

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

The clerk called **the roll** and the following Commissioners responded: Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Greg Lockhart, Nikki Lloyd and Naomi Twine.

City staff present: John Orzech – Police Chief, Aaron Klein – Public Works Director, Matt Lasko – Chief Development Officer, Brad Link – Director of Public Services, Angela Byington – Director of Neighborhood Development & Planning, 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 the March 28, 2016, meeting and dispense with the formal reading. The President declared the motion passed.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Mary Custard, 1217 C Street, said she is concerned about the drug epidemic in the City of Sandusky. There is a lot going on and the city is doing the best it can, but as a citizen, she is not doing her part. Mary Custard asked what citizens can do besides call an anonymous number with drug tips; people are afraid to do this because of Caller ID. There must be something people in the community can do as there are way too many deaths happening and she feels very passionate about this and has gone through it personally with a family member. The addict is not the victim, the victim is those left behind. Dennis Murray said the Police Chief will be addressing this and other issues tonight and asked her to please stay and listen to his comments and perhaps get answers to some of these questions.

PRESENTATION

John Orzech, Police Chief, thanked Naomi Twine for her insight as the Liaison to the Police Department and also thanked Dave Waddington for inviting him to be a guest at the recent Coffee with a Commissioner meeting.

John Orzech said a question was raised at the coffee meeting about the number of drug houses in Sandusky and the Police Department is aware of at least 30 where drug trafficking is taking place either directly or indirectly. There are many open investigations so details cannot be provided, but significant seizures of drugs and firearms were realized in 2016 as a result of long-term investigations. There are resources in place to address drug trafficking, its effects on the community, our neighborhoods and addicts. Two detectives are committed to the problem along with Detective Ron Brotherton, Detective Adam West and Sgt. Ron Snyder. The Police Department supports efforts for the creation of a treatment facility with the Erie County Health Department. A detoxification center is critical to this area as deaths in Erie County due to overdoses were: 6 in 2009, 18 in 2010, 12 in 2011 and 2012, 16 in 2013 and 2014 and 26 in 2015; there have already been over 12 suspected overdose deaths in the first quarter of 2016. Over 35 Narcan deployments were made by Fire Department personnel in the last six months and the Police Department has deployed this at least ten times in the last six months. Although there is no longer a countywide drug task force, police agencies have the ability to share information and work together on joint investigations and across jurisdictional lines. These agencies are all cooperating in these types of investigations. John Orzech said the drug tip hotline is available and encouraged citizens to contact us with drug activity information in their neighborhoods. The information provided can be made anonymously and this information leads to investigations and is critical for patrol officers and detectives.

John Orzech said Officer Ed Ohlemacher has been selected to be the new K-9 handler for the Police Department. This year's Leadership Erie County class is working on fundraising to purchase a new K-9 at the end of the summer and will be certified in September. This will give the department two K-9's on different shifts to use as valuable tools in tracking suspects, article searches, building searches, apprehension and narcotics detection.

The Police Department began sending notifications for criminal activities as a nuisance with eight being sent in January, three in February and eleven in March. The Department's Administrative Assistant, Eva Olcott, is tracking this program as a result of funding from Issue 8 as well as assisting officers in the detective bureau with administrative duties. Two calls were received from landlords after receiving these notifications who support what the city is doing and indicated this will assist them with evicting bad tenants.

John Orzech said in 2012, Police Officers received 900 hours of training; in 2014, this increased to 2,400 hours and to 3,335 hours in 2015. In 2014 and 2015, the State of Ohio only required four hours of continuing education mandated training. In 2016, there were eleven hours of mandated training and in 2016, there will be 20 hours of mandated training. As part of the Governor's task force on policing, these mandated hours will include Policing in the 21st Century, Community/Police Relations, De-escalation with Focus on Mental Illness, Constitutional Use of Force, Human Trafficking and general law enforcement topics. In 2015 and 2016, there was an internal emphasis on Crisis Intervention Team training. There is a shift rotation every three months which has created continuity in supervision and officers are now exposed to all days and nights of the week throughout the year. Each officer works six months on days and six months on nights and at different ends of the week. John Orzech said Officer Eric Costante is the first Community Impact Officer and was Officer of the year in 2014. Officer Chris Rankins will join him this year as a Community Impact Officer and was named Officer of the year for 2015. Officer Jason Martin will replace Chris Rankins as the School Resource Officer in the fall of 2016. John Orzech said the department has also started different community policing initiatives and programs such as neighborhood walks, business walks, park walks, bicycle patrols and documenting under the Community Watch. The Police Department Liaison program started almost three years ago and partners a Police Officer with different community organizations (37). The Police Officers assigned check in with their contacts at least monthly either in person, by phone or by email and there have been some great successes from these partnerships. They include: Acorn Ministries, Amvets, Bayshore Counseling, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Care and Share, Catholic Charities, Cedar Point Police, Center for Cultural Awareness, Eagles, Erie County Landlord Association, Erie Metropolitan Authority, Family Health Services, Firelands Counseling and Recovery, Firelands Regional Medical Center, Firelands South Campus, Goodwill Industries, Humane Society, Justice Coalition – Chapel, Kiwanis Club, Lions Club, Main Street Association, N.A.A.C.P., Nehemiah Center, New Day Family Resource, Oriana House, Sandusky City Schools, Sandusky Library, Sandusky Ministerial Association, Interdenominational Minister's Association, Sandusky Rotary, Serving Our Seniors, St. Mary Central Catholic, Victory Kitchen, the VOA, the Volunteer Center and the YMCA.

John Orzech asked each of the new hires to introduce themselves including Officers Kallin St. John, Carissa Cruz, Jacob Icsman, Bronson Lillo, Elijah Coe and Lucas Rospert.

CURRENT BUSINESS

ITEM #1 - Submitted by Matthew D. Lasko, Chief Development Officer

APPROVAL OF PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT WITH CASE DEVELOPMENT, LLC FOR 409 WEST WATER ST.

Budgetary Information: If Case Development, LLC decides to move forward with the acquisition, the city will be due a purchase price of \$77,000 (a net amount of slightly less once closing costs are subtracted) to be deposited into the capital projects fund and used to pay down the principal of the existing various purpose note pertaining the Bayfront Urban Revitalization area.

ORDINANCE NO. 16-060: It is requested an ordinance be passed **declaring that certain real property owned by the city, identified as Parcel #56-00146.000 and located at 409 West Water Street, is no longer needed for any municipal purpose and authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into an agreement to sell the designated real property to Case Development, LLC;** 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 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: Matt Lasko said the city has owned this site since 2004 and after subsequent attempts to find a reuse for this building, it was ultimately demolished in 2013. In the Strategic and Comprehensive Plans this area is called out for infill development. Mike DeCesare is the Founder and President of Case Development, LLC who has done residential development, particularly focused in infill market-rated townhouse projects. With the planned development, there will be several approvals necessary including Downtown Design Review Board and Planning Commission review as well as approval of the building plans and rezoning of the site. The sale price is \$77,000 based on a third party appraisal conducted in December, 2015. There is a five-day contingency offered to Mr. DeCesare and a closing after ten days if all contingencies are removed. There is EPA oversight on this property and an existing environmental operational covenant along with an operations and maintenance plan. The developer would assume one third of the cost of the operations and maintenance plans as well as the environmental covenant. There are safeguards in the agreement including the potential for additional contamination to be uncovered which is very unlikely. In the event unknown contaminants are found and cannot be mitigated during the construction process, the city would agree to remediate them at our cost. We want to make sure this development comes to fruition in a timely manner and there is a 150-day period whereby all government approvals are necessary or the property would be reconveyed to the city. The developer is warranting he will build condominium units on the property and not any other type of development. In the event this is not conveyed to actual condominium owners, there are restrictions on what the property can be conveyed for. The city could ask for a restraining order or completely nullify the sale if this were to happen.

Mike DeCesare, Case Development, said this company is a residential builder and developer working predominantly in Cleveland. They have been in business since 1992 and have worked in 22 communities in Northeast Ohio in this period of time and have built \$50 million worth of housing. They work exclusively in the City of Cleveland and concentrate on neighborhood infill projects which is almost exclusively townhouse development in urban areas. Working in the neighborhoods has given them a mission which they did not experience in the suburbs. Every project has an element which is unique to their company as they take a non-profit or charitable partner with every project. These partners have an opportunity to invest a very insignificant amount of money in the projects, become engaged in what they do, and in return, they are given an inordinate amount of financial return. This is an alternative source of revenue for these agencies and they hope to identify some in Sandusky to be involved in. Mike DeCesare thanked many of the city staff members who have assisted by working with him and this engagement is needed to bring the project to fruition. Dennis Murray thanked Mike DeCesare for believing in Sandusky and said his reputation precedes him and he has done fine work. Dick Brady asked for a ballpark idea of when we might expect to see footers in the ground; Mike DeCesare said he cannot give a specific answer, but the goal is to be breaking ground in mid-June. Nikki Lloyd said the amount of thought put into this building is amazing and it fits with the historic downtown which is not an easy thing to do.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Greg Lockhart, Nikki Lloyd and Naomi Twine, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Greg Lockhart, Nikki Lloyd and Naomi Twine, 7. 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 Angela Byington, Director of Neighborhood Development & Planning
APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH ED BURDUE & CO. FOR ASBESTOS ABATEMENT AND
DEMOLITION**

Budgetary Information: The project cost based on the bid, including advertisement and miscellaneous costs is \$21,247.40. This project will be paid as follows: \$12,988.44 through the

Community Development Capital Project fund (Issue 8) and \$8,258.96 through the Community Development Block Grant funds.

ORDINANCE NO. 16-061: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Ed Burdue & Co. of Sandusky, Ohio, for the CDBG FY 2015 residential demolition project #3**; 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: Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Greg Lockhart, Nikki Lloyd and Naomi Twine, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Greg Lockhart, Nikki Lloyd and Naomi Twine, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

**ITEM #3 – Submitted by Maria Muratori, Economic Development Specialist
AUTHORIZATION TO ISSUE RFQ/RFP FOR THE JACKSON STREET PIER**

Budgetary Information: There is no budgetary impact with the proposed legislation.

RESOLUTION NO. 020-16R: It is requested a resolution be passed **authorizing and directing the City Manager to proceed with a joint Request for Qualifications/Request for Proposals process for redevelopment concepts for restaurant, retail and entertainment operations at the Jackson Street Pier**; and declaring that this resolution take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

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

Discussion: Maria Muratori said this is a joint request soliciting expressions of interest, specifically for restaurants, retail and entertainment concepts. We are seeking proven, successful operators and the RFQ will not represent any commitment by the city. As part of the city's Strategic and Comprehensive Plans, there is a goal to redevelop the Jackson Street Pier and we expect the vast majority of the pier to remain public. We wish to activate the space and provide greater access to the waterfront. We would like to determine if there are qualified and interested persons and get feedback to integrate them early in the design process. Greg Lockhart said this Pier is a place for local residents to drive to and view the water, fish or to just go and think and people have expressed to him their desire to continue to do this and asked if this would inhibit this. Maria Muratori said it is very early in the process and we do want this to remain an accessible area for the public. This is simply to identify partners early in the design process. The design process is going to take a while and all of these issues will be taken into consideration. Wes Poole said the city has relationships with Bike Week, the Jet Express and Goodtime as well as Ohio Bike Week and asked if there are letters of support from any of these folks as it will impact them. Eric Wobser said he spoke with Lance from the Jet Express who has been made aware of the city looking into a Master Plan as well as Joe Lamb with the Goodtime who was part of the city's bicentennial process. The city has also had direct contact with Steve Ernst with Ohio Bike Week and he only wants to ensure his concerns are heard as public spaces are designed in and around the downtown. This is only to see if it perhaps makes sense to support different uses on the Jackson Street Pier. Dave Waddington asked about the Pelee Islander and the U.S. Customs facility which are also housed on the pier. Dick Brady said there is no plan and no one should feel public access is being threatened; we are simply trying to find out if there is a developer or restaurant person who might be interested in this location. Many things will come down the road such as the structural support of the pier itself. We have an obligation to pursue things like this and have eight to ten miles of shoreline with three restaurants on the water, one of which is a private club. Wes Poole said planning a trip before he knows there is an airplane available is not how he thinks of things. We have not yet identified how much space can be used, if any, and the pier is a pile of rocks with blacktop on it and we will have to make improvements and know the impacts of those businesses already on the pier. Dennis Murray said he is all for looking to see what this process brings us and does

not know any better way to go about this other than to float a trial balloon and see what kind of attention it attracts.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Greg Lockhart, Nikki Lloyd and Naomi Twine, 7. Roll call on the resolution: Yeas: Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Greg Lockhart, Nikki Lloyd and Naomi Twine, 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 Marvin Ranaldson, Transit Administrator

AMENDING THE AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT WITH MV TRANSPORTATION FOR SANDUSKY TRANSIT SYSTEM

Budgetary Information: STS operations and administration are funded by the Federal Transit Administration, Ohio Department of Transportation, local contributing agencies, local contributing private entities and the daily farebox collections.

ORDINANCE NO. 16-062: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and approving an amended amendment to the contract for transportation services between the City of Sandusky and MV Contract Transportation, Inc., for services related to the operation of the Sandusky Transit System;** 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.

Discussion: Marvin Ranaldson said this amendment was originally approved in January but through the advice and assistance of other city staff, we came to a better understanding of what we should be doing with this agreement for one year. In the original agreement, the city took over software hosting but it has been determined this is not the best idea. We asked MV Transportation what they could do for us and they agreed to provide mobile data tablets in the vehicles for a minimal increase in the contract. This will improve the quality of our service.

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

CHANGE ORDER #3 FOR WATER STREET REHABILITATION AND PAVING PROJECT

Budgetary Information: The original contract with Speer Brothers, Inc. is for \$1,237,389.10. Change Order #3, a deduction in the amount of \$101,166.40 will revise the final contract amount to \$1,136,222.70. The Local Public Authority project will be funded with Federal Highway Administration funds through the Ohio Department of Transportation and the Erie County Metropolitan Planning Organization in the amount of eighty percent of the eligible costs in the amount of \$844,943.06 (originally \$993,053.20). The sewer fund will cover \$32,877.66 (originally \$33,390.25), the water fund will cover \$32,877.67 (originally \$33,390.24), CDBG will cover \$11,010 (originally \$42,680) and a grant received from the Ohio Public Works Grant will cover the remaining \$214,514.31 (originally \$258,614.32). No general fund dollars have been expended on this project as a result of the various grants received.

ORDINANCE NO. 16-063: It is requested an ordinance be **passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to approve the third change order for work performed by Speer Bros., Inc. of Sandusky, Ohio, for the Water Street rehabilitation and paving project and to deduct the contract amount by \$101,166.40;** 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.

Discussion: Aaron Klein said the quality of this project has not been compromised with this deduction. Most of the savings will go back to the Metropolitan Planning Organization although a small amount will go back to the sewer fund, the water fund and the CDBG funding. When finalizing the quantities and through good project management, this savings was realized.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Greg Lockhart, Nikki Lloyd and Naomi Twine, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Greg Lockhart, Nikki Lloyd and Naomi Twine, 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 Victoria Kurt, Recreation Superintendent

PRIORITY USE LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH OHIO RAYOS SOCCER FOR DORN COMMUNITY PARK

Budgetary Information: The agreement will not result in any additional budgetary expenses. The city will benefit from the added activities offered to youth in our community. Ohio Rayos Soccer will provide their own equipment and transportation for such equipment, and will line and maintain their own field.

ORDINANCE NO. 16-064: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Ohio Rayos Soccer for priority use of the grassy area located at Dorn Community Park beginning May 3, 2016 through October 23, 2016;** 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: Dennis Murray said this is the same agreement the city has had with Ohio Rayos Soccer for a number of years.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Greg Lockhart, Nikki Lloyd and Naomi Twine, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Greg Lockhart, Nikki Lloyd and Naomi Twine, 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 Kelly Kresser, Commission Clerk

A request has been received from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control for the transfer of a D5J (Spirituous liquor for on premises consumption only, beer, wine and mixed beverages for on premises, or off premises in original sealed containers until 2:30 a.m. in a Community Entertainment District) liquor permit from Bruschetta Ltd. dba Amarone Restaurant & Bar to Jack 585906 Limited dba Amarone Italian Restaurant, 160 Wayne Street. It is requested the Commission Clerk be authorized to notify the Ohio Division of Liquor Control the city does not request a hearing on this matter.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Wes Poole, the commission voted for the Commission Clerk to notify the Ohio Division of Liquor Control the city does not request a hearing on this matter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Greg Lockhart, Nikki Lloyd and Naomi Twine, 7. The President declared the motion passed.

ITEM #8 - Submitted by Kelly Kresser, Commission Clerk

A request has been received from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control for the transfer of D1 Beer only for on premises consumption or in original sealed containers for carry out only until 1 a.m.), D2 (wine and mixed beverages for on premises consumption or in original sealed containers for carryout only until 1 a.m.), D3 spirituous liquor for on premises consumption only until 1 a.m.) and D3A (extend issued permit privileges until 2:30 a.m.) liquor permits from JR99 Enterprises, Ltd. dba Bud's Place to BGBS, LLC dba BGBS Place, 509 Tiffin Avenue. It is requested the Commission Clerk be authorized to notify the Ohio Division of Liquor Control the city does not request a hearing on this matter.

Upon motion of Dick Brady and second of Dave Waddington, the commission voted for the Commission Clerk to notify the Ohio Division of Liquor Control the city does not request a hearing on this matter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Greg Lockhart, Nikki Lloyd and Naomi Twine, 7. The President declared the motion passed.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Eric Wobser said the **Law Director Search Committee** went through a process and ultimately decided on Trevor Hayberger; subsequently, Mr. Hayberger decided he would be most comfortable staying in the position of Assistant Law Director. The Committee then determined it would keep the position open and ask other candidates to apply. In an interesting twist, the attorneys on the Committee were asked if they would have an interest in making application for the position and Justin Harris said he would indeed like to be considered. A Search Committee meeting was then held, without Justin Harris, and including Duff Milkie, to consider his application along with anyone else who came forward. Three interviews were conducted and it was the unanimous consent Justin Harris was the candidate to be recommended for appointment and a conditional offer of employment was extended to him. Eric Wobser asked for support of the commission in order to continue negotiating with Justin Harris who is a graduate of Sandusky High School, Bowling Green State University and The Ohio State University School of Law, has significant litigation experience and currently is a partner at Reminger and Reminger. He has been brought into contact with municipal law and is very active in the community. Naomi Twine said the committee members were looking for experience as a Law Director and when Trevor Hayberger made the decision to remain in the position of Assistant Law Director, this opened up their assessment of hiring someone who actually did have this experience and Justin was this candidate. His experience outside of public law will help the city as it moves forward. Dick Brady said this is the best of both worlds in retaining Trevor Hayberger with his knowledge and influence gained while working here and is prepared to welcome Justin Harris as the city's new Law Director. Dennis Murray said he does not really know Justin Harris, but does know his fine reputation and is thrilled to welcome him.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to ratify the conditional offer of employment to Justin Harris. Yeas: Dave Waddington, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Nikki Lloyd and Naomi Twine, 5. Abstain: Wes Poole and Greg Lockhart, 2. The President declared the motion passed.

Eric Wobser said the Erie County Health Department, in partnership with Erie Regional Planning, are preparing a **multi-year lead hazard control grant with HUD** and the overwhelming majority of assistance would potentially go toward homes in the City of Sandusky. It has been requested the city prepare a letter of support for this grant application and a future funding commitment may be requested at a later date for use of CDBG funds. Dennis Murray said lead poisoning is detrimental to learning and future developmental issues with our children.

Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Nikki Lloyd, the commission voted for the City Manager to provide this letter of support to be submitted with the grant application. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Greg Lockhart, Nikki Lloyd and Naomi Twine, 7. The President declared the motion passed.

Eric Wobser said an **E-Commerce zone has been established in the north parking lot of city hall**. A special thank you to one of our citizens for passing the idea up the ladder and thank you to Brad Link, Dave Borsick and the Traffic Department for making and erecting the sign. The E-Commerce zone is a location under video surveillance 24 hours a day and citizens or visitors can choose to use to make their internet transactions from sites such as Craigslist, EBay and garage sale sites. When posted to Facebook, this reached 61,000 people, generated 800 likes, 526 shares and 89 comments. We encourage our citizens to take advantage of this opportunity.

Eric Wobser said this year's Leadership Erie County course is **raising funds for a new K-9 Officer** for the Sandusky Police Department to be trained in narcotics detection.

Eric Wobser said the **Humane Society 5K** was hosted at the Central Fire Station on Saturday, April 2. Proceeds benefitted the Humane Society and roughly 100 people participated, many with their pets in tow.

Eric Wobser said auditors are on site conducting fieldwork on the **2015 financial audit** through April 15, 2016.

Eric Wobser said the **Bay View sewer project** is being completed by the Erie County Sanitary Engineer's Office and they plan to start work inside the City of Sandusky at the end of April/early May.

Eric Wobser said Remington Avenue is still scheduled for closure through mid-April in conjunction with the **east end sewer project**.

Eric Wobser said the **Water Street reconstruction project** is officially complete. Inspection was performed in-house and approved by ODOT. As a reminder, this project included ADA compliant curb ramps, curb and gutter, a bike path on the west end, streetscape from Decatur to Jackson, a new waterline on the west end, rail removal and resurfacing.

Eric Wobser said per Section 531 of the City of Sandusky Codified Ordinances, no owner or occupant of real property within the city shall permit their **grass or weeds** to grow above eight inches in height. The city published the annual required notice in the Sandusky Register on March 31 notifying all property owners of the grass cutting ordinance and future steps the city will undertake to ensure compliance with the applicable codes. Effective January 1, 2016, revisions to the ordinance took effect whereby owners of both vacant properties and vacant lots will not be provided a second mailed notice of violation as has historically been the case.

Eric Wobser said effective March 31, **Amanda McClain, the former Paralegal in the Law Department, accepted the position of Housing Manager in the Code Enforcement Division**. Mrs. McClain's primary responsibilities will be overseeing day-to-day Code Enforcement operations, managing and implementing the rental registration and inspection program and administering the city Land Bank program. There were several strong candidates, but Mrs. McClain's legal background and experience with administering the land bank program will be instrumental to maintaining both its continued success and will also build on the growth and successes of the Code Enforcement Division over the last twelve months.

Eric Wobser said the city, with the assistance of The Mannik and Smith Group, successfully submitted a \$100,000 grant request on April 1 to the Ohio Development Services Agency for their **Abandoned Gas Station Clean Up program**. The grant proceeds, if awarded, would provide funding to remove the underground storage tanks, remediate the soil and demolish the remaining structures on site. The city hopes to be notified of a grant award decision in the next few months.

Eric Wobser said the following **structures have been (or are being) demolished** with a completion date of April 15: 2026 Tiffin Avenue (garage), 627 Decatur Street, 1001 Wayne Street, 919 A Street, 2124 West Forest Drive, 2132 West Forest Drive and 4112 Venice Road.

Eric Wobser said the docks are in place for the 2016 season at the **Shelby Street Boat Launch**.

Eric Wobser said the initial groundwork for the hammerhead **turn-a-round on McEwen Street** has been put into place. The project will be complete as the asphalt plants open sometime later this month.

Eric Wobser said the **Cabela's Walleye tournament** is taking place April 18 – 24 at the City of Sandusky boat launch facility, and there will be anglers from many areas of the country coming to Sandusky to fish.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

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

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

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street, said she thinks the proposed townhouses (Item #1) are too pricy and asked what will happen if these are unable to be sold and become rentals. Matt Lasko said the developer has done extensive research on our market and there are significant comparable properties out there at \$300,000±. This is only eight units which is fairly modest and the developer plans to market the project to local professionals. Sharon Johnson said she is concerned about parking on the Jackson Street Pier for a restaurant. Sharon Johnson asked the reason for the abstention by Wes Poole and Greg Lockhart for the Law Director position; Dennis Murray said this is entirely personal and we should not be putting people up to answer something which is personal to them.

Charlene Adams, Center for Cultural Awareness, said Officer Eric Costante used to speak to her class at Ohio Business College and a student life was saved through a wellness call. Charlene Adams said she is preparing a grant application with the Department of Justice and asked for a letter of support. This is for people leaving the Erie County Jail to provide connections for substance, mental, physical health or job support. No match or funding is required.

Upon motion of Wes Poole and second of Dick Brady, the commission voted for the City Manager to provide this letter of support. The President declared the motion passed.

At 6:30 p.m., the commission recessed the regular session of the meeting. At 6:34 p.m., the commission went into Executive Session.

Upon motion of Dick Brady and second of Wes Poole, the commission voted to return to open session at 6:47 p.m.

Upon motion of Dick Brady and second of Dave Waddington, the commission voted for Wes Poole to be the Commission Liaison to the city's Land Bank Committee. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Dick Brady and second of Dave Waddington, the Commission voted to adjourn at 7:03 p.m. The President declared the meeting adjourned.

Kelly L. Kresser, CMC
Clerk of the City Commission

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