special assessments. However, upon sale, the city will be able to recoup some of the delinquent taxes and special assessments. By returning this nonproductive land to tax producing status, the taxing districts will begin collecting approximately \$1,732.53 yearly in real estate taxes after demolition for which the tax base will increase upon redevelopment.

RESOLUTION NO. 007-15R: It is requested a resolution be **passed approving and accepting certain real property for acquisition into the land reutilization program;** 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 under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Amanda Meyers said most of these properties acquired will be for demolition purposes. Scott Schell said these properties which the city and county land bank committees have been working to acquire will ultimately be taken down through the neighborhood initiative program. A MOU has been prepared and is ready to go. This does get us started in the right direction. Amanda Meyers said some of these properties have been a long-term blight on the community and the only one salvageable is 230 Center Street. Dennis Murray said there is a strategy for collecting and holding properties for future redevelopment.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Wesley Poole, Scott Schell, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Jeff Smith, Naomi Twine and Julie Farrar, 7. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the resolution: Yeas: Wesley Poole, Scott Schell, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Jeff Smith, Naomi Twine and Julie Farrar, 7. The President declared the resolution passed in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

ITEM #9 – Submitted by Matthew Lasko, Chief Development Officer**PAYMENT TO ERIE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FOR FY 2014, 2015 & FY 2016****THIS ITEM WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE NEXT CITY COMMISSION MEETING****ITEM #10 – Submitted by Aaron Klein, P.E.****EMERGENCY REPAIR WORK AT BIG ISLAND WATER WORKS**

Budgetary Information: The cost of the crane rental from All Erection & Crane Rental as quoted for \$2,560, and the repair of the screens by Underwater Screening Service as quoted for \$42,000. The total to the water fund is \$44,560.

ORDINANCE NO. 15-025: It is requested an ordinance be **passed repealing Ordinance 15-010 and authorizing and directing the city manager to expend the necessary funds for the emergency repair work to be performed at the Big Island Water Works plant by Underwater Screening Services of Forty-Fort, Pennsylvania in the revised amount of \$42,000;** 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 under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Dick Brady said when this was passed the first time, the labor costs were not accounted for.

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

Naomi Twine and Julie Farrar, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

**ITEM #11 – Submitted by Victoria Kurt, Recreation Program Supervisor
APPROVAL TO FILE GRANT APPLICATION FOR RECREATION DIVISION**

Budgetary Information: There is no budgetary impact. These grants require no matching funds from the city and will be used as partial funding for the costs of the projects. If grants are denied, the summer playground program will still occur but will cause downsizing of activities, equipment and supplies in order to fit the recreation department's budget.

RESOLUTION NO. 008-15R: It is requested a resolution be passed **approving the submission of a grant application to the Wightman Wieber Foundation for the recreation department, and, if awarded, authorizing the city manager to execute any required agreements;** and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to approve this resolution under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Dennis Murray said this is a grant application for the arts and crafts portion of the summer playground program.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Wesley Poole, Scott Schell, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Jeff Smith, Naomi Twine and Julie Farrar, 7. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the resolution: Yeas: Wesley Poole, Scott Schell, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Jeff Smith, Naomi Twine and Julie Farrar, 7. The President declared the resolution passed in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

**ITEM #12 – Submitted by Victoria Kurt, Recreation Program Supervisor
APPROVAL OF 2015 FEE SCHEDULE FOR MILLS CREEK GOLF COURSE**

Budgetary Information: The current fee schedule will not negatively impact the general fund. It is the desire of these fees to continue to increase the overall usage of the course through memberships, punch cards and daily paid rounds while maintaining operations of the course. We will strive to be the area's lowest-priced golf course while still providing a quality experience to our golfers attracting both locals and visitors.

ORDINANCE NO. 15-026: It is requested an ordinance be passed **approving the fee schedule for the Mills Creek Golf Course established by the city manager pursuant to Section 973.02 of the codified ordinances of the City of Sandusky;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Wesley Poole the commission voted to approve this ordinance under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Dick Brady asked Brad Link to share the news about our fees for Mills Creek Golf Course and Brad Link said the fees will stay the same; they were raised in CY 2014.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Wesley Poole, Scott Schell, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Jeff Smith, Naomi Twine and Julie Farrar, 7. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Wesley Poole, Scott Schell, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Jeff Smith, Naomi Twine and Julie Farrar, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

**ITEM #13 – Submitted by Kelly Kresser, CMC & Commission Clerk
LIQUOR PERMIT TRANSFER REQUEST**

A request has been received from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control for a liquor permit transfer of D4 (Private Club – beer and any intoxicating liquor to members only, for on premises consumption only until 1 a.m.) and D6 (Sale of intoxicating liquor on Sunday between the hours

of 10 a.m. or 11 a.m. and midnight) **permits for the Athletic Club of Sandusky, Inc. from 223 West Water Street to 805 West Water Street. It is requested the commission clerk be authorized to notify the Ohio Division of Liquor Control the city has no objection to this transfer.**

Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted for the commission clerk to notify the Ohio Division of Liquor Control the city has no objection to this request. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Wesley Poole, Scott Schell, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Jeff Smith, Naomi Twine and Julie Farrar, 7. The President declared the motion passed.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Eric Wobser thanked Sally Poggiali and Hank Solowiej for their contribution toward obtaining the **three donations received for the operation of the Sandusky Transit System.**

Upon motion of Scott Schell and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$10,000 from the City of Vermilion for the Sandusky Transit System. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$7,500 from Vermilion Community Services for the Sandusky Transit System. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Scott Schell, the commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$300 from the Harbortown Community Church for the Sandusky Transit System. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Scott Schell, the commission voted to pay the FY 2015 - 2016 Erie County Chamber of Commerce annual dues in the amount of \$364. The President declared the motion passed.

Eric Wobser said the **plans for the Warren Street project** are complete and bids are due February 10.

Eric Wobser asked residents for their assistance in **clearing snow from fire hydrants in front of their properties** to make it easier for our first responders to access these in case of emergency.

Eric Wobser said the **SPD and the Buffalo Soldiers hosted an event** at the Thirsty Pony last week about what to do when stopped by a police officer. John Orzech said this was well attended and was live-streamed on the Sandusky Register's website. Our officers will be going through similar training in April and he looks forward to continuing the dialogue with the community.

Eric Wobser said the proposals for the **Bicentennial Visioning process including the strategic visioning for the city and an update for the comprehensive Master Plan** are due February 23. A meeting will be held this week with a group to be responsible for the consultant selection process, and if the commissioners are interested in being on this committee to let him know.

Eric Wobser said the **Public Services Division**, led by Brad Link and Dave Borsick, should be commended for **handling the recent snow storm very well** and said the service provided was very strong. Employees worked over 312 hours handling the snow and an additional 220 hours were spent by other departments in assisting these employees; 336 tons of salt were used during the course of the storm. Dennis Murray said the community noted this great job and they are now also noticing the potholes. With more permanent improvement dollars, we will continue to patch the streets. Brad Link said his staff did a great job and gives credit to them.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

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

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street, said the potholes are opening up again on Fifth Street and we will lose the street if it does not get done this year.

The President announced a recess of the regular session at 6:40 p.m. At 6:43 p.m., the commission went into executive session. At 6:51 p.m., the President announced adjournment of the meeting.

Kelly L. Kresser, CMC
Clerk of the City Commission

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