

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: Nikki Lloyd, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole, Naomi Twine and Dave Waddington.

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 Neighborhood Development & Planning, Brad Link – Director of Public Services, Don Rumbutis – IT, Stuart Hamilton – IT Manager, Trevor Hayberger – Acting Law Director, Hank Solowiej – Finance Director, Eric Wobser – City Manager and Kelly Kresser – Commission Clerk.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Naomi Twine, the Commission voted to approve the minutes of February 22, 2016, meeting and dispense with the formal reading. The President declared the motion passed.

Dennis Murray said **the city will not be making changes to its logo**, similar to a few years ago when there was much public backlash about Coke rolling out a new formula. We appreciate the feedback and obviously people obviously love our current seal; we may make changes to make it more digitally-friendly.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

PRESENTATION

Chaplain John Adams provided a brief background regarding the startup of the Community Chaplain Academy which is beginning in April 14, 2016. This Academy will allow for training to help people and officers understand what others may be going through during times of crisis. There is a need for community Chaplains and he traveled to New York City to learn about their training process where over 1,200 have already graduated. These persons will have not law enforcement authority and are not trained evangelists; they will be trained in how to handle crisis in people's lives and be alongside assisting them, praying with persons of different faiths, working in hospitals and nursing homes as Chaplains or assisting law enforcement after specific tragedies. This concept was recently presented to area Police Chiefs, Sheriffs and Judges and they are on board with it. This is a ten-week course and background checks are done for all applicants. They are trained in first aid, AED and CPR. They also must have full support of the church they attend. Chaplain Adams encouraged the commissioners to ride along with a police officer if they have not done so previously as it is eye-opening and will help to understand what they go through. Chaplain John Adams introduced Barbara Huston who is already a certified Chaplain.

Chaplain Barbara Huston said she is excited about this program. She was born and raised in Sandusky and her passion is serving people. There is a need for this program to reach out to the community members and desires to lift up Chaplaincy. Greg Lockhart said with the tremendous loss of jobs, this is exactly what is needed for emotional and spiritual support in the community. Naomi Twine thanked Chaplain Huston and Chaplain Adams for coming to this meeting and speaking about this program. There are a lot of things going on in the community and we should also find our niche to assist and this will fill a void. Dennis Murray said he is certain this will be a successful venture and thanked both Chaplains Huston and Adams for what they are doing.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Dennis Murray opened a Public Hearing for the CDBG program and Annual Action Plan for the City of Sandusky.

Arielle Blanca, Community Development Manager, said a Consolidated Plan Advisory Committee meeting was held on February 26. As an entitlement city, Sandusky receives a direct allocation of funds from the Department of Housing & Urban Development for various activities

in the community. These eligible activities include but are not limited to: acquisition, rehabilitation, demolition, code enforcement, economic development activities, public facility projects, infrastructure improvements and planning activities. Under the CDBG program, there are certain requirements which cannot be exceeded. In general, these include a maximum of twenty percent of the allocation to be expended on administration and planning, and a maximum of fifteen percent to be expended on public services during the program year. Seventy percent of the funds must benefit low to moderate income persons or households. All of the funds must meet one of three national objectives: 1) low to moderate income benefit; 2) elimination of slum and blight; and, 3) community urgent need. Sandusky anticipates an allocation of approximately \$690,000 plus an additional \$250,000 in carryover funds for a total of \$940,000 during program year 2016. The following activities were budgeted in the 2015 program year which is currently underway:

1. Program administration	\$129,000.00
2. Information & Referral/211 Program	8,500.00
3. Fair Housing	2,000.00
4. Streets, sidewalks, curb and gutter	245,000.00
5. Parks and ADA improvements	140,000.00
6. Clearance and demolition	208,261.00
7. Sandusky Chooses Healthy Living program	10,000.00
8. Code Enforcement	165,000.00
9. Help Against Homelessness program	10,000.00
10. Citizens Circle program	10,000.00
11. Acquisition	20,000.00
12. Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund	70,000.00
13. Housing Rehabilitation	25,000.00

Subrecipient funding applications became available on February 22 and are due no later than 12 p.m. on March 21. A draft of the plan will be available on March 24 for a 30-day comment period. There will be a second Consolidated Plan Advisory Committee meeting on April 14, and on April 25, a second public hearing will be held. Public input on community needs relating to CDBG funding can be submitted, by written correspondence, to the Community Development Department, or via email: ablanca@ci.sandusky.oh.us, or via phone: 419.627.5847.

There being no further discussion, the President declared the Public Hearing closed.

Dennis Murray opened a Public Hearing regarding the 2016 budget for the City of Sandusky.

Hank Solowiej, Finance Director, said budget planning is for the use of limited resources with infinite demands. The budget tries to maximize the impact of every dollar the city is entrusted with by prioritizing. A Strategic Plan was recently adopted by over 2,000 stakeholders which will provide a framework for setting budget priorities. The city will be focusing on five strategic areas: a vibrant city, a livable city, a connected city, a destination city and a celebrated city. The budget being presented tonight includes prioritization for each of these five areas.

Eric Wobser, City Manager, said a general summary was distributed for each of the city departments with a rather modest but strong reserve, and revenues which are expected to come in over expenses. Two of the three unions have already completed their contracts and we are still negotiating with the third union; currently a two percent wage increase is projected. There are four major initiatives to be rolled out in 2016 intimately supported by the budget proposals including a neighborhood initiative, economic development programs tied to Issue 8 dollars, a five-year capital improvement program and the Bicentennial Commission work plan to help bring in private investment. Departmental changes will include positions created in 2014 becoming full-time in 2016. The increases in the Public Service Department affect those who maintain our city parks, streets and other public areas as well as to maintain city vehicles, trees and recreational assets. There are ten new employees since the passage of Issue 8 in this department and five new seasonal employees. The Community Development Department will also realize increases in positions and new revenue will be brought in to fund these positions,

specifically for Code Enforcement. The city also hired an Economic Development Specialist and a Program Manager for the Housing Department. The city is also looking to hire a Neighborhood Project Manager to help implement neighborhood housing initiatives and will be supported by local foundations. We may also need someone to monitor the demolition process on the engineering or inspector side. There are no staffing changes proposed for the Police or Fire Departments and the three fire stations will continue to stay open at all times. We will be expanding our nuisance base, expanding community policing and providing targeted bicycle patrols this summer. The Finance Department will continue to provide very strong service and no changes are projected for the General Fund. The Law Department may be restructured and impact the budget in a positive way while continuing to provide a high level of service. The Administrative Services Director position was budgeted for in 2015 and again will not be budgeted for this year in order to save costs and determine if the IT and HR Department can report through the Finance or Law Department. Eric Wobser said this will provide increased services and public safety, get more projects out the door and attract positive investment in the city. Dave Waddington said he has been attending the Audit/Finance Committee meetings and this is good news for the city compared to the economic recession period in 2008 – 2010. Wes Poole said a lot of employees have been added and asked specifically what these positions are, what they will cost and what they will be doing to contribute to the goals set. Eric Wobser said we are not looking at additional staffing in the Law Department; if we were to hire an Assistant Law Director - which was always the intent when the Acting Law Director Trevor Hayberger was hired - this will bring down administrative service costs as it will eliminate some of the outside legal costs over time. Greg Lockhart asked if there will still be a part-time Law Director position and Eric Wobser said there had been a full-time Law Director, a part-time Law Director, a full-time Paralegal, a full-time Administrative Assistant, a full-time Prosecutor and a part-time Administrative Assistant. The city will realize a significant savings when replacing Don Icsman with a lesser experienced person; the part-time Assistant Law Director will be able to become full-time with the savings from this salary. In addition, this will provide savings as the current Paralegal position focuses on land bank issues and may be migrated into the Community Development position. Eric Wobser said the city does use outside legal counsel, and will continue to on an as-needed basis. There are no major staffing changes being recommended for the Finance Department. Stuart Hamilton was hired as the IT Manager in the Administrative Services Department and will be in the budget for the entire calendar year 2016. In the Police Department, no full-time staff increases are recommended for 2016; however, there will be an expansion of the Reserve Officer program. There are no recommended staffing level changes for the Fire Department; we wish to maintain the organizational level to keep stations open. In Public Works, the only staff level change which would impact the General Fund will be for an Inspector to oversee infrastructure improvement projects, condemnation projects or environmental due diligence projects. In Public Services, there is one full-time budgeted position in the Greenhouse and the Fleet Maintenance Division and three new seasonal positions. We also added one position in Forestry in 2015 to focus on tree trimming and maintenance. Grounds Maintenance and Facility Maintenance have now been combined with one director. Tom Speir oversees the Greenhouse and the Forestry Division. In the Planning Department, there are no new positions being suggested other than the Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator to focus specifically on overseeing a neighborhood initiative for city residents. There are two new positions in Housing which will be paid for with the rental registration fees and a potential shifting of resources from the Law Department into the Development Department to manage programs. This will bring the total staffing of these Departments to 18½ persons, still less than the 20 employees during pre-recession; the majority of the costs are through Issue 8 funding. We have had work sessions with members of the Bicentennial Committee and are looking at several large scale events and activities; the city's commitment is to hire a Bicentennial Coordinator. There is \$1.7 million in general fund revenue dedicated specifically to infrastructure, economic development and housing. These are all new dollars being put out onto the street and not into staffing. Aaron Klein said in the Public Works Department, the city previously had a full-time Superintendent and part-time Assistant Superintendent; we are proposing to add a Lab Technician position and eliminate one of the maintenance positions. In Water Distribution, there will be some retirements in 2016 and we will maintain the budget. In Sewer, there are employees looking to retire or with medical issues, and we may have to increase staffing to handle the lack of personnel. In the Waste Water

Treatment Plant, there currently are two persons eligible for retirement and it is important to maintain consistency. There may be a need to obtain a fourth person in this lab. We may hire one person to oversee the Sewer and Water Departments rather than separate Directors. Wes Poole said this is a lot of information and asked to focus on the additional personnel in the Public Services Department, the positions they are filling (full-time and part-time), and what the benefit is to the citizens. In the end, the city is going to spend three quarters of a million dollars on these positions and the taxpayers would like to know how we came up with justifying the addition of more people and how we will actually benefit from this. Eric Wobser said the positions added in Public Services are to increase investment in our trees by trimming, removing, maintaining and planting. Brad Link said with the part-time positions, we plan to increase ballfield maintenance which has been non-existent for a number of years. At the Greenhouse, some of the floral parks on the outskirts will be maintained which have not been previously. Two seasonal employees will abate nuisances where grass is eight inches or higher, and others. Wes Poole said he is always happy to fund things of value and this is the kind of answer he is looking for. Between now and the final vote on this legislation, he would like these kinds of answers from other Departments (names of employees, job descriptions, a short explanation of what we can expect and how they will be funded). Dick Brady said wages and fringe benefits are a large percentage of our budget (approximately 75%) and we have not hired new persons simply to reduce unemployment, we have hired them because we are more vibrant than we were in 2011.

There being no further discussion, the President declared the Public Hearing closed.

CURRENT BUSINESS

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

ITEM #1

PASSED AT FIRST READING 2.22.16

AMENDING CODE OF ORDINANCES PERTAINING TO RECREATION BOARD

ORDINANCE NO. 16-034: It is requested an ordinance be passed amending Part One (Administrative Code), Title Seven (Boards and Commissioners), Chapter 165 (Recreation Board) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Sandusky, in the manner and way specifically set forth hereinbelow.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to approve this ordinance at second reading. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Nikki Lloyd, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole, Naomi Twine and Dave Waddington, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed at second reading.

ITEM #2 - Submitted by Hank Solowiej, Finance Director & Eric Wobser, City Manager

GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

PASSED AT FIRST READING: It is requested an ordinance be passed making general appropriations for the fiscal year 2016; and declaring that this ordinance be passed at first reading.

Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Nikki Lloyd, the commission voted to approve this ordinance at first reading.

Discussion: Wes Poole said he is satisfied the budget is balanced, but until he gets the additional information requested about the employees, he will vote no on this item. He would like to see an organizational chart for the entire city to see what positions will be permanent, part-time or seasonal, and what is projected to be added to the budget. There needs to be some standards and goals for what the departments will be doing as they relate to the vision adopted. Greg Lockhart said the plan as set forth may be a good one, but the public needs more clarity. Nikki Lloyd said this is a good plan and she has confidence the City Manager is making good decisions and does not need these answers before passing a budget. Dennis Murray said this is an excellent budget and there has been ample time to examine who we are hiring and

why, and has been very pleased with responses to his questions, but respects the desire to have other questions answered.

Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Nikki Lloyd, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Naomi Twine and Dave Waddington, 5. Nays: Greg Lockhart and Wes Poole, 2. The President declared the ordinance passed at first reading.

ITEM #3 – Submitted by Amanda McClain, Paralegal

ACCEPTING SEVEN PARCELS OF LAND THROUGH LAND REUTILIZATION PROGRAM

Budgetary Impact: The cost of this acquisition will be approximately \$882 to pay for the title exams and transfer fees, but will be recouped upon the sale of the parcels. The city will not collect the \$6,376.43 owed to the city in special assessments, nor will the taxing districts collect the \$15,709.16 owed in delinquent taxes. However, all or part of this cost may be recouped and reimbursed upon the sale of the parcels. As the properties are put back into tax producing status, the taxing districts will once again begin collecting real estate taxes in the amount of approximately \$6,231.38 per year.

RESOLUTION NO. 014-16R: It is requested a resolution be passed **approving and accepting certain real property for acquisition into the land reutilization program;** and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

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

Discussion: Dennis Murray said the city is getting to the point where a number of different properties are being turned over sooner rather than remaining vacant for such a long time. Amanda McClain said a few years ago, the Erie County Prosecutor's Office increased the number of attorneys working on these tax foreclosed properties and started with the most egregious properties.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Nikki Lloyd, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole, Naomi Twine and Dave Waddington, 7. Roll call on the resolution: Yeas: Nikki Lloyd, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole, Naomi Twine and Dave Waddington, 7. The President declared the resolution passed under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

ITEM #4 – Submitted by Amanda McClain, Paralegal

SALE OF TWO PARCELS THROUGH LAND REUTILIZATION PROGRAM

Budgetary Impact: The cost associated with this purchase and sale agreement is the total amount of the title examination, market analysis and real estate transfer fees. The city will recoup these expenses from the proceeds of the sale. Mr. Klenk's provision of maintenance has saved the city approximately \$4,416 in maintenance fees since 2006 and will continue to save the city from expending taxpayer dollars to otherwise mow and maintain the parcels. The parcels will be put back into tax producing status and the taxing districts will once again begin collecting real estate taxes from the parcels. Mr. Klenk's committed maintenance of this parcel as well as his adjoining home has enhanced the aesthetics of the Fourth Street neighborhood and has helped to stabilize property values. The taxing districts will once again begin collecting real property taxes in the amount of approximately \$467.64 per year.

ORDINANCE NO. 16-035: It is requested an ordinance be passed **declaring that certain real property owned by the city as part of the land reutilization program identified as Parcel No's. 57-05288.000 and 57-05105.000, located on Fourth Street, Sandusky, are no longer needed for any municipal purpose and authorizing the execution of a purchase and sale agreement with respect to that real property;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Wes Poole, 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: Nikki Lloyd, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady, Dennis

Murray, Wes Poole, Naomi Twine and Dave Waddington, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Nikki Lloyd, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole, Naomi Twine and Dave Waddington, 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 Amanda McClain, Paralegal

APPROVAL TO EXECUTE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR SALE OF PARCELS IN THE LAND REUTILIZATION PROGRAM

Budgetary Impact: The cost associated with this request for proposals is \$151 for title report and transfer fees, plus the total amount of administrative staff time utilized and fees for the required newspaper publications. It is anticipated that these expenses will be recouped upon sale.

ORDINANCE NO. 16-036: It is requested an ordinance be passed **declaring that certain real property acquired through the city's land reutilization program and owned by the city identified as Parcel No. 57-04293.000 located at 820 Perry Street, is no longer needed for any municipal purpose and authorizing and directing the City Manager to proceed with a request for proposals process for the sale of property;** and declaring that this ordinance take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Nikki Lloyd and second of Dave Waddington, 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: Nikki Lloyd, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole, Naomi Twine and Dave Waddington, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Nikki Lloyd, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole, Naomi Twine and Dave Waddington, 7. 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 Amanda McClain, Paralegal

APPROVAL TO DISPOSE OF UNNEEDED ITEM

Budgetary Impact: There will be no budgetary impact.

ORDINANCE NO. 16-037: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the City Manager to dispose of a house number plaque as having become unnecessary and unfit for city use pursuant to Section 25 of the City Charter;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

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

Discussion: Dick Brady said this is a request from a former employee of his who previously lived in this home and this is very meaningful to him.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Nikki Lloyd, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole, Naomi Twine and Dave Waddington, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Nikki Lloyd, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole, Naomi Twine and Dave Waddington, 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 Jane Cullen, Project Engineer

APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER #2 FOR COLUMBUS AVENUE & PARISH STREET SIGNAL, POLE & FOUNDATION

Budgetary Impact: The original contract with National Light and Power, Inc. is for \$44,240. Change Order #2 in the deduct amount of \$5,000 will revise the final contract amount to \$39,240 to be paid with capital projects funds. This project was made possible through Issue 8 funding.

ORDINANCE NO. 16-038: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the City Manager to approve the second and final change order for work performed by 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 Naomi Twine and second of Dave Waddington, 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: Nikki Lloyd, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole, Naomi Twine and Dave Waddington, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Nikki Lloyd, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole, Naomi Twine and Dave Waddington, 7. 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 Aaron Klein, Director of Public Works
ACCEPTING BIDS FOR THE JACKSON STREET PARKING LOT PROJECT**

Budgetary Impact: The estimated cost of the project including engineering construction, advertising and miscellaneous costs is \$510,079.50 and will be paid through the following:

	<u>ORIGINAL</u>	<u>ENGINEERING</u>	<u>CONSTRUCTION</u>
US EPA 2014 GLRI Grant	\$125,957.90	\$14,606.47	\$111,351.43
Ohio EPA 2014 SWIF Grant	97,723.00	11,324.64	86,398.36
City of Sandusky (Issue 8)	236,398.60	15,769.87	220,628.73
City of Sandusky (Storm)	<u>50,000.00</u>	<u>14,514.02</u>	<u>35,485.98</u>
	\$510,079.50	\$56,215.00	\$453,864.50

RESOLUTION NO. 015-16R: It is requested a resolution be passed **declaring the necessity for the city to proceed with the proposed Jackson Street parking lot 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 Wes Poole and second of Dave Waddington, the commission voted to approve this resolution under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Aaron Klein said this is a storm water project to improve a blighted piece of property for parking. We could not include the lighting in the grant and is the reason for the increase in cost. There will be six to eight poles, underground conduit and electrical work required for installation. We have worked with different groups and organizations and coordinated with stakeholders to meet all of the needs while capturing 99.2% of the storm water. Dennis Murray said this is very important as this parking lot serves a lot of different groups for many different purposes.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Nikki Lloyd, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole, Naomi Twine and Dave Waddington, 7. Roll call on the resolution: Yeas: Nikki Lloyd, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole, Naomi Twine and Dave Waddington, 7. The President declared the resolution passed under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

**ITEM #9 – Submitted by Aaron Klein, Director of Public Works
2016 YARD WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES**

Budgetary Impact: Based on service for a one-day per week pickup at \$10.50 per home per month, and a contract for nine months, the estimated amount for the 2016 yard waste collection service is \$60,763.50 based on last year’s figure of 643 customers. This amount is subject to change due to additions and deletions of customers to the program. The cost of the service will be charged back to the customers in addition to a charge of \$.50 per month for administrative costs.

ORDINANCE NO. 16-039: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a one-year contract extension with Republic Services of Sandusky, Ohio, for yard waste collection services in calendar year 2016 which is available for the period of April 1, 2016, through December 31, 2016;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Wes Poole and second of Dave Waddington, 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: Nikki Lloyd, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole, Naomi Twine and Dave Waddington, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Nikki Lloyd, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole, Naomi Twine and Dave Waddington, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

ITEM #10 – Submitted by Aaron Klein, Director of Public Works

ANNUAL COST SHARING FEE WITH ERIE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Budgetary Impact: 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.

[ORDINANCE NO. 16-040](#): 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 Nikki Lloyd and second of Dave Waddington, the commission voted to approve this ordinance under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Wes Poole said he is happy we are able to participate with the Erie Soil & Water Conservation District to keep the city in compliance.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Nikki Lloyd, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole, Naomi Twine and Dave Waddington, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Nikki Lloyd, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole, Naomi Twine and Dave Waddington, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

ITEM #11 – Submitted by Jeff Keefe, Assistant City Engineer

WSRLA LOAN APPLICATION WITH THE OHIO EPA FOR HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM INFRA-STRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS AT BIG ISLAND WATER WORKS

Budgetary Impact: There is no budgetary impact at this time for submitting the application.

[RESOLUTION NO. 016-16R](#): It is requested a resolution be passed **authorizing and directing the City Manager to file an application with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for a water supply revolving loan account for harmful algal bloom infrastructure improvements;** and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Wes Poole, the commission voted to approve this resolution under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Aaron Klein said this is used to fight against algal blooms and is critical at this time; it will increase the capacity to treat whatever comes into the plant. Typically the city would pay for this through an OWDA loan, but this new program was put into place last year with a potential zero percent interest rate because of the problems with algal blooms. This is a much better financing option but there is a lot of paperwork necessary to receive the benefit.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Nikki Lloyd, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole, Naomi Twine and Dave Waddington, 7. Roll call on the resolution: Yeas: Nikki Lloyd, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole, Naomi Twine and Dave Waddington, 7. The President declared the resolution passed under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

ITEM #12 – Submitted by Angela Byington, Director of Neighborhood Development & Planning**RESIDENTIAL DEMOLITION PROJECT #1 (ISSUE 8)**

Budgetary Impact: Change Order #1 will increase the contract with Premier Concrete by \$1,100. The current contract amount with Premier Concrete is \$38,400. The revised contract amount including Change Order #1 is \$39,500. The additional balance will be paid with Issue 8 funds from the Community Development Capital projects fund.

ORDINANCE NO. 16-041: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the City Manager to approve the first change order for work to be performed by Premier Concrete of Norwalk, Ohio, for the Issue 8 residential demolition project #1 in the amount of \$1,100;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Nikki Lloyd and second of Dave Waddington, the commission voted to approve this ordinance under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Dick Brady said he understands this is because of asbestos found which we did not know of previously. Angela Byington said the asbestos survey did not show this and this change order is appropriate and recommends approval.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Nikki Lloyd, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole, Naomi Twine and Dave Waddington, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Nikki Lloyd, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole, Naomi Twine and Dave Waddington, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

ITEM #13 – Submitted by Victoria Kurt, Recreation Superintendent**APPROVING 2016 FEES FOR MILLS CREEK GOLF COURSE**

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

ORDINANCE NO. 16-042: It is requested an ordinance be passed **approving the fee schedule for the Mills Creek Golf Course established by the City Manager pursuant to Section 973.02 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Sandusky;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington 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: Dave Waddington said he plays at Mills Creek Golf Course quite a bit and this is a blue collar Course; most of the old timers are quite happy there is not going to be a price increase this year. Greg Lockhart asked what the city's intentions are for improving the course and believes it is underutilized. Brad Link said last year, the city added new golf carts to its fleet and a new mower was purchased to better maintain the open areas. The city promotes the course through the visitor's guide and social media.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Nikki Lloyd, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole, Naomi Twine and Dave Waddington, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Nikki Lloyd, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole, Naomi Twine and Dave Waddington, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

ITEM #14 – Submitted by Victoria Kurt, Recreation Superintendent**APPROVAL OF 2016 DORN COMMUNITY PARK CONCESSION AGREEMENT**

Budgetary Impact: The agreement will not result in any additional budgetary expenses. The city will benefit from the agreed upon rental fee income of \$70 per month and electric service reimbursement of \$30 per month.

ORDINANCE NO. 16-043: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a three year agreement with Connie Weyer dba Ma Da & Dewey for the operation of the Dorn Community Park Concession area for the 2016, 2017 and 2018 operating seasons (March 15 through August 15) beginning March 15, 2016;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Wes Poole and second of Nikki Lloyd, the commission voted to approve this ordinance under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Dick Brady said this company has been around for several years and he hears good things about them. Kevin Weyer, Ma Da and Dewey, said last year, thirty-five percent of the games were canceled because of having such a wet summer, and asked the city to look at the lack of drainage at the fields. There are teams coming to Sandusky from Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky and New York and this does not leave them with a good impression. Wes Poole said the concession is a worthwhile service and said perhaps the Recreation Board can make a recommendation or plan to take care of this. Eric Wobser said this is part of the reason for adding seasonal ballfield maintenance positions in Public Services. Brad Link said drainage/tile was installed at all of the fields in the park last fall, and we will be adding dirt and dragging them soon.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Nikki Lloyd, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole, Naomi Twine and Dave Waddington, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Nikki Lloyd, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole, Naomi Twine and Dave Waddington, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

ITEM #15 – Submitted by Victoria Kurt, Recreation Superintendent**APPROVAL OF 2016, 2017 & 2018 LEASE AGREEMENT FOR SHORELINE PARK CONCESSION**

Budgetary Impact: The agreement will not result in any additional budgetary expenses. The City will benefit from the agreed upon rental fee income of \$70.00 per month and electric service reimbursement of \$30.00 per month.

ORDINANCE NO. 16-044: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a lease agreement with Ron Hile II d.b.a. Great Lakes Grinders for the operation of the Shoreline Park concession area for the 2016, 2017 and 2018 operating seasons (March 15 through September 15) beginning March 15, 2016;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington 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: Dick Brady said Ron Hile has a great product, has been very successful here and is thrilled he will be with us for an extended period of time.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Nikki Lloyd, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole, Naomi Twine and Dave Waddington, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Nikki Lloyd, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole, Naomi Twine and Dave Waddington, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

ITEM #16 – Submitted by Dave Degnan, Fire Chief**APPROVAL OF MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS FOR THE SANDUSKY FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Budgetary Impact: This will not impact the general fund as there is no cost involved.

ORDINANCE NO. 16-045: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a mutual aid agreement for the interchange of fire protection services with the Village of Bay View, Berlin Township Trustees, Florence Township Trustees, Groton Township Trustees, City of Huron, Village of Kelley’s Island, Margaretta Township Trustees, Milan Township Trustees, Perkins Township Trustees, City of Vermilion and Vermilion Township Trustees;** 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 Nikki Lloyd, the commission voted to approve this ordinance under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Dave Degnan said these agreements are for other departments in Erie County so if extra services are needed right away, all are able to provide them. This is very beneficial to all departments as not all of our fire fighters live in the city and they are not required to do so. There was a recent fire in Sandusky where four departments were called for mutual aid and with changes in leadership, it is necessary to update this agreement. There may be impacts on the budget, but calls for mutual aid normally are taken care of by personnel who are already on duty.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Nikki Lloyd, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole, Naomi Twine and Dave Waddington, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Nikki Lloyd, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole, Naomi Twine and Dave Waddington, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

ITEM #17 – Submitted by Matt Lasko, Chief Development Officer**APPROVING FILING OF APPLICATION FOR ABANDONED GAS STATION CLEANUP GRANT PROGRAM**

Budgetary Impact: There is no impact on the city’s general fund. It is anticipated that all projects undertaken as part of the grant will be paid for through grant funds.

RESOLUTION NO. 017-16R: It is requested a resolution be **passed authorizing the filing of an application with the Ohio Development Services Agency for the abandoned gas station cleanup grant program for the former Sunoco Gas Station property located at 1651 Tiffin Avenue;** 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 Wes Poole, the commission voted to approve this resolution under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Dave Waddington said he is hopeful this may become a permanent gateway into Sandusky and would like to see a mound welcoming at this area in the future.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Nikki Lloyd, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole, Naomi Twine and Dave Waddington, 7. Roll call on the resolution: Yeas: Nikki Lloyd, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole, Naomi Twine and Dave Waddington, 7. The President declared the resolution passed under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

ITEM #18 – Submitted by Matt Lasko, Chief Development Officer**APPROVAL OF PETITION & ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION – ENERGY SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

Budgetary Impact: There are no budgetary impacts resulting from this legislation.

RESOLUTION NO. 018-16R: It is requested a resolution passed **approving the Petition and Articles of Incorporation for the creation and governance of an Energy Special Improvement District under Ohio Revised Code Chapter 1710**; and declaring that this Resolution shall take effect under suspension of the rules as contained in and in accordance with Section 13 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Wes Poole, the commission voted to approve this resolution under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Greg Lockhart asked about the assessment process and how this will work. Eric Wobser introduced representatives from the Toledo Port Authority and asked them to speak to this item.

Todd Williams, Schindler Williams (legal counsel to the Toledo/Lucas County Port Authority) said Energy Improvement Districts are similar to a standard improvement district; however, these need only apply to one parcel at a time. This district can be expanded to multiple parcels across the city and they do not have to be contiguous. The cost for borrowing will be assessed purely against Tier 3 LLC and will allow for payment of energy improvements. Greg Lockhart asked if there is a time limit on expansion of the district; Todd Smith said so long as the district exists, it can be expanded to any other property owner who wishes to expand and has an energy renewal project. Eric Wobser said the city cannot market the program until the district is created and we intend to do this. Todd Williams said eligible energy efficiency upgrades and renewable energy are all specified by statute and are rather broad; they include solar, wind and geothermal projects. Wes Poole asked what the city's role is in determining whether parcels are approved. Todd Williams said a joint approach is used with the Board of Directors partnering with the Toledo/Lucas County Port Authority to handle some of the initial underwriting and review of the project for liability. The Board actually makes the decision about whether or not to expand the district and a recommendation is made by the Port Authority. The District will have representation on its board from the city. Assessments must be placed in August or early September which must be certified each year in September.

Teresa Smith, Toledo/Lucas County Port Authority, said the financing funnels through the Port Authority; a fund was established through the Department of Education five years ago. Some of these funds were put into a bond reserve to provide capital to markets across the state to help improve the energy efficiency of buildings. The way a building owner applies to the program is to make application for this funding for their qualified expenses. The benefits to Sandusky are any business owner can apply by submitting three years of financials with two years of historical energy data, a cost justification showing energy savings based on the improvements to be made. A business must also be current on their property taxes as the assessment will be placed through the city. The owner benefits by one hundred percent financing and competitive fixed rates for up to fifteen years which are currently at approximately five percent. This brings a resource to the community which banks do not offer and brings capital which can be blended with other financing to the table. In an environment of decreased property values, a lot of times, banks will not lend more than 75% of the appraised value. The Port Authority is able to take off some of the debt up front to make the project work. Greg Lockhart asked how the city plays its part in helping out with these parcels. Teresa Smith said once the district is set up and the board is in place, the local administration of the energy district will partner with the city to market and make sure information gets out to constituents. The second phase is passing additional legislation for parcels and projects. Districts can also be expended beyond our municipal delineation by adding contiguous community property as demand grows. Matt Lasko said the initial step tonight is to create this energy special improvement district to bring this resource into the community. Individual projects can then come before the City Commission in the future for an order to proceed and an order to levy the actual tax assessment which is large

enough to retire the debt on the project by the Port Authority. This could not happen without a sponsoring project and this particular item is for the Hotel Kilbourne. With up to one hundred percent financing on energy improvement projects, this is also eligible to commercial, industrial, and possibly residential properties as there are various types of uses in our community. This is a very special opportunity and Sandusky will be a pioneer in Erie County which we are very excited about. Wes Poole asked what the benefit is to going outside of the city limits with creating a district. Teresa Smith said there is an extensive legislative process to go through in establishing a district which has a cost. Some of the surrounding townships and municipalities are so small, it does not make sense for them to set up their own. This will increase the scope of those with access without creating any additional real demand or liability on the city. Dick Brady said he has heard this information presented twice and also is aware the banks love this as their first position on a loan is even stronger because improvements are being made to a building with ownership interest. This will be a great benefit to the community without risk. Nikki Lloyd said she and her husband Ryan are excited about sponsoring this project and bringing this opportunity to the city and will abstain from voting on this item.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole, Naomi Twine and Dave Waddington, 6. Abstain: Nikki Lloyd, 1. Roll call on the resolution: Yeas: Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole, Naomi Twine and Dave Waddington, 6. Nikki Lloyd, 1. The President declared the resolution passed under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Eric Wobser asked people to **take advantage of their civic duty and vote in the primary election tomorrow.** This is an important vote locally and statewide.

Eric Wobser said **city offices will close at 12 p.m. on Good Friday, March 25.**

Eric Wobser **welcomed Amanda James to the meeting** who is a student in his Public Administration course at BGSU/Firelands College.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Wes Poole, the commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$50 from the Hank Solowiej family for the Police Department Trust Fund in memory of Andy Dunn. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Dave Waddington, the commission voted to accept an anonymous, in-kind donation to improve and landscape the "Welcome to Sandusky" sign area located on Butler Street. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon Naomi Twine and second of Dave Waddington, the commission voted to apply for a grant from The Dorn Foundation to be utilized for expenses associated with the Bicentennial.

Discussion: Eric Wobser said he learned today about a grant available from The Dorn Foundation for the Bicentennial celebration taking place in 2018. The trustees have invited the city to submit an application for façade restoration and the neighborhood projects to take place during the Bicentennial year.

The President declared the motion passed.

Eric Wobser said Greg Volz and Green Door Media have completed an application for **Strong Towns, a competition to highlight America's successful and resilient cities.** Sandusky made it into the top sixteen cities and voting for the elite eight will take place in the upcoming days. Eric Wobser asked people to vote early and often for Sandusky.

Eric Wobser said the **Sandusky Main Street Associated has hired a new executive director, Jim Gerken,** and a reception will be held at Lakeview Condos on Monday from 5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Eric Wobser said on March 19 at 1 p.m., **a memorial display will be unveiled on the south side of the city building, in honor of Officer Andrew Dunn**. This will be the five-year anniversary of the death of Officer Dunn who was killed in the line of duty while serving the citizens of Sandusky. The Erie County Conservation League, spearheaded by James Alexander, has raised funds through the annual Andrew Dunn Shooting Challenge, as well as many private sponsors. A ceremony will be held and the public is welcome to attend.

Eric Wobser said on March 10, **the annual Awards Banquet for the Police Department** was held and many awards were given out to members of the department. Officer Chris Rankins was named the 2015 Officer of the Year. Criteria for this award is based on leadership, professionalism, work attitude, cooperation with peers, supervisors and the public. Officer Rankins has served the department since 1993 and has been the School Resource Officer for the past five years. Eric Wobser congratulated all officers who were recognized for their contributions to the department and community.

Eric Wobser said the **Ohio Water Development Authority informed the city on February 18 it was reducing the interest rate on all loans** over four percent. This will result in over \$2 million of savings in interest over the remaining life of the loans.

Eric Wobser said the **new server for the financial software upgrade project** has arrived.

Eric Wobser said the next scheduled **Audit/Finance Committee meeting** is Friday, March 18 at 7:45 a.m.

Eric Wobser said the **Caldwell Street project** is anticipated to start March 14, weather dependent.

Eric Wobser said **Alfred Percival was welcomed to Big Island Water Works, and Richard Sinwald and Philip Barone were welcomed to the Waste Water Treatment Plant**.

Eric Wobser said Aaron Klein participated in the **Energy-Water Nexus** in Oregon, Ohio, with Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, Anna Garcia and Dr. David Danielson of the U.S. Department of Energy focusing on how to remove obstacles to energy conservation technologies at Water and Waste Water Treatment Plants and possible beneficial reuse scenarios of waste byproducts.

Eric Wobser said the **railroad has completed their crossing improvements and the contractor for the East End Sewer project has completed their work on Remington Avenue**. The current pavement on Remington Avenue and Cleveland Road is temporary and will be replaced under better weather; the road is scheduled to open within a week.

Eric Wobser said the engineering staff is aware of base problems which arose after completion of the **paving on Sanford and Pipe Streets**. This has caused the asphalt to unravel and we are working with the contractor to rectify the situation when asphalt plants reopen in the spring.

Eric Wobser said the **city's journal entry process** has been outlined for the commissioners and was distributed tonight.

Eric Wobser said city will host a **Sandusky Roundtable meeting** on Wednesday, March 16 from 12 - 12:50 p.m. at the Central Fire Station, 600 West Market Street. The purpose of these meetings is to create an open dialogue between local businesses and the city. At this meeting, Maria Muratori, Economic Development Specialist, Abbey Bemis from Erie County Economic Development Corporation and Pamela Smith from the Chamber will lead the dialogue.

Eric Wobser said on March 4, **the city officially took title of the former Hopper's Mobile Home Park**, 2513 Venice Road. The nearly four acre parcel will be held in the city's land bank while the planned demolition and remediation of the adjacent **former Sunoco gas station** is completed. These two sites together will serve as an attractive future development site and opportunity for gateway enhancements.

Eric Wobser said the city has received the **Phase I Environmental Site Assessment for the proposed acquisition of 707 Warren**. The property, per the report, along with other due diligence materials received, does not contain any recognized environmental conditions. Multiple sources have also confirmed complete removal of the underground storage tanks that were formerly on site. The city therefore intends to move forward with the acquisition which is likely to happen in April or May of this year.

Eric Wobser said the city's **application to the Department of Commerce to classify the former Sunoco Station at 1651 Tiffin Avenue as a Class C abandoned site** was successful. The city received confirmation on March 9 making the property eligible for demolition and remediation funding through the **State's new abandoned gas station cleanup grant program**.

Eric Wobser said the **Easter egg hunt will be held at Washington Park on Saturday, March 19 starting at 10 a.m.** and all ages are welcome to participate. Juice and donuts will be provided.

Eric Wobser said construction of the **new Shoreline Park playground** is scheduled to begin by the end of the month, weather permitting.

OLD BUSINESS

Upon motion of Dennis Murray and second of Dick Brady, the commission voted for staff to look into options for City Hall and come back within 90 days with options and costs to make a better informed decision.

Discussion: Dennis Murray said many attended the Police Department Awards Banquet last week and Detective Wichman made a comment about conversations taking place when he started with the department 26 years ago concerning the condition of city hall. The Municipal Court is in an inadequate facility and is shameful with buckets collecting rain in the courtroom. It is high past time to make a decision about what the city is going to do and would like to get an understanding of a reasonable timeframe for staff to return with options to stay or to rehabilitate. There have been discussions in the past about the Municipal Court joining with the Police Department. Dennis Murray said he would like the commission to decide on a path moving forward and to make a decision in a reasonable period of time. Eric Wobser said this recently came up with Aaron Klein and he was asked how to present information about public facilities in the capital budget. Eric Wobser said it is probably wise to evaluate several options including costs to rehabilitate, build new or relocate. Eric Wobser said he would anticipate a 60 – 90 day window to bring a recommendation back with options. Dick Brady said he believe staff has the ability to do this in-house and Eric Wobser said if any outside assistance is necessary, it would be simple to have a modest contract to determine costs so as not to have them second guessed. Greg Lockhart asked what ideas there are presently concerning City Hall and Eric Wobser said the city has looked at the costs to stay in its current location. The Comprehensive Plan also identified options for the current site, as well as the adjacent site also owned by the city. Wes Poole pointed out this question has come up many times over the years and two different commissions have asked for the exact same thing and there is comparative data and cost estimates. In 2010, the city actually went out for bids and received two or three to relocate city hall into downtown and this information should be compared and contrasted. Two City Commissions' prior voted to stay at the current location; likewise, the plans were approved for the Municipal Court to expand either directly to the west or to the north of the current City Hall. Eric Wobser said these historic documents were looked at and can be used as a baseline and then updated. He has had preliminary conversations with Judge O'Brien who is not necessarily interested in staying at the current location; his current inclination is to have a new justice center. Wes Poole said the city should get a refund on the cost of the original plans.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Nikki Lloyd, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole, Naomi Twine and Dave Waddington, 7. The President declared the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Wes Poole asked if the **microphone system** in the commission chambers is going to be repaired or replaced and Stuart Hamilton said the equipment is old and overheating and the city is working with sound engineers to obtain quotes and replace it.

Upon motion of Dick Brady and second of Wes Poole, the commission voted to hold an executive session regarding collective bargaining. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Nikki Lloyd, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole, Naomi Twine and Dave Waddington, 7. The President declared the motion passed.

Dave Waddington said a **Coffee With A Commissioner session** will take place on March 19 at 1 p.m. at Mr. Smith's and will include Chief John Orzech along with Commissioners Naomi Twine, Dick Brady and himself.

Dennis Murray said a **Public Hearing will be set for April 25 at 5 p.m. to consider an amendment to the zoning map for 1202 First Street and 1208 First Street.**

Dennis Murray said a **Public Hearing will be set for April 25 at 5 p.m. to consider an amendment to the zoning map for 409 Water Street, 309 Water Street, 307 Water Street and 301 Water Street.**

Dennis Murray said a **Public Hearing will be set for April 25 which is the second of two regarding the CDBG annual Action Plan.**

Upon motion of Dennis Murray and second of Wes Poole, the commission voted to appoint Dave Waddington as the liaison to the Energy Special Improvement District Board. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Dennis Murray and second of Dave Waddington, the commission voted to reappoint Jason Werling to the Recreation Board for a term ending December 31, 2017. The President declared the motion passed.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Fred Farris, 1114 C Street, said his comments go back to 2014 and nothing being done about white Police Officers and a growing racial rift. Black men are racially profiled in Sandusky and there are only two black officers and no diversity. Black people do not trust white officers and this is not fair. The numbers are even more disparaging since every one out of five persons in Sandusky are black according to Census data. Fred Farris said he sees Chief Orzech in black neighborhoods and out on Martin Luther King's birthday and this means something to black people and they respect him, but this is not all that is needed. Since April, 2013, many black members of the community had high hopes for Chief Orzech in relationship-building and gaining trust. The City Manager said there would be an effort to improve diversity but has only seen lip service by Eric Wobser and Jim Jackson, the former NAACP President. Fred Farris said Andre Stockett's girlfriend was stopped for racial profiling and Officer Chris Denny did not have reason to stop her. There was a press conference in 2014 and the city promised to build a strong relationship with citizens about diversity and training with the Ohio Peace Officer Academy, but has not heard anything more about this and has not seen more new black officers. Fred Farris said there was a \$130,000 lawsuit with the former City Manager Nicole Ard because they (the commissioners) did not like her and it is because she is black. Fred Farris noted several articles in the [Sandusky Register](#) and said the city does not care about kids, they only care about money. Dennis Murray said the Police Chief took incredible steps to recruit more minorities and made changes to the recruiting process; we have been unable to attract additional minorities as Police Officers and Fire Fighters in spite of this but we will keep trying. Wes Poole suggested it would be simpler for the city to deal with if these issues were brought to the city in smaller pieces. It is true the city has not been successful in hiring African Americans in the Police Department. It is a tragedy and we need to do something about it. It can be easily believed this is simply lip service for the city to have hired the last Police Officer in the 1980's. Every time we gave a new test we utilized the same process of discussing how

important it is to have African Americans test and how we are going to recruit. We have not been successful. Going forward, Wes Poole suggested having a discussion of other options for recruiting and perhaps we will be more successful. Perkins Township has a greater representation of African Americans and the concept that no one wants to be a Police Officer in Erie County is not an accurate one; it appears they do not want to work for the city. This requires introspection on our part and he does understand the frustration; the good intentions by the Police Chief are laudable, but in the end, we are not hiring African Americans and there is a price to be paid for this. Wes Poole said he was one of the first Reserve Officers on the department which precluded hiring African Americans other than Floyd Churchwell. His hiring had a positive effect on how the other Reserve Officers did their jobs. African Americans bring a perspective to policing which white officers can learn from in terms of how to deal with people who are culturally different. There are big benefits to the citizens of Sandusky if there were a diverse force and it is time to start looking at making changes in attracting African Americans.

Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street, asked if the city is using the old seal, or the new one. Dennis Murray said the Bicentennial Commission has adopted their new logo; the city seal will not go through any significant changes. We may make it more digital friendly, but the symbolism will remain the same; there has also been discussion about adding a roller coaster.

Carol Hey, 1024 Hayes Avenue, said she appreciates all of the good city employees and departments are doing, but it is a bad community. It is hard to drive on Caldwell Street and it tears up her vehicle and she need to pick up mail at the post office. The Hayes Avenue underpass was repaired but weeds need to be pulled and water drizzles on the East wall. Carol Hey asked about hiring rules and if there are binding rules or a Code of Ethics about relatives working together; it seems there is a lot of relatives being hired.

At 8:45 p.m., the President announced a recess of the regular session. At 8:50 p.m., they went into executive session. At 8:10 p.m., the commission returned to open session and the President announced the meeting was adjourned.

Kelly L. Kresser, CMC
Clerk of the City Commission

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