

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

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

**City staff present:** Phil Frost – Assistant 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 Scott Schell, the commission voted to excuse Dick Brady. The President declared the motion passed.**

Dennis Murray asked everyone to stand for a **moment of silence in honor of Ruth Parker** who was Sandusky's first lady in so many ways. Many here were privileged to know her and she was a lady with remarkable intelligence, grit and compassion and combined what she did with the assets she was lucky enough to have in the world, along with her devotion and time. There are so many things we are thankful for in the City of Sandusky too great to mention, many of which have been heralded in the newspaper this week. Dennis Murray said we can take advantage of the richness Sandusky has to offer and said Ruth Parker believed in Sandusky's renaissance and was a key part of making sure some of the key institutions remain viable during some tough years; these include the Sandusky State Theatre, Shoreline Park, the Merry Go Round Museum and Firelands Regional Medical Center which are very strong institutions and said we are grateful to her.

**Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2015, city commission meeting and suspend the oral reading. The President declared the motion passed.**

#### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

None.

#### **PROCLAMATIONS**

Dennis Murray said the community has been blessed with advocates over the years with different backgrounds, styles and issues. There are two men who recently passed away whose memory is being honored tonight.

Dennis Murray presented a **Proclamation to the family of Barry Riddle**. Dennis Murray said Barry Riddle was a remarkable man who fought for protection of our water and storm water management. He helped build the Pipe Creek Pathway and was the first "citizen" water quality monitor even before the city had its formal program. John Riddle thanked the City of Sandusky for honoring his father on behalf of his brothers and other family members. Both parents were extremely proud of being born in the State of West Virginia, but were equally proud of living in Sandusky and raising their family here. John Riddle said his father never met a stranger and could spark a conversation with anyone; many of these conversations led to his passion for change and improvement in the city and county. He loved being part of the Pipe Creek Watershed and testing and met many new people he was proud to call friends. It is a comfort to know these efforts are still being recognized after Barry's passing.

Dennis Murray presented a **Proclamation to the family of Don Schwanger**. Dennis Murray said there are advocates with different styles in any community and Don Schwanger had a very different style and could sometimes be irascible, but whether he or someone else won an argument, Don was just as friendly as ever the next day and the clock was reset, and it was time to take on the next battle. He was straight with his facts, passionate with his advocacy, and a fine example for all of us and his spirit lives on in his son, Tim. Don, in many ways, was also a

canary in the coal mine by advocating for public waterfront access at a time when we were still looking at the waterfront as a disposal ground. Dennis Murray said it is hard to believe the land we sit on today was once a site where we dumped the spoils from the sewer treatment plant and this shows how little regard we gave to our waterfront. Don Schwanger would never claim sole credit for this, but he knew we were sitting on a jewel and knew he should fight to preserve it. This is the kind of healthy debate we should have and public access along the waterfront is important. Tim Schwanger thanked the City of Sandusky for honoring his father and said his dad's battle with public waterfront access began in approximately 1962 and he (Tim) had a lot of time to "learn from the master". One comment made by his father was in response to the question about why he (Don) fights for waterfront access when he had a boat; he said it would be selfish not to push for those folks not fortunate enough to have a boat or to know someone with a boat. The Sandusky Bay Pathway is used by fishermen, walkers and cyclists and we want a walkable city. His legacy will continue with the Save Our Shoreline Parks group.

### **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**

##### **SECOND READING**

**ORDINANCE NO. 15-027**: It is requested an ordinance be passed **making general appropriations for the fiscal year 2015**; 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:* Dennis Murray said there was a lengthy and complete discussion about this item at the last meeting, and questions have been posed and answered since that time. Wesley Poole thanked Eric Wobser and the staff for answering questions and said details have been provided for issues and programs. As we move into 2015, there will be more discussions about specifics and adjustments to the plan and he is feeling good about this. Dennis Murray said some of the budget items are place markers which will be fleshed out and adjusted moving forward as the strategic plan is developed. Sandusky is the beneficiary of additional funds, but we will put a concrete plan into place as to how the funds will be spent. Dennis Murray said some positions are earmarked for hire, but will not be made until completely fleshed out. The budget is a work in progress with the staff and the public through the strategic plan. Eric Wobser said he received a lot of great questions and would like to reiterate we will be moving quickly on some aspects of the budget, including seasonal hires. We will make sure the commissioners and the public are both informed and there is already a Community Impact Officer in place as part of the 2015 budget for the Police Department. We will be monitoring how effective new positions are at the end of this year and are excited about the collaborative process with the finance office and the commissioners. Dennis Murray said it is February and we are having the second of two votes on the budget and this is historic in and of itself.

**Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole, Julie Farrar, Dennis Murray, Scott Schell and Jeff Smith, 6. The President declared the ordinance passed in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

#### **ITEM #2 – Submitted by Matthew Lasko, Chief Development Officer**

##### **CREATION OF REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT FUND**

**Budgetary Information:** Beginning in 2015, all gross proceeds received by the city from the sale of city-owned real estate exceeding \$45,000 shall be deposited into the proposed special revenue fund designated as the Real Estate Development Fund. Beginning in 2016 and beyond,

all gross proceeds received by the city from the sale of city-owned real estate shall be deposited in the same special revenue fund.

**PASSED AT FIRST READING:** It is requested a resolution be passed **authorizing the finance director to establish a special revenue fund designated as the Real Estate Development Fund for the City of Sandusky, Erie County, Ohio.**

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

*Discussion:* Matt Lasko said this will be a special revenue fund specifically for utilization of the redevelopment of either vacant/abandoned properties or underutilized properties. We can all understand these properties, if appropriately redeveloped, will improve property values, decrease blight and spur potential additional economic development to improve the overall quality of life of residents of Sandusky. In many instances, these projects have been undertaken as the result of historically long stretches of having to fundraise at the state or federal level. This fund will specifically be used for redevelopment of real estate and allow us to proactively and quickly respond to strategic and critical real estate transactions within the community. This would not be merely for large strategic properties, it could be for things as basic as vacant and abandoned property or for acquisition, demolition, remediation, disposition of properties and redevelopment. The city remains committed to aggressively pursuing outside funding sources, but a lot of times these do not come to fruition and sometimes can actually delay transactions over a long period of time. Going forward, Matt Lasko said he proposes every dollar received from the gross sale of real estate to go into this fund for acquisition, demolition or redevelopment of real estate in the City of Sandusky. Dennis Murray asked if the initial deposit into this fund will be from the sale of the former tree farm property on Pipe Street and Matt Lasko said what is being proposed is to capitalize every dollar over the sale amount of this property in 2015. Funds from this sale were already placed in the general fund budget for 2015 and going forward, in 2016, any dollar generated through the sale of real estate will go toward capitalizing this fund.

**Roll call on the resolution: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole, Julie Farrar, Dennis Murray, Scott Schell and Jeff Smith, 6. The President declared the resolution passed at first reading.**

### **ITEM #3 – Submitted by John Orzech, Chief of Police**

#### **DISPOSAL OF UNNEEDED ITEMS**

**Budgetary Information:** There is no budgetary impact stemming from this disposal.

**ORDINANCE NO. 15-028:** It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to dispose of personal property and equipment 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 Julie Farrar and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to approve this ordinance under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

*Discussion:* Phil Frost said this ordinance is to approve the disposal of 70 outdated ballistic vests, 34 outdated/obsolete traffic vests, 36 outdated/worn out old dispatcher/officer pants, 14 old outdated worn out coats, 26 old outdated/worn out gray uniform shirts and 23 old outdated/worn out dispatcher shirts. Dennis Murray asked why we must take up legislation for something as seemingly routine as this and Don Icsman said in order to destroy property belonging to the city, the commission must declare it unnecessary and unfit according to our charter and state law. Regardless of the means of disposal or donation, this is the first step that has to take place.

**Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole, Julie Farrar, Dennis Murray, Scott Schell and Jeff Smith, 6. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole, Julie Farrar, Dennis Murray, Scott Schell and Jeff Smith, 6.**

The President declared the ordinance passed in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

**ITEM #4 – Submitted by Phillip Frost, Assistant Police Chief**

**PURCHASE OF PORTABLE RADIOS AND ACCESSORIES**

**Budgetary Information:** The total cost for this purchase of 47 Kenwood portable radios, with accessories, and one six-port conditioner/analyzer/charger is \$38,037.13 and \$470 will be credited for the exchange of 47 old portable radios, for a total expense of \$37,567.13. The grant award amount is \$12,796.19. The remaining \$24,770.94 will be paid with capital funds.

**ORDINANCE NO. 15-029:** It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to dispose of 47 radios from the Police Department as having become unnecessary and unfit for city use pursuant to Section 25 of the city charter; and authorizing the city manager to purchase 47 radios with accessories and one conditioner/analyzer/charger through the State of Ohio Cooperative Purchasing program from VASU Communications, Inc., of Avon, Ohio for the Sandusky Police Department;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

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

*Discussion:* Phil Frost said we are requesting to purchase 47 new portable radios and accessories, plus the six port conditioner/analyzer/charger to extend the life of the batteries. The proper way of getting new items is to request disposal of the old radios which VASU will buy back. Dennis Murray said a portion of the funds are from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance grant. Wesley Poole asked the age of the radios being disposed of and Phil Frost said he cannot answer this, but believes they are at least ten years old.

**Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole, Julie Farrar, Dennis Murray, Scott Schell and Jeff Smith, 6. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole, Julie Farrar, Dennis Murray, Scott Schell and Jeff Smith, 6. The President declared the ordinance passed in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

**ITEM #5 – Submitted by Dave Degnan, Fire Chief**

**DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT**

**Budgetary Information:** There will be no proceeds from the donation of the itemized equipment.

**RESOLUTION NO. 009-15R:** It is requested a resolution be passed **authorizing the disposal of structural fire fighting clothing and equipment as being unnecessary and unfit for city use; approving their donation to the Ehope Career Center Fire & Rescue Academy;** and declaring that this resolution 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 under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

*Discussion:* Dave Degnan said we will be donating 21 sets of turnout coats to Ehope, 16 sets of turnout pants, two Cardiac monitor defibrillators, three ladder belts, three cold water exposure suits, two hazmat training suits, one cellar nozzle, one Siamese water appliance, three gated wye water appliances and one Storz water connection elbow. These are all tools used or structural firefighting gear. These items are very old and there is no trade-in value for most; the Paramedic school at Ehope can use them for training purposes as they are past their useful life.

**Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole, Julie Farrar, Dennis Murray, Scott Schell and Jeff Smith, 6. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the resolution: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole, Julie Farrar, Dennis Murray, Scott Schell and Jeff Smith, 6. The President declared the resolution passed in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

**ITEM #6 – Submitted by Dave Degnan, Fire Chief****DISPOSAL OF DRESS HATS**

**Budgetary Information:** There will be no proceeds from the donation of the 11 Class A dress hats.

**PASSED AT FIRST READING:** It is requested a resolution be passed **authorizing the disposal of 11 Class A dress uniform hats as being unnecessary and unfit for city use;** approving their donation to the Catawba Island Volunteer Fire Department.

**Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to approve this resolution at first reading. Roll call on the resolution: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole, Julie Farrar, Dennis Murray, Scott Schell and Jeff Smith, 6. The President declared the resolution passed at first reading.**

**ITEM #7 – Submitted by Aaron Klein, P.E.****PROFESSIONAL DESIGN SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR GRIT REMOVAL PROCESS**

**Budgetary Information:** The final design cost is \$73,000 and will be funded by the sewer fund with partial reimbursement from Erie County per the sewer services agreement.

**ORDINANCE NO. 15-030:** It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to enter into an agreement for professional design services with Jones & Henry Engineers, Ltd. for the 2015 Waste Water Treatment Plant grit tank expansion project;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

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

*Discussion:* Aaron Klein said this project is the first detail in the updated revised General Plan submitted to the Ohio EPA for review. The plant has a design capacity of 36 MGD, but 42 MGD can be treated; the plan calls for us to be at 48 MGD. We have looked at several different options and ways we can get approved for this capacity. It turns out the bottleneck is in the grit process and we found a unique idea of utilizing space between existing tanks. We will not have to purchase new equipment and it will cost \$73,000 for the final design of the project. Aaron Klein said the actual construction will be to install a 36" diameter pipe at the effluent to take it to another chamber, but we will retrofit the space between three existing tanks so as to not allow grit, rocks and stones going through the process to damage the pumps. This will also allow us to take additional flow from the combined sewer system and set us up for other projects including the east end sewer project.

**Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole, Julie Farrar, Dennis Murray, Scott Schell and Jeff Smith, 6. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole, Julie Farrar, Dennis Murray, Scott Schell and Jeff Smith, 6. The President declared the ordinance passed in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

**ITEM #8 – Submitted by Aaron Klein, P.E.****ANNUAL COST SHARING FEE FOR NATIONAL POLLUTION DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) - STORM WATER PROGRAM**

**Budgetary Information:** The annual amount for continuing to participate with the Erie County NPDES Phase II program is \$10,000. The annual cost will be paid with sewer funds since the storm water sub-fund will not be created until after April 1, 2015.

**ORDINANCE NO. 15-031:** It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the finance director to make payment to the Erie Soil & Water Conservation District to continue participation in the Erie County National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Phase II program;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

**Upon motion of Wesley Poole and second of Jeff Smith 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 said this is a good program which saves the city money and it is good for us to continue.

**Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole, Julie Farrar, Dennis Murray, Scott Schell and Jeff Smith, 6. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole, Julie Farrar, Dennis Murray, Scott Schell and Jeff Smith, 6. The President declared the ordinance passed in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

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

Eric Wobser **introduced Marvin Randalson, the new Sandusky Transit System (STS) director**, who started last week and will be working under Angela Byington. We are very excited to welcome Marvin and Eric Wobser said transit has been a very important topic both as we see a growing need for transit services and for providing them at affordable prices. The STS is a municipal service provided by the city outside of its borders, and Marvin was a great candidate who brings a wonderful background in transportation planning. His degree is in urban planning and he has spent time looking at rail and bus services and most recently is looking into multi-modal planning and in how to connect people and places to each other. This includes walking, biking and public transportation and the ability to do this without an automobile. He most recently worked for Bike Cleveland and we are excited by his knowledge and passion for public transportation. Marvin Randalson said it is a pleasure to be here and appreciates the opportunity to work for the STS and sees tons of potential and opportunity to improve the system and make it work better for the citizens and taxpayers. Dennis Murray said the remarkable qualifications have been shared and welcomed Marvin to Sandusky.

**Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to accept a donation from Firelands Regional Medical Center School of Nursing for the Fire Department in the amount of \$50. The President declared the motion passed.**

**Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to accept a donation from Mark and Rosemary Clifford for the Green Fund to plant a tree in memory of Sandusky resident A. J. Fresch in the amount of \$150. The President declared the motion passed.**

Eric Wobser **said the city is eligible to apply for funds through the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for a small transportation project.** The Erie Regional Planning office oversees funds from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and oftentimes when projects are closed out, there is money left over with these funds. The MPO has allowed these projects to pool, but ODOT has been putting pressure on communities to spend these monies on a year-by-year basis. The application process is due early next week and Eric Wobser said approximately \$150,000 of funding remains which can be spent for larger transportation projects on city streets. After brainstorming this issue internally, we think a significant portion of these funds could be spent as a wayfinding project for the city. Sandusky is a unique destination with over five million visitors annually and we have a beautiful historic street grid which is not always a natural place for visitors to find their way around. The CEO of Cedar Point has identified the importance of wayfinding signage in Sandusky and the city has partnered with the Sandusky Main Street Association to perform an analysis of a wayfinding system, but this project was put on hold. With the ability to potentially leverage state dollars, we are hopeful this application will allow us to use these dollars for a project like this. Any local match would allow for an 80%/20% split for those who may benefit from a wayfinding signage project. Aaron Klein said this will be different than the process normally used for typical MPO dollars. Federal dollars for the entire county are channeled through the MPO, including all of Vermilion. These are competitive dollars and we are not guaranteed to get them; \$150,000 is an estimate

as we do not know what will be available. This will be done on an annual basis and the MPO is doing something new in accepting projects for the next fiscal year.

**Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Scott Schell, the commission voted for application to be made to the Metropolitan Planning Organization for these funds to be ratified by legislation at a future meeting.**

*Discussion:* Scott Schell asked Aaron Klein if he had any sense of whether this could potentially fund several projects or if he would rather fund one at a time. Aaron Klein said since this is new, these discussions are taking place but the MPO committee has no idea what plans might be submitted. Projects will be ranked on their priorities and what the committee feels is appropriate.

**Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole, Julie Farrar, Dennis Murray, Scott Schell and Jeff Smith, 6. The President declared the motion passed.**

Eric Wobser thanked Wesley Poole for putting a lot of thought into creating the **Real Estate Development Fund**. As this legislation is considered for a second reading, it is an opportunity to create a physical asset for the city. Matt Lasko, Angela Byington and Wesley Poole have shown a strong partnership between the directors and the commissioners.

Eric Wobser said **bids will be received for the bar screen improvement project** at the Water Treatment Plant through February 24.

Eric Wobser said **the city received seven applications for the bicentennial visioning process** and thanked Jeff Smith, Naomi Twine and several department directors for their involvement in this process.

Eric Wobser said the **owner of the Feick Building has put in a formal application amendment request to the Ohio Development Services Agency** requesting a 20 – 24 month extension on the award of Ohio Historic Preservation tax credits. The city provided a letter of support on behalf of the owner requesting approval of the extension. Eric Wobser said regardless of whether the property is developed by the current owner or is sold, the tax credits are a critical piece to the overall financing plan for the building. Since the tax credits are transferrable, it is important for them to remain with the property for an additional 20 – 24 months.

Eric Wobser said the **public participation process for the FY 2015 – 2016 CDBG grant** will commence soon. The city has requested quotes from qualified firms to facilitate the public participation and prepare the application and the cost will be under \$10,000.

Eric Wobser said prior to accepting the position of Director of the Sandusky Transit System, **Marvin Randalson was registered for the National Bike Summit in Washington, D.C.** which is scheduled for November, 2015. Eric Wobser said he understands out-of-state travel by city employees requires a motion by the commission and asked for a motion to allow this trip and noted it will not require any city funding.

**Upon motion of Wesley Poole and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to allow Marvin Randalson to travel out of state in November for the National Bike Summit. The President declared the motion passed.**

Eric Wobser said **the city received one proposal for the operation of the Shelby Street boat launch facility** which looks very promising. **The city also received a proposal for the Shoreline Park concession area** and said Brad Link and Victoria Kurt are doing a great job leading this process.

Eric Wobser said **several seasonal positions have been posted for the Recreation Department at Mills Creek Golf Course, the boat docks, Oakland Cemetery, Grounds Maintenance and for the Greenhouse.**

Eric Wobser said **the city has a facility at the BIWW plant currently owned by NASA** which they have determined as excess/unnecessary property and offered for donation to the city which would make sense. This will allow the city the benefit of owning and controlling the entire BIWW site. Aaron Klein said this would be similar to the Rye Beach pump station property offered last year where the federal government determined they no longer needed this property. In order to release it, they need a letter of request from the city by March 9 and Aaron Klein said he will have a formal communication for the commission at the next meeting. He is still trying to figure out exactly what is included with this (only the shell of the building, or the building and the property, the pipes under the property, etc.). Once we acquire the building, we will be able to use it to store chemicals.

## OLD BUSINESS

Dennis Murray said there were several meetings held regarding **point of sale inspections** at the end of last year which would require an inspection by our Code Enforcement Officers when a property is changing hands. Ideally this would take place at the beginning of the process so as not to hold up a sale. Input has been solicited from various stakeholders, realtors and bankers and we are trying to make sure everyone involved has an opportunity to shape it so they are not surprised and said we want to get it right and we want buy-in from the constituents.

Dennis Murray said the commission has generally expressed their desire to not move to one **city-wide hauler** while he recognizes the benefits to this. A lot of tenants and landlords and a small number of homeowners do not have trash collection services and this is contributing to trash blowing around the streets and empty home sites being used as municipal garbage dumps which the city has to go in and clean out. This is an issue with some history in the city and the issue of countywide trash hauling keeps coming back like a zombie. Dennis Murray said he supports going out for bid and getting the numbers to see what it costs, but asked where we are going to go from here. Eric Wobser said his basic understanding is we (the city) have allowed ourselves to participate in the bidding process and the county has asked for proposals for two different bids: 1) to service all of Erie County including city residents; and 2) to service all of Erie County excluding city residents, and with several options. The city commission will have the right to decide whether or not to participate during this process. At the appropriate time, this will be presented to the city commissioners with numbers and recommendations so they can make a determination. Aaron Klein said this is something we have been working very hard on trying to figure out and this has many angles. There is a program or a requirement through the Solid Waste District, and a plan was developed by them that a certain amount of recycling has to take place countywide. This plan states the city will need to have one hundred percent involvement in recycling. The two ancillary recycle stations in the city count toward approximately 5,000 of our population and we are looking at options. Aaron Klein said he has met with the individual haulers and said the conversations have been very productive, but we are not yet where we need to be. We need to look at our options to see if there is an opportunity to include the small haulers. We have been very diligent in doing this and the recycling is driving this. There is also an issue of trash disposal on city properties (parks, fire stations and cemeteries) and Brad Link has done a great job in communicating with Republic Services and working on getting something taken care of because we have had a difficult time in figuring out how to handle this in 2015. We also had a contract with FSI for the recycle bins and these are completely separate from the curbside recycling and trash collection consortium through Erie County. Dennis Murray said he understands Erie County is basically saying they want the city to do this and it may be mandated. Dennis Murray asked if mandating the offering of curbside recycling would be another option for us, or offering it with a right to opt out. Aaron Klein said his understanding is the current haulers are offering the service, but it still does not comply with the requirement laid out in the plan because there has to be one hauler requiring or offering the service. There has to be a citywide contract for the city to be in full compliance with one hundred percent recycling in the city. Wesley Poole asked where this plan came from and Aaron Klein said his understanding is about three years ago, there was a committee with the Solid Waste District which had an EPA requirement to make recycling a priority. This was something the various communities within Erie County voted on (the Solid Waste Plan). Wesley Poole said he understands the EPA says recycling is a priority and a group



of Townships and communities had a vote to make this a priority for Sandusky regarding one hundred percent participation in recycling and from this, we must get on board. Aaron Klein said his understanding is that by 2015, the entire county has to have fifty percent participation; by 2020, it must comply with seventy percent participation. Because Sandusky is the largest community in Erie County and has the most residents, the city's participation will help meet the fifty percent requirement. Dennis Murray said he would like to see other options put on the table to move us toward broader participation, and said this is in no way a critical reflection of Aaron Klein and the work he has been doing. Dennis Murray asked if we could consider making recycling mandatory unless one opts out, with a penalty. We can take a look at what some other communities are doing and we want to encourage recycling, but thinks there is a lot of resistance to city-wide hauling.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Dennis Murray **congratulated Brad Link on the great job with plowing and salting** during the past ten days or so when we have been hit pretty hard, and said he has a particular appreciation with clearing the Sandusky Bayfront Pathway.

Dennis Murray said because of Eric Wobser's involvement and Matt Lasko's willingness to not take "no" for an answer, **we have figured out a way to accommodate the folks at BGSU – Firelands for a research/educational facility** somewhere within Sandusky at it looks like the Big Island Water Works site will work. The college will use this area for testing, a laboratory and a small space for educational facilities. The ODNR, and ultimately the National Parks Service, have both said the city cannot lease the Sandusky Bay Pavilion property to a private entity and we went round and round with them, but it turns out this is a better location for BGSU – Firelands and we are glad for this.

Dennis Murray **appointed Jeff Smith as a liaison to the Erie County Veteran's Park Committee** so we can have good communication with their members going forward and appreciates Jeff Smith's offer to do so.

**Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Dennis Murray, the commission voted to appoint Harvey Heys to the Human Relations Commission to complete the term of Marva Jackson (through October 10, 2018) who recently resigned from this Commission. The President declared the motion passed.**

Dennis Murray said the commission has been working collectively on discussing **how the charter officers communicate** with and work amongst each other. The commission is taking the time to formalize this and use it as a basis for the evaluations. Dennis Murray said Naomi Twine started the commission on this process some time ago and asked if she would be willing to take this up again and lead us through an evaluation during the next three meetings for each charter officer.

**Upon motion of Scott Schell and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to schedule a Public Hearing on Monday, March 9 at 5 p.m. concerning the city's FY 2015 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and the Consolidated Plan Annual Update for 2015.**

*Discussion:* Angela Byington said the first public hearing for the CDBG program is to get ready to apply for formula year 2015 which runs from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016. The city will receive just under \$700,000 and we will begin discussing the eligible activities including emergency home repair, demolition, infrastructure improvements, park improvements and economic development. We will also be going over what the funds were scheduled to be used for during the last fiscal year. There will be a second public hearing after the draft plan is put together for a 30-day public comment period. It must be submitted by May 15 to HUD.

**The President declared the motion passed.**

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street, said the game plan keeps changing with recycling. The city signed a five-year contract with FSI for our two recycle locations and asked if this contract is still intact; Dennis Murray said he believes it is, but does not recall the length of the contract. Sharon Johnson asked if we will have to break this contract because of a mandate. Dennis Murray said we have a long way to go before we get there and does not know why we would have to breach the contract as the recycle center will remain for the length of the contract. Sharon Johnson said she does not know if this would be transferred to Republic Services and Dennis Murray said FSI retained this contract as part of the sale. Sharon Johnson asked when the second MOU for the land bank with Erie County will come before the city commission. Sharon Johnson asked if the city has to approve the transfer of properties to the Erie County Land Bank. Dennis Murray said there were a series of emails this afternoon answering this but he was not able to get through them. His understanding is there is only one MOU and this does not require further action by the commissioners. Scott Schell said there was a Resolution allowing the city manager to enter into the MOU and it was signed by the county's board chairman and ultimately, by the city manager. After this, the agreement will not be brought to the table for approval as the Resolution was approved allowing the city manager to sign. Sharon Johnson asked if properties have to come before the commissioners before transferring to the county's land bank. Scott Schell said his understanding is they do not have to come before the city commission. Dennis Murray said it is a matter of public record but not something that comes through commission meetings. Scott Schell said all properties go through the city's land bank committee. This is a very unique grant and there are a lot more stipulations involved than in previous grants such as Moving Ohio Forward; this is a work in progress and the county land bank is working through all of this. Wesley Poole said when all of the work is done, he would like to know if it is legal or not legal to transfer properties without telling the commissioners about it and he prefers this is done in some fashion. Dennis Murray said this seems like a reasonable request and asked Matt Lasko and Angela Byington to do this. Matt Lasko said the MOU stipulates the properties be directly transferred to the county, are acknowledged, and there have been some unique circumstances in this partnership. Going forward, any disposition of a property through the land bank or a private party will be run through the commission.

Timothy Work, 517 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, said he does not always understand the city's inner workings, but asked about houses the city may be getting and if there is a possibility of working together with established contractors who have a proven track record of fixing up houses to do some of this work. Timothy Work asked if it is possible to add trash collection to water bills to guarantee every property has this service available to them. Dennis Murray said some communities do this but it is not very popular. Timothy Work gave credit for the direction we are headed with our Code Enforcement and said this should be done across the board for rental and owner-occupied homes as this is the only fair way to do it. Dennis Murray said the city has a random, arbitrary complaint-driven system and we would like to go back to systematic code enforcement for every property in a random way rather than picking on an owner or neighborhood. Timothy Work asked about electronic ticketing which some municipalities are using for code enforcement and said violations can be done immediately via pictures. Dennis Murray said he thinks the city already has some of this with hardware acquired in 2013; this is the mechanical side of issuing citations, but we cannot bypass the due process step(s).

**Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Scott Schell, the commission voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:27 p.m. The President declared the motion passed.**

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Kelly L. Kresser, CMC  
Clerk of the City Commission

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