

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

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

City staff present: John Orzech—Police Chief, Dave Degnan – Fire Chief, Aaron Klein – Public Works Director, 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 Wesley Poole and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to excuse Dick Brady. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2015, city commission meeting and suspend the oral reading. The President declared the motion passed.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Dean William Balzer, Firelands/BGSU, One University Drive, said the college has been on a journey for a number of years to solidify their relationship with the City of Sandusky allowing BGSU to perform research on the water. BGSU has a reputation for its water quality research, but does not have easy access to the water, so this would allow researchers and students to participate in research which has an impact on the water we drink and on the economic future of the region (Item #3).

PRESENTATION

Dennis Murray introduced **Jim Rokakis, Director of the Thriving Communities Institute/Western Reserve Land Conservancy**, who has done great work in the State of Ohio as an ambassador for landbank programs, and has planted seeds to help Ohio recover from the mortgage foreclosure crisis. Jim Rokakis said he feels at home here and spent 19 years attending Council meetings in Cleveland. The recent property survey was one of numerous surveys done in Ohio to help communities get a handle on the status of properties. Jim Rokakis said this property survey was funded by the Sandusky/Erie County Community Foundation. Sandusky is in much better shape - in terms of its housing stock - than other communities he has worked in. Jim Rokakis introduced **Paul Boehnlein, Associate Director of Applied GIS for Western Reserve Land Conservancy**, to provide the survey results.

Paul Boehnlein said one of the programs being built is leveraging the land conservancy GIS toward urban questions specific to vacant and distressed properties and mapping them. In 2014, five surveys were performed, including one for Sandusky, which kicked off in October. Five Sandusky residents were hired as temporary staff to review every parcel for questions regarding vacancy and general conditions. The program utilizes a mapping system similar to Google Maps. A map of the entire city was created and questions were developed related to the information to be collected. This was a successful program to develop a consistent picture of the community for complaint-driven issues and is an additional tool to provide a broader, big picture of the properties. The first and foremost goal was to identify the number of vacant and abandoned properties in Sandusky and those in need of maintenance or repair. This information can be used to develop strategies to address demolition and rehabilitation opportunities and assist partners to access current demolition funding available. This will also provide a baseline for future planning and economic development. Thriving Communities Institute (TCI) has completed property inventories for the City of Lorain, Buckeye/Mount Pleasant, East Cleveland, Akron, Oberlin and Sandusky. The strengths of the program are they blend Land Conservancy technology, along with expertise through the TCI, with local staff working together. Paul Boehnlein said the information created is placed on the internet and can be accessed by a lot of different devices at a lot of different levels. The assessment

methodology includes assessing whether there was a structure on the lot and if the structure was vacant or occupied. For a residential property, making this assessment is rather straight forward. A general condition rating on an A – F scale was used with “A” representing a home in excellent condition. Temporary staff was trained for two days about how to do these ratings. In addition, built-in questions related to specific characteristics of the property were captured, along with taking a photo. The survey criteria included whether properties were occupied, vacant, secure or open to entry, a vacant lot or parking lot, or park. Results were then rated on the A – F scale, identified whether for sale or for rent, its use (residential, commercial, industrial or other), capacity (single unit, double unit or three or more units), if the property had boarded up windows or doors, broken windows, a damaged roof, paint or siding, damaged gutters or downspouts or a damaged garage. Data was collected over a four-week period and of the approximately 12,750 properties in Sandusky, 9,647 contained occupied structures, the vast majority of which were rated “A” or “B”. Nine hundred and seventy were found to be in the “C” category and potentially in need of minor repairs. Around one hundred occupied structures fell into the “D” or “F” category. There are approximately 470 vacant structures in the city and many of these are secure and fell into the “A” or “B” rating and could be properties which were for sale or rent rather than distressed properties. About 133 vacant properties fell into the “C” category for the city’s review to potentially take action. Approximately 76% of properties in the city are classified as occupied; approximately just under four percent are vacant; thirteen percent are vacant lots; two percent parking lots; one percent park area(s) and four percent classified as “other”. Sandusky has a very unique property classification which are boat slips and this was very interesting. Less than one percent were not surveyed as they were very small or inaccessible from the road and difficult to assess. The city’s occupied structures are rated with a “C” or higher and only eleven percent are in the “D” or “F” category and this is a reason to be optimistic. Just over fifty percent of the vacant structures are rated with a “C” or higher leaving approximately eighteen percent. As a comparison to survey results from other places, there was approximately five percent of vacant structures in the City of Lorain; 12% – 13% in Buckeye/Mount Pleasant; 18% in East Cleveland; 5% in Akron and 4% in both Oberlin and Sandusky. The results have been mapped and a list of deliverables have been provided to Sandusky including an interactive map to help look at individual properties and see the results of the survey. This will be a useful tool for city staff to do property investigations and see the data. It is helpful to scale up the results and look at some aggregation by different geographies including census block groups. This will help with areas more in need and struggling. One of the really important deliverables is the spreadsheet of results which were provided to allow city staff to use different categories to view properties. A report was created and is available on the Thriving Communities Institute website. The web map is a useful tool as well as all GIS data and hard copy maps although the GIS data is in a format which requires software for accessibility. Jim Rokakis said the interesting thing about Sandusky is vacant properties are not stripped within 24 hours as they are in other, more distressed communities. Sandusky is fortunate their vacant properties are well maintained, respected and looked after by their neighbors. Dennis Murray asked about the 477 properties which were not graded and Paul Boehnlein said for the most part, these were the boathouse or boat slip properties and they were categorized as occupied structures but there was no good way to assess them. Dennis Murray asked if the information on the spreadsheets goes back to GIS information collected by the Erie County Auditor. The parcel layers were initially received from the Auditor’s GIS Manager and this is updated once each year and is joined together with the data collected by Thriving Communities Institute. This can be useful information for the local land bank program. Dennis Murray said he can only begin to imagine what Sandusky can do with this data and said it will be placed on the city’s website and thanked Jim and Paul for their assistance in completing this survey.

PUBLIC HEARING

Angela Byington, Director of Neighborhood Development & Planning, said Jason Smith with Wade Trim & Associates is here tonight to present information about the 2015 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and the draft annual Action Plan. The CDBG is a federal program administered by the Department of Housing & Urban Development and as an entitlement community, Sandusky gets their annual allocation directly and is able to fund local programs which meet national objectives and local goals. The broad national goals are

activities for low-to-moderate income persons, activities which aid in preventing or eliminating slum and blight, and activities meeting community development needs that have particular criteria specific to the health or welfare of the public. Sandusky anticipates a total allocation of \$697,761, a minimum of \$50,000 in carryover funds, plus \$70,000 in program income from the economic development Revolving Loan Fund. Activities have been selected through the public presentation process via public hearings, as well as a public meeting held on March 19 with the Consolidated Plan Advisory Committee. Applications were made available for funding and reviewed for completeness to determine eligibility through a scoring system using a pre-set ranking form. A 30-day public comment period is underway and ends May 1. The draft plan is available at city hall, at the Sandusky Library and on the city's website. The City Commission will consider legislation on May 11 with the final submission to HUD no later than May 15. Proposed activities in the budget as part of the draft plan currently include the following:

Streets, sidewalks, curb and gutter	225,000.00
Wayfinding and gateway signage	50,000.00
Code Enforcement	\$125,000.00
Park improvements	\$25,000.00
Clearance & demo of properties <i>(Includes \$25,000 of non-utilized funds from 2014)</i>	\$83,261.00
Acquisition to acquire blighted structures for demolition or resale	\$20,000.00
CAC for Housing Rehabilitation <i>(Could be up to \$50,000 depending on carryover from 2014)</i>	\$25,000.00
Economic Development RLF <i>(+ Balance in Revolving Loan Fund)</i>	\$70,000.00
Victory Kitchen improvements	\$25,000.00
Sandusky Chooses Healthy Living - ECHD	\$10,000.00
Emergency rent, mortgage and utility payments – VOA	\$10,000.00
Citizens Circle program	\$10,000.00
General administration & planning	\$129,000.00
Information & Referral 2-1-1 system	\$8,500.00
Fair Housing	\$2,000.00

Angela Byington said the city is still in the comment period regarding the draft plan. Legislation will be brought to the commission after this period so the plan can be submitted to HUD by May 15. Dennis Murray asked how the public can provide comments and Angela Byington said they can call, email or provide written correspondence prior to May 1. A summary of these comments will be provided to the commissioners.

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

Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street, asked what is included for each park with the \$25,000 earmarked for park improvements. Sharon Johnson asked about the \$70,000 for the RLF and if the makeup is changing. Sharon Johnson said she is glad to see \$25,000 going toward streets, sidewalks, curbs and gutters. Angela Byington said we are proposing \$25,000 in new money for park improvements and said there is some carryover from prior years. Some of the improvements are for Lions Park as previously planned, as well as for those parks listed for this year's plan, but there is only \$25,000 which would be decided by the Parks & Recreation Division. The economic development and Revolving Loan Fund monies are at \$75,000 and an amortization schedule has been put together for the next five years showing how much we anticipate getting back from existing loans which will be reflected as program income for the existing fund.

Tim Brown, Erie-Huron-Richland Counties CAC, said the CAC has been collaborating with the City of Sandusky for several years now and they have traditionally received over \$100,000 annually for emergency home repair. They exceed their goal every year and were able to assist 17 families or homes with funding last year. Last year, the amount of funding was cut to \$50,000 and this year it is down to \$25,000 although he understands another \$25,000 may become available. Tim Brown said his concern is the city may be putting more money in code

enforcement than helping folks in need. There is a big need for home repairs for furnaces, roofs, hot water tanks, gas and water lines, and there currently is a waiting list of 50 families. Dennis Murray said Eric Wobser is working on a plan which has not yet been fully fleshed out, but recognizes as we proceed with code enforcement, there needs to be a way to help correct some of these issues. The city is really after compliance, not enforcement.

Vicki Bird, Wilbert Street, asked if improvements are planned for the Wilbert Street Park and if the city could put funding toward this in the future. There is also a building which abuts the park on Wilbert Street where the roof is completely collapsed and the walls are coming down; kids are taking materials from this building and scattering them throughout the park. There are also many skunks and other rodents around the building. Vicki Bird said she is concerned about some of the larger buildings in the city including the former American Crayon building. Homeless persons are looking for shelter and finding it here, in the woods along Olds Street and at the former G & C Foundry property. Vicki Bird said the money for Victory Kitchen is a great thing and this will allow persons to take a bath after they have gotten a good meal. Dennis Murray asked Brad Link to follow up about the Wilbert Street Park area. Dennis Murray said the city has been in touch with the owner(s) of the former American Crayon property and Eric Wobser affirmed he and Matt Lasko have a meeting scheduled with them on Wednesday.

PROCLAMATION

Jeff Smith read a **Proclamation on behalf of the 2015 Arbor Day** event in Sandusky which is scheduled for Saturday, April 25, 2015.

CURRENT BUSINESS

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

ITEM #1 – Submitted by Angela Byington, Director of Neighborhood Development & Planning PASSED AT FIRST READING 3.9.15 – NOTE NEW LANGUAGE IN RESOLUTION COMMUNITY HOUSING IMPACT & PRESERVATION PROGRAM

Budgetary Information: There is no impact on the city's general fund. All projects in the program will be paid for through CHIP grant funds.

RESOLUTION NO. 014-15R: It is requested a resolution be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager of the City of Sandusky, Ohio, to file an application for financial assistance from the Program Year 2015 Community Housing Impact & Preservation Program through the Ohio Development Services Agency's Office of Community Development;** 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 Julie Farrar the commission voted to approve this resolution, as amended with new language, under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Don Icsman said the changes to this Resolution, as presented tonight, are reflected in the draft and the changes which have been made are not substantive. Angela Byington said the application itself was changed in 2015 and requires specific legislation and the program name changed to Community Housing Impact and Preservation. There are two "Whereas" sections which clarify the city understands their responsibility and authority over the grant with specific language and also that Sandusky is not partnering with another community because we receive over \$400,000 in CDBG funding and are not eligible to partner with anyone. Without this language in the legislation, we would lose points on our application; it is otherwise what was approved in March.

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

resolution passed under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

ITEM #2 – Submitted by Arielle Blanca, Community Development Manager

APPROVAL OF UPDATED ZONING MAP

Budgetary Information: The zoning map update has already been paid for through the general fund. There will be no additional costs associated with this update.

RESOLUTION NO. 015-15R: It is requested a resolution be passed **approving the publishing of the updated zoning map as the current official zoning map for the City of Sandusky;** 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 Wesley Poole the commission voted to approve this resolution under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Angela Byington said this is a matter of housekeeping and since 2008, there have been approximately 37 parcels which have gone through the rezoning process. These have already been approved for rezoning, but were not reflected on the official zoning map which is published and distributed; it is requested the commission approve this new zoning map.

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

ITEM #3 – Submitted by Matthew D. Lasko, Chief Development Officer

ACCESS AND LICENSE AGREEMENT – BIG ISLAND WATER WORKS

Budgetary Information: Under the Access and License Agreement, the licensee is to pay the City of Sandusky an annual license fee of \$240 per year. This license fee is to be paid in advance annually. The licensee shall also reimburse the City of Sandusky for any costs incurred by the city in connection with this Access and License Agreement. All revenues generated from this Access and License Agreement are to be deposited into the water fund.

ORDINANCE NO. 15-053: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to enter into an access and license agreement with Bowling Green State University – Firelands College to permit access to certain portions of Big Island Water Works for the purposes of conducting research related to water quality and ecosystems for the period of May 1, 2015, through April 30, 2017;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

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

Discussion: Matt Lasko thanked Dean Balzer for being here and acknowledged Aaron Klein and Eric Wobser for all of their hard work. The original plan was to locate at the Sandusky Bay Pavilion site but difficulty arose for this location and a secondary site was chosen which actually is going to be a better site. This would be for a two-year access agreement at \$240 per year at the Big Island Water Works site. Matt Lasko said this will allow for a field research station to be placed on the water which will help with the water systems and water quality for such things as algal blooms, invasive species and water quality in Sandusky Bay and Lake Erie. BGSU/Firelands will have access to the Big Island Water Works facility and will be able to store their boat on site in a secure setting which is very important as well as access to an office, kitchen area and laboratory within the building. BGSU will have access to electric and water which is very important. The ancillary benefits are putting students and staff in direct contact with those in the field who are working at Big Island Water Works; this will create cross-learning opportunities. A lot of work was done early in the year in order to put this agreement into place. Wesley Poole said it seems like it has taken a very long time to make this happen and

stated former City Commissioner Diedre Cole was the originator of this idea and pushed it forward very strongly and thanked everyone who helped bring it to fruition. Dennis Murray said he is glad this is finally being done and thanked Dean Balzer for his patience. We are thrilled to have BGSU in Sandusky and Dennis Murray said he looks forward to a good partnership.

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

ITEM #4 – Submitted by Aaron M. Klein, Director of Public Works

OHIO EPA PERMIT – EAST END SEWER IMPROVEMENTS

Budgetary Information: The permit fee of \$15,100 will be charged to the project and paid with sewer funds.

ORDINANCE NO. 15-054: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing payment to the State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for the submission of the permit-to-install application for the east end sewer improvements project;** 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 Naomi Twine the commission voted to approve this ordinance under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

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

ITEM #5 – Submitted by Debbie S. Leslie, Human Resources Manager

PAYMENT OF ENROLLMENT FEE FOR 2016 WITH COMPANAGEMENT

Budgetary Information: The contribution will be distributed to all departments.

ORDINANCE NO. 15-055: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager and/or finance director to make payment to CompManagement, Inc. for the enrollment fee for the 2016 Workers' Compensation Group retrospective rating program;** 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 this allows the city to participate in a joint workers' compensation management program. Eric Wobser said he understands this is based upon claims and activity from the previous year.

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

ITEM #6 – Submitted by Dave Degnan, Fire Chief

ANNUAL MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS FOR FIRE FIGHTERS FOR CY 2015

Budgetary Information: Firelands Corporate Health Center is the sole provider in Erie County for the contractually required annual testing for fire fighters. Firelands Corporate Health Center

maintains the fire fighters' medical charts and current testing is based upon what each fire fighter had tested for in the immediate prior year(s) which means not all fire fighters need to have all tests done; this is a cost savings to the city. The total estimated cost for the medical examinations is not to exceed \$42,466.85 and the cost of the exams are included in the Fire Department's 2015 budget.

ORDINANCE NO. 15-056: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to expend funds to Firelands Regional Medical Center, Corporate Health Center of Sandusky, Ohio, for annual medical examinations and fit for duty testing to be completed for the Sandusky Fire Department in CY 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 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: Scott Schell said this is a big number but as pointed out by Dave Degnan, the costs will not exceed \$42,466.85. Dave Degnan said this would amount to approximately \$800 per person if every employee were to have every test performed, but this is not the case. Some employees who are on the HazMat team may need certain tests, while others may need to have certain tests performed according to their age. Not all of the tests are done each year for every employee and on average, this amount has been \$32,000 – 35,000; Hank Solowiej said the actual cost in 2014 came in around \$35,000 and will be the case this year depending upon the number of tests performed. Dennis Murray said this is part of our contract with the fire fighters union and we are all aware of the physical illness fire fighters are subjected to because of their job and it is important to protect their health.

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

ITEM #7 – Submitted by Dave Degnan, Fire Chief

PURCHASE TURNOUT GEAR FROM WARREN FIRE EQUIPMENT, INC.

Budgetary Information: The total amount of this expenditure is \$42,720 with each set costing \$2,670. This purchase will be paid with monies from the EMS fund.

ORDINANCE NO. 15-057: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to purchase sixteen Morning Pride Tails turnout gear, fire coat and pant sets through the State of Ohio, Department of Administrative Services, Cooperative Purchasing program, from Warren Fire Equipment, Inc., of Warren, Ohio, for use in the Fire Department**; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Jeff Smith 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: Dennis Murray said he recalls purchasing turnout gear recently and Dave Degnan said in September, 2014, the commission authorized the purchase of 16 sets of turnout gear and ultimately, 14 sets were purchased due to one retirement and one new hire which did not occur. Dave Degnan said this gear is good for ten years and then should be retired as the NFPA regulations state these should not be used after this period of time. The city's turnout gear is generally used for seven years and then go into reserve status so if a set is damaged during a fire or completely soiled, one set can be cleaned and the reserve gear utilized in its place. This is the last time a large number was purchased at one time and they are all now on a five-year replacement schedule. Dennis Murray said this is like a deferred maintenance schedule due to trying to save here and there and we need to provide the appropriate gear and fire protection for our employees who fight fires and go into other dangerous situations.

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

**ITEM #8 – Submitted by Troy Vaccaro, Fleet Maintenance Chief Foreman
PURCHASE OF JOHN DEERE BACKHOE-LOADER TRACTOR**

Budgetary Information: The cost of this purchase will be paid from sewer funds. The funding for this purchase was included in the recent utility rate study and for which was appropriately budgeted.

ORDINANCE NO. 15-058: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to purchase one 2015 John Deere 410L 4WD backhoe-loader tractor and two extra rear buckets from Murphy Tractor & Equipment of Brunswick, Ohio, through the State of Ohio Department of Administrative Services, Cooperative Purchasing program, for the Sewer Maintenance Division;** 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: Brad Link said this is a tractor for the Sewer Maintenance Division which is replacing one from the mid-1990's; the older model will be transferred to another division and a third one will be taken out of service.

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

**ITEM #9 – Submitted by Troy Vaccaro, Fleet Maintenance Chief Foreman
PURCHASE OF HYDRAULIC BREAKER**

Budgetary Information: The cost of this purchase is \$13,098, which includes a trade-in credit of \$1,500 for the old breaker, and will be paid from water funds which was appropriately budgeted.

ORDINANCE NO. 15-059: It is requested an ordinance be passed **declaring a 2001 DMB model S900 breaker, Serial #9085 as unnecessary and unfit for city use pursuant to Section 25 of the city charter; authorizing and directing the city manager to purchase a new 2015 construction attachments Model CAL-1200B hydraulic breaker from Buck & Knobby Equipment Company, Inc. of Ottawa Lake, Michigan, for the Water Distribution Division;** 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 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: Brad Link said this is a piece of equipment which goes on a backhoe and basically is a jackhammer to be used by all divisions and is a universal piece of equipment.

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

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Eric Wobser **welcomed Brad Link back and offered congratulations to him and his wife; they recently experienced the birth of their second daughter.**

Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$75 from the College Women's Club of Sandusky for the Friends of the Greenhouse in appreciation for Tom Speir who recently spoke to members of their club. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Scott Schell and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to accept the donation of two easements for the East End sewer project with the Public Works Department: 1) Ralph & Sylvia Perla – two parcels valued at \$1,700; 2) Cedar Fair - one parcel valued at \$1,050.

Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$8.53 from Brycen Wobser for the K-9 Fund for the Police Department.

Eric Wobser said **the city is launching a new video produced by Joey Cassel of New Departure Productions** who has done work for several smaller companies. This human resources video will be utilized to attract potential employees to the City of Sandusky and is being rolled out in conjunction with our upcoming Civil Service testing for police and fire. The Administrative Services Department, with the leadership of Chief Degnan and Chief Orzech, are for the first time this year qualifying potential applicants through the National Testing Network. This Network tests similar to the ACT or SAT testing whereby persons can test one time and the results will be accepted all over the country as well. This concept has led to a twenty percent increase in the number of persons testing and will allow for a more diverse and better qualified group of applicants. We are working diligently to put this in place nearby, perhaps at Ehope or at the Sandusky Career Center. When this goes live, sometime next week, persons will be able to test through May 31. This is one more step of moves toward opening up the application process and we want people to know what a great community this is.

Eric Wobser said **the city is currently hiring for the following positions: 1) Information Technology Manager; 2) Code Compliance Officer; and 3) Assistant Planner.** These are all part of pledges made through Issue 8. Interviews are also taking place for the **Administrative Assistant position in the Police Department** which was a recommendation from the ICMA report.

Eric Wobser said the city is very excited and appreciative to have received **grants from local foundations for the strategic planning** process with \$15,000 being contributed from the Dorn Foundation and \$10,000 contributed from the Sandusky-Erie County Community Foundation.

Greener Corners has generated \$2,987.60 from the **recycle bins in advertising** and this will be provided to the City of Sandusky for the CY 2014.

Eric Wobser said Transmap will have a mapping vehicle driving throughout the city beginning April 13 to complete the **pavement condition rating project.**

Eric Wobser said the **Water Street reconstruction project** began the week of April 6 and there are currently road closures between Lawrence and Shelby Streets for sewer and water line replacements. A meeting was held with stakeholders at the Sandusky State Theatre and construction is to be complete by October 1.

Eric Wobser said the Police Department held a **K-9 Fundraiser at Dairy Queen** today on Fifth Street and **ten percent of all sales will be donated to the K-9 Fund.**

The **National Night Out and Touch A Truck event** will take place on August 4 from 4 p.m. – 8 p.m. Eric Wobser thanked members of the Police Department and Victoria Kurt, Recreation Program Supervisor, for co-sponsoring this community event.

Eric Wobser said there is a **training entitled “Cultural Competency”** for members of the Police Department taking place on April 14 and April 17. This is being provided by the Toledo Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle Club, Inc.

Eric Wobser said the Erie County Land Reutilization Corporation (ECLRC) is now in possession of nine **properties within the City of Sandusky slated for demolition through the Neighborhood Initiative Program**, several of which were transferred from the City of Sandusky to the ECLRC. These properties include seven residential structures and two commercial structures. The two commercial structures have long been regarded as two of the most unsafe buildings in the city and inclusion in this program is critical to stabilizing the Decatur Street corridor and the St. Mary campus. The properties include 532 Perry Street, 610 Warren Street, 124 Homestead Street, 823 Depot Street, 1726 Harrison Street, 1605 Central Avenue, 819 Hayes Avenue and 428 & 432 Decatur Street.

Eric Wobser said the city continues to meet internally and with **City Architecture and Strategy Design Partners** on the **planning process for our Bicentennial Visioning**. Work includes data collection and research, creation of the Executive and Steering Committees, the establishment of dates and locations for public meetings, and delineating the desired and expected deliverables. Dates are being finalized for the first Executive Committee and Steering Committee meetings for April.

Eric Wobser said **asbestos surveys** have been completed at 1201 East Parish, 1432 Farwell Street, 908 Jackson Street, 711 Decatur Street (garage) and 1531 Camp Street. There are upcoming bids for asbestos and demolition of these properties utilizing CDBG funding.

Eric Wobser said **the city plans to grade and seed the gravel city lot between Chesapeake Lofts and the Jackson Street Pier** which stakeholders have been asking to be completed for quite some time.

Eric Wobser said **22 trees are being removed and replanted from the former city nursery on Pipe Street** which the city recently sold.

Eric Wobser said April 25 is **Arbor Day in Sandusky** and there will be an **open house at the Greenhouse**, 601 Franklin Street; our **Go Green Celebration** will be held from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Eric Wobser said **crews are in the process of filling potholes** and have been working diligently to meet the needs of the city and its residents. Potholes can be reported by calling 419.627.5884, or by logging onto the city website: www.ci.sandusky.oh.us.

Eric Wobser announced there will be a **tire recycling event** at the Ohio Tire Terminal, 2620 West Monroe Street on April 25 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Eric Wobser said Victoria Kurt, Recreation Program Supervisor, and Connie Nicholson, Human Resources Manager, will be at Kalahari for a **Career Fair sponsored by Ohio Means Jobs** on April 16.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Jeff Smith the commission voted to hold an executive session regarding pending litigation. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Scott Schell, Julie Farrar, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Naomi Twine and Wesley Poole, 6. The President declared the motion passed.

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Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to hold a Public Hearing on May 26 at 5 p.m. to consider a request to expand the Community Entertainment District to include property located at 215 Meigs Street as well as to amend the zone map for this parcel. The President declared the motion passed.

Dennis Murray said **the public is invited to the next Charter Review Committee meeting on Tuesday, April 21 at 5 p.m. - to give input regarding the Charter**, and changes which people would like the committee to consider.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street, asked if the \$225,000 for sidewalks, streets, curb and gutter work which is included in the draft CDBG budget is in addition to the Issue 8 funding. Sharon Johnson said she does not like the \$50,000 earmarked toward wayfinding signage coming out of CDBG funding; rather, it should come from Issue 8 funding. A lot of people hoped to get a handout from CDBG monies and there are a lot of people suffering in this town and asked how the city can justify spending \$50,000 on signage.

Vicki Bird, 2114 Wilbert Street, said as an original member of the grassroots organization, Rebuild Sandusky, she are concerned with comments and phone calls about what is being done with the Issue 8 money and if it being used for its intended purpose. Vicki Bird said she understands there will not be any new hires in the Fire Department as they will be using overtime and thanked the city for keeping all three stations open. When the time comes, Vicki Bird said she hopes the city is staffed as it should be and improvements need to be made at Station #7. Vicki Bird said she spoke to John Orzech about House Bill 147 which is being considered by Representative Steve Kraus and will eliminate background checks with the permitting process for Carrying Concealed Weapons (CCW). Vicki Bird said she does not have a problem paying for a permit or paying for the training which comes with the CCW permit and believes this Bill, if passed, will allow more people to carry weapons on our streets and means more deaths within our police Departments. Vicki Bird said people are dumping items on Olds Street again. Vicki Bird said the railroad crossing on Tiffin Avenue has been closed since the overpass was built yet train engineers are still blowing their horns at this crossing at all hours of the day and night. Vicki Bird asked what the city will do about the splash pads this year since the increase has been made for the cost of water. Vicki Bird said she has concern with economic development and has a vision when she leaves this earth and the City of Sandusky, it will be left a better place; this means getting and creating jobs to sustain those who already live here.

Wesley Poole asked Brad Link if the problem on Ashburn Drive has been taken care of with regard to debris left; Brad Link said his staff was informed and he will check with them tomorrow to make sure it has been taken care of.

The President announced a recess of the regular session at 6:45 p.m. At 6:50 p.m., the commission went into executive session. At 8 p.m., the President announced adjournment of the meeting.

Kelly L. Kresser, CMC
Clerk of the City Commission

Richard R. Brady
Vice President of the City Commission