

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

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

**City staff present:** Dave Degnan – Fire Chief, John Orzech – Police Chief, Aaron Klein – Public Works Director, Matt Lasko – Chief Development Officer, Angela Byington – Director of Planning & Neighborhood Development, 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 Naomi Twine and second of Scott Schell, the commission voted to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2015, city commission meeting and suspend the oral reading. The President declared the motion passed.**

### AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street, asked about the bid to remove trees (Item #5) as she thought residents are responsible for trees on the boulevard area.

### PRESENTATION

Tim Obergefell, Perkins High School instructor, introduced two students who looked at the community and ways to make it better. They have made presentations at other local governmental entities including the Perkins Township Trustees and the Erie County Commissioners. The students are learning hands-on government and how it operates and city staff has been very helpful with their projects. Abby Dresser and Hannah Weatherly presented information regarding the **City of Sandusky's downtown area and reviving the area by adding decorative lighting, hanging business signs, flower planters at the street level, and brick pavers**. The City of Cleveland added lights, signage and flowers to help the Fourth Street area grow and downtown Sandusky could benefit by having these kinds of things added on Columbus Avenue from Market Street to Water Street. Information was presented about the specific costs according to Lights and Décor and fifty percent would be paid for through Lake Erie Shores and Islands and fifty percent by the downtown businesses. Brick sidewalks would be added and would give the area a classy feel by outlining the roads or sidewalks and these would cost approximately \$12.38/SF. Large crowds come to downtown Sandusky for big events and the lights would help people stay later in the evening with their families and would be made to feel safer. When people visit Cedar Point, they would look over Sandusky Bay and want to sit outside and enjoy a nice dinner; Sandusky will become a destination. Dennis Murray thanked the students for an excellent presentation and said this next generation does not see the Perkins Avenue border and he appreciates sharing their ideas. Naomi Twine thanked the students for the information and said she likes what she saw.

### CURRENT BUSINESS

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

### CURRENT BUSINESS

#### ITEM #1

#### **APPLICATION TO EXPAND THE EXISTING ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT**

**[ORDINANCE NO. 15-078](#)**: It is requested an ordinance be passed **approving the application of McGookey Properties, LLC to expand the existing community entertainment district #1 within the city to include Parcel No's. 56-01240.000, 56-01198.000, 56-00693.000, 56-00027.000, 56-00028.000, 57-00029.000 located at 211, 215 and 225 Meigs Street**; 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 there was discussion at the last meeting about options which may be available to us and we have not had a chance to learn anything more since in order to maximize the licenses available to the city. Don Icsman said with respect to these options, having more than one entertainment district is certainly possible to alleviate the issue although the first district was simply established without a lot of thought being put into it. We are now at a place where the city could consider multiple districts and there is no prohibition, but we should get input from planning, zoning, engineering and the city manager. If there is only one district, the numbers are what they are and we are almost at the maximum permitted (15). Dennis Murray said one option might be forfeiture for licenses which have been pulled but are not being used. The other option is to use these like training wheels and at some point he would like to see them be converted to regular licenses. Don Icsman said he spoke with staff at the Ohio Division of Liquor Control and understands the city's control ends with whether properties are in or out of a district or how many districts there are. Specific to monitoring, Don Icsman said whether they are considered active or in safekeeping, these rules are set by the state and they watch them carefully to make sure if they are issued, they are being used. Other than inquiries, the Ohio Division of Liquor Control will not entertain whether or not a permit should be issued to someone because "something better might be coming"; the statute does not provide for this. The city is almost at the maximum and the City Commission shall either approve or deny a request was prepared for either option. The timeframes in the Code of Ordinances are to protect applicants with respect to due process and one option discussed was tabling this; the remedy would come if there were litigation by the applicant as a due process problem if not acted upon in a timely way. If the commission wants more time, Don Icsman said he would like something in writing in order to protect the city; this request could also be withdrawn and resubmitted. The statute states if this is denied, applications can be modified to secure approval, although there is no litigation with respect to what courts may say this means. Dennis Murray said he also reviewed the statute and the way he reads this, if it is not approved, it is deemed a denial; by tabling this, we suspend the period of time. Dennis Murray said he would like to commence the process of starting a second entertainment district so additional licenses are available and before the next meeting, would like to have a conversation with counsel who can provide advice independent of the Ohio Division of Liquor Control to get a better understanding of our options. Dennis Murray said he understands the Division says the city cannot do anything, but he is not sure he accepts this. This information can be brought back to the commission and the proposal taken up at that time. Don Icsman said there is a recommended attorney at Calfee, Halter and Griswold and the city already has an association with them. Dick Brady said he understands from Don Icsman the city has very limited options and we can either approve or deny this request and once permits are issued and does not think they ever give them back. Don Icsman said they (permittee) could lose them and the state does not allow people to sit on them or compile them without operating and does not see any reason why the city cannot do these things. If the city is aware of this, we can notify the Division. Permits come up for renewal each February but the problem is guidelines; the Ohio Revised Code provides for specific grounds for denial (operational, causing problems in the neighborhood, etc.) but these reasons do not exist in this case. Wesley Poole said he would have liked to have had more information about this but what Don Icsman said is enough as far as the city's options. This property is adjacent to what is already considered the entertainment district, and we would like to have the micro-brewery as proposed. It would be an asset and if it were on this (east) side of the street, there would be no question. Wesley Poole said he does not see any reason to not approve this and other options to choose moving forward will cure themselves; there is no reason to not support this business. The issues with what the Division does with other licenses should have no bearing on whether or not he votes yes or no. Jeff Smith asked how long it would take to create another Entertainment District and Don Icsman said he recalls it only took a few months to establish the first one. Criteria is general and the city's Code and the Ohio Revised Code contains language stating these districts can be established or increased if the city determines they will substantially contribute to entertainment, retail, educational, sporting, social, cultural or arts opportunities for the community. There was no concern about maxing out the number when the last request was

made to expand the district and this is the only experience the city has had. Jeff Smith asked if the creation of a second entertainment district would be put at risk if this expansion was granted today and Don Icsman said he does not believe so. Dick Brady said speaking from a business person's perspective, he is hesitant to throw a government roadblock in the way of someone who is willing to invest in our community; he is not certain delaying this action will be beneficial to our city and does not see where we are going with creating a second entertainment district. Dan McGookey has made an excellent case and he (Dick) thinks it is government's obligation to get out of the way if we can and encourages the commission to act on this tonight. Dennis Murray said he prefers to table this to gather additional information although he understands the city is upon a deadline to act. Dennis Murray said he will vote "no" on this as he is not satisfied the city has enough information and it is not clear to him the city can create a second entertainment district and he would like to put some pressure on the Ohio Division of Liquor Control to get them to act on some of the issues in the city's favor.

Dan McGookey, 225 Meigs Street, said Don Icsman is protecting the city's interest and has no intention to litigate over this issue. Dan McGookey said he wants the commissioners to feel good about their decision and if they need more time he has no problem with this, but is a little uncomfortable with leaving this open-ended specific to the creation of a second entertainment district. Dan McGookey said he does not purport to be any kind of a knowledgeable expert on this, but there are all kinds of time issues and he prefers the commission make their decision based upon the merits of his application. If there are other issues needing to be solved before making it, this is fine, but he does not wish for his application to be tied to the creation of another entertainment district. This application is to be a part of the existing entertainment district.

**Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith and Wesley Poole, 5. Nays: Scott Schell and Dennis Murray, 2. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith and Wesley Poole, 5. Nays: Scott Schell and Dennis Murray, 2. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

**ITEM #2 – Submitted by Amanda Meyers, Paralegal**

**ACCEPTING PROPERTY INTO THE LAND REUTILIZATION PROGRAM**

**Budgetary Information:** The acquisition of this parcel shall be at no cost to the city.

**RESOLUTION NO. 018-15R:** It is requested a resolution be passed **approving and accepting certain real property, identified as Parcel #58-01485.000, located at 1342 Camp Street, Sandusky, as a gift of deed 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 Wesley Poole 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. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine, Scott Schell, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith and Wesley Poole, 7. Roll call on the resolution: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine, Scott Schell, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith and Wesley Poole, 7. 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 Aaron Klein, Director of Public Works**

**AGREEMENT TO PURCHASE PROPERTY LOCATED ON EAST OLDGATE ROAD**

**Budgetary Information:** The total cost for acquisition of Parcel #57-01207.000 and the necessary easements is \$15,000. The city will pay the seller a total of \$11,000 from the sewer fund and seller will make a charitable contribution of \$4,000 by signing IRS form 8283.

**ORDINANCE NO. 15-079:** It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to enter into a purchase and sale agreement to purchase property on East Oldgate Road, Sandusky, Ohio, 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 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:* Aaron Klein said this is another part of the East End sewer project and we are acquiring a full parcel and two easements; one is a temporary easement for an adjacent parcel and another is permanent and is at the corner of an adjacent parcel. We will be relocating a lift station and increasing its capacity; the current lift station is in a right-of-way and we will be moving it outside and at the permanent parcel to handle more sanitary water and infiltration and inflow for storm water. In order to acquire this parcel and the two easements, it will cost \$15,000 total including the \$4,000 donation.

**Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine, Scott Schell, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith and Wesley Poole, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine, Scott Schell, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith and Wesley Poole, 7. 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 Jane Cullen, P.E.**

**CONTRACT WITH NATIONAL LIGHT & POWER FOR SIGNAL, POLE AND FOUNDATION REPLACEMENT PROJECT AT PARISH STREET AND COLUMBUS AVENUE**

**Budgetary Information:** The cost of the project based on bids, including engineering, inspection, advertising and miscellaneous costs are \$48,664 to be paid with capital funds. This project was made possible through Issue 8 funding.

**ORDINANCE NO. 15-080:** It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to enter into a contract with National Light & Power, Inc., of Sandusky, Ohio, for the Columbus Avenue and Parish Street signal, pole and foundation replacement 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 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: Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine, Scott Schell, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith and Wesley Poole, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine, Scott Schell, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith and Wesley Poole, 7. 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 Brad Link, Director of Public Services**  
**NECESSITY TO PROCEED WITH 2015 TREE REMOVAL PROJECT**

**Budgetary Information:** The engineer's estimate for this project is \$77,700 and will be paid from the capital projects fund. This project was made possible through Issue 8 funding.

**RESOLUTION NO. 019-15R:** It is requested a resolution be passed **declaring the necessity for the city to proceed with the proposed 2015 tree removal project; approving the specifications and engineer's estimate of cost thereof; and directing the city manager to advertise for and receive bids in relation thereto;** 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:* Brad Link said this is for 83 trees identified through researched performed by the Erie Soil & Water Conservation District on the city's behalf. The city looked at each of these trees and determined the level of hazard to compile the listing. The Emerald Ash tree removal performed a few years ago was used to prepare the Engineer's estimate of cost. Dennis Murray said the city has authority over these trees for removal purposes, but are not required to do so; homeowners are permitted to have trees removed after obtaining the city's permission. Eric Wobser said the responsibility of the tree lawns are still the responsibility of the property

owners to maintain, but the city, through the direction of Issue 8 and fees associated with customers' sewer and water, allows these resources to be made available to the community for our Forestry Division to begin to catch up on maintenance. This contract is to catch up on the backlog of tree removals but does not change the legal obligation of residents to maintain trees or boulevard areas. As the city's resources allow, the city will begin to remove the worst of these trees and to perform tree maintenance as time and resources allow. Nothing has changed regarding whose obligation it is to maintain the boulevard, but this is a service the city will be able to perform. As we catch up, we should ultimately be able to provide more service to citizens with both maintenance and planting. Don Icsman said the confusion comes in because about ten years ago the roadway was defined broader (inclusive of the berm and shoulder) which is obviously wider; we also have to keep the roadway in good repair and free from nuisances and this is why these were previously the city's responsibility. The trees were evaluated near the portion of the road but cities were getting dinged pretty good in terms of liability and the State of Ohio changed the definition of what cities are responsible for and to remove obstructions. Trees are now defined as an obstruction once they are in the roadway or the city is provided notice they are in the roadway. The city still has the control, but the legislature took away the liability from all municipalities. Dennis Murray said the city now has the resources, because of the passage of Issue 8, to make this possible and this is a great expenditure of funds. Wesley Poole asked the timeframe to get these down and Brad Link said we are shooting for the end of October. Wesley Poole asked if there is a plan to notify citizens when this work is being done so they know to remove vehicles from the roadway. Brad Link said there will be tags placed on doors two weeks ahead of tree work by the contractor and the city will double check these to ensure vehicles are moved. Eric Wobser said the city can also issue press releases when working with the private contractor so people know where work is being performed on a regular basis. Brad Link said he can also post this information on the Public Services Facebook page.

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

**ITEM #6 – Submitted by Hank S. Solowiej, Finance Director**

**SOFTWARE UPGRADES TO VISUAL INTELLIGENCE PORTFOLIO WITH SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS INCORPORATED**

**Budgetary Information:** The total cost, which includes hardware, training and support services is \$163,152.64. Of this amount, \$54,384.22 will be paid by the capital projects fund, \$54,384.22 by the water fund and \$54,384.21 by the sewer fund. Software solutions Incorporated has agreed to allow the city to pay half of the total cost in 2015 and the remaining portion in 2016.

**ORDINANCE NO. 15-081:** It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to enter into an agreement with Software Solutions Incorporated of Lebanon, Ohio, for software upgrades to the visual intelligence portfolio for use by the Finance 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 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:* Hank Solowiej said our software was purchased in 1995 and has not been updated or improved since. It became apparent to him and with feedback from the Department Heads, there was a need for real-time information. This will help to automate a lot of processes and streamline things; the purchase order process will be done with less paper and Department Heads will have more access to information to better monitor their budgets. Hank Solowiej said he is aware of the cost factor and in negotiations with the software company, they were willing to be flexible with the city to pay half of the costs in 2015 and the remainder in 2016. This was also vetted through the Audit/Finance Committee as it is such a large investment, they unanimously recommended this. It will take about 12 months to fully implement the system

and train employees how to use it to run reports and utilize tools. Julie Farrar asked if this will get the city one step closer to offering online water bill payments and Hank Solowiej said it does. This will be done in phases and there is a software feature to allow online bill payment which is more popular with the younger generation and we want to stay current. Eric Wobser said funds for this purchase will come from the city's capital budget which is being finalized for the upcoming year and to create a five-year plan with between \$1.6 and \$1.7 million per year. This is approximately \$1 million more than previously earmarked to help catch up on our infrastructure, technology and vehicles, but we are working with significantly more dollars. We want to budget more funds for technology (\$50,000 - \$70,000) in addition to the sewer and water fund contribution so we can take care of things prior to them breaking down. Recommendations will be prioritized and thought about in a more timely fashion. Wesley Poole asked if this program impacts the timekeeping system and the labor-intensive process. Hank Solowiej said the Kronos timekeeping system is separate, but the information will be integrated with this software and its data. Wesley Poole asked if this will improve the position for directors who have to keep up with timesheets and Hank Solowiej said they will be able to access information in real-time rather than calling and obtaining a hard copy. Dennis Murray said he cannot imagine anyone using twenty-year old software and Hank Solowiej said they have been running on a shoestring. Dennis Murray asked if this is inclusive of hardware costs, software support and training; Hank Solowiej said there are funds for a new server and the main computers are fine.

**Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine, Scott Schell, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith and Wesley Poole, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine, Scott Schell, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith and Wesley Poole, 7. 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 Angela Byington, Director of Neighborhood Development & Planning  
ASBESTOS ABATEMENT AND DEMOLITION OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES**

**Budgetary Information:** The project cost based on the bid, including asbestos abatement and demolition is \$34,975. This project will be paid with Community Development Block grant funds in the amount of \$29,975 and with land bank funds in the amount of \$5,000.

**ORDINANCE NO. 15-082:** It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to enter into a contract with Ed Burdue & Company of Sandusky, Ohio, for asbestos abatement and the demolition of 1201 East Parish Street, 1432 East Farwell Street, 908 Jackson Extension, 711 Decatur Street and 1531 Camp Street, Sandusky, Ohio;** 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. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine, Scott Schell, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith and Wesley Poole, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine, Scott Schell, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith and Wesley Poole, 7. 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**

**Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to accept the donation of a twelve-gauge Mossberg shotgun and a BTI halogen tool valued at \$1,100 for the Police Department.**

*Discussion:* Eric Wobser said the **Ohio Tactical Officers Association held training from June 1 through 4 at Kalahari** and over 970 officers from throughout the country attended the training. The Sandusky Police Department was one of seven host agencies which allowed numerous officers to attend the training free of charge.

**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 \$1,796.23 for the Police Department's K-9 fund and \$1,796.23 for the Fire Department - both from the Sandusky Eagles. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Scott Schell and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$512.80 from Sandusky Bicycle Club to use for helmets and/or anything related to the Sandusky Bay Pathway and/or future bicycle paths. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Scott Schell, the commission voted to allow the writing of a letter of support to the Erie Regional Planning Commission to submit a multi-year grant application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through their Lead Hazard Control program.

*Discussion:* Eric Wobser said the three-year grant request will leverage a total of over \$3 million in lead remediation and control funds, the overwhelming majority of which is likely to be expended within the City of Sandusky. The city will provide a letter of support to secure the grant funding and has been requested to provide a total of \$50,000 as a local match. Legislation will be prepared for the June 22 city commission meeting to allow the city to provide a total of \$50,000 over the course of three years (or just under \$17,000 annually) from the Issue 8 blight elimination fund. There will be a condition the city's funding be restricted to properties undergoing lead control and remediation efforts on the exterior of their properties including such improvements as painting, new siding and window replacement to both create an individual property owner benefit and a community benefit.

**The President declared the motion passed.**

Eric Wobser said **the city has been awarded the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant from the U.S. EPA for the southern portion of the Jackson Street parking lot in the amount of \$125,957.90.** Previously the city was awarded \$97,723.00 from the Ohio EPA's Surface Water Improvements Fund; CDBG will contribute \$50,000 and the city's match will be \$125,234.90 from the storm water fund. The project will consist of permeable pavement, tree grates, rain gardens and other infrastructure and the city is currently working on an agreement with the selected consultants, Environmental Design Group, to prepare a scope of services.

Eric Wobser said the city received a **"Covenant Not to Sue" from the Ohio EPA regarding the APEX property (formerly Famous Supply) on First Street** and this project is complete.

Eric Wobser said the city is currently working to develop a scope of services with the Ohio Department of Transportation and is in discussion with other partners for the **wayfinding signage project.**

Eric Wobser said **contractors will begin transferring old signals over to new signals for the Perkins Avenue Signalization project** and it is expected to be completed in mid-July.

Eric Wobser said the **body-worn cameras** were put into operation on May 29 in the Sandusky Police Department.

Eric Wobser said the Police Department **received 64 applications from potential candidates for the full-time police officer position through the National Testing Network.** In 2013, only 28 candidates applied. The physical fitness agility test will take place on June 13 and June 16.

Eric Wobser said **Lt. Eric Graybill of the Police Department graduated from the Public Safety Leadership Academy, Class #3** on May 29. This academy was an eleven week course on leadership and other aspects of police management, with classes being taught by professors and accredited through The Ohio State University.

Eric Wobser said the **Bicentennial Visioning Process is continuing after a kick-off event held at the Sandusky Rotary Club meeting** on May 28 and has seen great public participation so far. To date, we have had over 3,500 views on the "Our Future is Now" video and nearly 1000 people have responded to the community survey. The next meeting is scheduled for June 18 on the Goodtime boat and interested persons can register through the city's website, or at [www.Sandusky2018.com](http://www.Sandusky2018.com) for this, and other public meeting dates.

Eric Wobser said the city is completing the due diligence process by completing a **Phase I Environmental Assessment, Asbestos Survey and Lead Survey for the former San Bay property** on East Market Street. This testing is being completed for under \$10,000 and will be complete by June 22.

Eric Wobser said **recent storms have created a lot of downed branches and trees** and these problems can be addressed via our Sandusky Public Services Facebook page or by calling 419.627.5884.

Eric Wobser said **Ohio Bike Week** concluded yesterday and thanked Victoria Kurt and Advantage Entertainment for all their hard work. Eric Wobser also thanked staff in the Police and Fire Departments for their extra help this past weekend.

Eric Wobser said the **concession area at Shoreline Park, occupied by Great Lakes Grinders**, is now officially open for the summer. **Demore's Shoreside Café at the city's boat launch facility** and **Dockside Café at the Paper District Marina** are now both open for the season.

Eric Wobser said the **splash pads at Lions and Huron Parks** are operational for the summer season.

Eric Wobser said the **Summer Fun Guide** is out and a lot of events are coming to downtown Sandusky and other parts of the city; questions can be directed to Victoria Kurt at 419.627.5886.

Eric Wobser said the city today received a cost estimate from **Ed Burdue Construction Company for renovations at the Sandusky Bay Pavilion property**. They have broken this work into three phases and ultimately, the cost of demolishing the pump structure is estimated to be \$25,000; filling in the pool area is estimated to be \$75,000; the removal of the entrance structures is estimated to cost \$20,000. This would be a total of \$120,000 to demolish or level the site, but Eric Wobser said he has not yet had a chance to discuss this internally as to how it would be funded he and will come back to the City Commission with a recommendation. Eric Wobser asked if there is a recommendation from the commissioners to formally present at an upcoming meeting. Dennis Murray said he is in support of taking these steps after knowing how the community feels about it as we have been looking at this for a long time; it will not take too much to look at it during the next couple of weeks. Dennis Murray said he will also be interested in knowing how this will be funded, but supports the concept. Eric Wobser asked if the commission meeting forum would be the appropriate place to ask this question, or if it should be asked at the upcoming community forum on June 18. Eric Wobser said there will be options presented to finance this to ensure the feedback shows it is or is not appropriate. Dennis Murray said he would like to know what the members of the Bayfront Corridor Committee would like to see done with this property. This is important and he believes people have strong feelings about it and will let us know what they think.

**Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Scott Schell, the commission voted to allow the city to apply for the Community-Oriented Police grant through the United States Department of Justice if determined feasible in the budget.**

*Discussion:* Eric Wobser said John Orzech learned of a grant opportunity over the weekend to apply for funding through the United States Department of Justice, Community-Oriented Police program, which would be a four-year commitment by the city with significant match dollars. We have had great initial success with our pilot project with Officer Eric Costante. Eric Wobser

said there is not a specific recommendation as to whether or not we should pursue this grant, but because it is due June 19, he requested a motion allowing the city to apply so if a determination is made after all budget questions are answered, the city does not foreclose itself from applying. Eric Wobser said he will address this again with the commissioners to ensure there is a comfort level before applying; commission approval will have to be garnered before accepting these funds as well. The Fire Department previously had a similar grant for fire fighters and one of the critiques was there was not an end plan to continue after the grant funds expired. The city will not apply for or accept this particular grant unless we have fully thought through how we will continue this match through budgeting or through natural attrition. Eric Wobser said he does not want to preclude the city from this opportunity if it is a good fit for the department. Dennis Murray said he appreciates the city manager raising these issues as presented and the responsiveness to the commission as issues were raised. Wesley Poole said he does not think it is in the city's best interest to go back into the same situation we were in with the Fire Department. Our circumstances are such that we actually have money and should be making plans for what we are going to do with our Police Department to combat crime and he is torn on voting yes for this as it strikes him as starting down a path to end up where we may not want to be. Wesley Poole said he is not certain we would end up in a position of hiring people and then not having a plan for them; the concept of hiring one or two police officers as Community-oriented officers is not a good project. Wesley Poole said he had this conversation with the City Manager during budget talks and the plan was to wait to review the current project in October, but now we have slid around and are moving into adding two more officers before then. Community-oriented policing is a process that involves the entire department and we do not do the citizens justice with only one officer doing what Officer Costante does; they all should. Hiring an additional burden onto our general fund for two more officers is not a good long-term process for the community. Officer Costante would have been successful at anything asked of him and will be viewed very well by the community, but this is not a plan for reducing crime and making this community a safe place people want to be. This is not a good use of the resources and any plan that does not set an expectation for all officers to operate at the level of Officer Costante is not one he supports. Naomi Twine pointed out Eric Wobser and John Orzech are going to be looking at this to determine if it will be feasible to maintain positions and she trusts their due diligence will bear out whether applying for and accepting this grant will be in the best interest of the community as we move forward. This vote is to allow them to apply for the grant if it bears out to be conducive to making a contribution in Sandusky.

**The President declared the motion passed with Wesley Poole dissenting.**

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

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

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

Dennis Murray said the **Audit/Finance Committee has been rescheduled for Friday, June 26 at 7:45 a.m.** and will be held in the first floor conference room at City Hall.

Dennis Murray said a **public hearing will be scheduled for its next regularly scheduled meeting on June 22, at 5 p.m. regarding the 2016 Tax Budget.**

**Upon motion of Wesley Poole and second of Naomi Twine , the commission voted to appoint Nicole Lloyd and Bob Hare to the Downtown Design Review Committee for terms ending December 31, 2015.**

*Discussion:* Dennis Murray asked the City Commission to authorize, by motion, the appointment of Nicole Lloyd to the Downtown Design Review Committee for the remainder of a three-year term which will end December 31, 2015. This request was made by Angela Byington upon receiving a recommendation from the Sandusky Main Street Association's Board of Directors; Ms. Lloyd will replace the former Sandusky Main Street Association's Director, John Lippus. It is also requested the City Commission authorize, by motion, the appointment of Bob Hare to the Downtown Design Review Committee for the remainder of 2015; thus, his appointment will expire December 31, 2015. Scott Schell and Jeff Smith both noted they will abstain as they are on the Sandusky Main Street Association's Board of Directors.

**Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady and Wesley Poole, 5. Abstain: Scott Schell and Jeff Smith, 2. The President declared the motion passed.**

Naomi Twine said the **Healing Pathways of Hayes Avenue planters** have been placed on the corridor for the 2015 season and thanked Elaine Waterfield and Dale Kosel for their efforts, as well as those in the community who have committed to water these flowers. Flowers have been removed from these planters and she encouraged people in the community to call the police department if they see something like this happening.

Dick Brady asked about **vacancies on the Revolving Loan Fund Committee** and Kelly Kresser said there are still replacements needed for this board and this will be taken care of collectively at the next commission meeting.

Scott Schell said this Friday, June 12, the Sandusky Main Street Association will kick off **its Party at the Plaza events and a ceremony will take place beginning at 6 p.m. to dedicate a memorial plaque in honor of Scott Gast** who was tragically taken from us, but his spirit is a big part of Party at the Plaza and always has been. This will be a tribute to the Gast family and he encouraged people who enjoy these events to come share their ideas.

### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

John Hartman, 533 East Perkins Avenue, provided an update for the Sandusky Crime Prevention Council. There are three new block watches starting in the areas of East Parish Street, Wayne Street and Scott & Warren Streets. The annual Drug Summit will be held at the Sandusky State Theatre on October 20 from 5 p.m. - 9 p.m. and most of the panelists are set in stone. John Hartman said he received a call from Corporal Brian Toth with Operation Street Smart from Franklin County who will speak at the 2016 Drug Summit.

Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street, asked to clarify the figures mentioned in the City Manager's report regarding the Sandusky Bay Pavilion and Eric Wobser repeated them and stated these are not recommendations, they are merely an estimate from a contractor. Sharon Johnson said she would like to see the front of this property opened up and nice restrooms placed on the left side of the park so they are not blocked. Sharon Johnson said she is hearing the street study is completed and Aaron Klein said he is meeting with the consultant next week and understands this will be an approximate ninety percent review. Sharon Johnson said we do not want to get into the situation again with Community-Oriented Police funds and the city has Issue 8 funding and there is no reason to go for a grant as this has been provided.

Charlie Gibeaut, 2098 Cleveland Road, said he lives close to the east end of town near the traffic light and this street is similar to the Indianapolis 500, but the local police and State Highway Patrol have been in this area doing a tremendous job with speeding. There is an elephant in this town and it involves the police log during the last couple of days during Ohio Bike Week. The bikers have some kind of immunity and watching out his front window, he did

not see more than one or two police cruisers during the course of a day, nor did he see any reports of persons being picked up for loud noise and for a whole day he wore earplugs. In the sanctity of one's own home, people are entitled to peace and quiet and there is no domestic tranquility and this is all he is asking for. There is a limit on decibels and asked a police officer if the city was going to use the decibel meter, but was told he (the officer) was not too sure. Yesterday at church there was so much noise, the word motorcycle was held in more reverence and the service shut down early. Charlie Gibeaut asked what the possibility is for orchestrating the decibel meter for 2016 and picking up a few people; bikers are a family and if one or two or three are picked up, word will spread to others. One neighbor has said he will throw tacks on the road to slow people down. Another has said he will back his car up onto Cleveland Road and claim mechanical deficiency in order to slow cyclists down. People are up in arms to this extent, but this is extraordinary noise and is disturbing the peace. If a recording was taken during the last couple of days and played back at the same decibel level as input into the mechanism, he would get arrested and asked if someone else could be put into jail besides him. Dennis Murray said some folks abuse their equipment although this is a relatively small amount. He does not have control how the police department, with very limited resources but in very high demand, during a weekend where safety is placed first with 30,000 – 40,000 visitors to the community. A couple of targeted enforcements will help to go a long way in encouraging people to be more compliant and respectful of residents and visitors to the area.

**The President announced a recess of the regular meeting at 6:45 p.m. At 6:55 p.m., the commission went into executive session. The President announced adjournment at 7:47 p.m.**

---

Kelly L. Kresser, CMC  
Clerk of the City Commission

---

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