

John Hamilton called the meeting to order at 5 p.m. after the **Invocation**, given by Pervis Brown, and the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

The clerk called **the roll** and the following Commissioners responded: Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith and Julie Farrar.

City staff present: Todd Roth – Engineer, Jim Lang – Interim Police Chief, Paul Ricci – Fire Chief, Scott Miller – General Services Director, Don Rumbutis – IT Department, Carrie Handy – Planner, Don Icsman – Law Director, Nicole Ard - City Manager, Hank Solowiej – Finance Director and Kelly Kresser – Commission Clerk.

Upon motion of Pervis Brown and second of Diedre Cole, the commission voted to approve the minutes of the July 23, 2012 meeting and dispensed with the oral reading. The President declared the motion passed.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (*agenda items only*)

Andy Ouriel, [Sandusky Register](#), asked if this was the portion of the meeting to speak about items listed on the agenda and John Hamilton said it is. Andy Ouriel said there have been suggestions in the community the commission may have inappropriately excluded candidates associated with the Perkins Township Police Department (in the police chief selection process) and asked the city commission to provide an update under "Old Business".

CURRENT BUSINESS

Upon motion of Diedre Cole and second of Pervis Brown, the commission voted to accept all communications. The President declared the motion passed.

ITEM #1 – Submitted by Amanda Meyers, Paralegal

Budgetary Information: The cost associated with this purchase and sale agreement is the total amount of the title examination, deed preparation, escrow fees and any other customary fees that may be due and payable in the ordinary course of the sale and purchase transaction and costs associated with securing the structure and the clean-up of the property. The city will recoup the majority of these expenses from the purchase price paid by the purchaser and in part from the distribution of proceeds from the sale of land bank property sold for development pursuant to ORC 5722.08 (A) and held in the city's land bank account. The sale and rehabilitation of this property will revitalize the neighborhood by enhancing the surrounding property values and the taxing districts will once again begin collecting real property taxes.

ORDINANCE NO. 12-074: 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 #58-00703.000, located at 910 Central Avenue, Sandusky, is 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 Pervis Brown and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to approve this ordinance according to Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith and Julie Farrar, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith and Julie Farrar, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.

ITEM #2 – Submitted by Amanda Meyers, Paralegal

Budgetary Information: The cost associated with this purchase and sale agreement is the total amount of the title examination, title insurance policy, deed preparation and escrow fees charged by the title company, acting as escrow agent for the sale and purchase transaction. Any such costs shall be included in the sale price of the nonproductive land and will be recouped by the city upon sale. The purchaser shall pay the real estate transfer tax, if any, and recording fees upon purchase. Use of this nonproductive land for its intended purpose will enhance property values and the taxing districts will once again begin collecting real property taxes.

ORDINANCE NO. 12-075: 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 #56-00542.000, located at 14 Anderson Street Extension, Sandusky, is 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 Jeff Smith and second of Keith Grohe, the commission voted to approve this ordinance according to Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith and Julie Farrar, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith and Julie Farrar, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.

ITEM #3 – Submitted by Hank S. Solowiej, C.P.A., Finance Director

Budgetary Information: This various purpose improvement note sale only includes renewal issues. \$3,615,000 in notes will mature on October 11, 2012. The new various purpose improvement notes are in an amount of:

- **\$1,850,000** (retire \$1,900,000) for Bay Front Urban Revitalization
- **\$125,000** (retire \$150,000) for City Building
- **\$75,000** (retire \$125,000) for Fire Boat
- **\$350,000** (retire \$400,000) for Fire Truck
- **\$165,000** (retire \$190,000) for Ambulance
- **\$225,000** (retire \$250,000) for Hayes Avenue Underpass
- **\$550,000** (retire \$600,000) for Venice Road Grade Separation

MOTION TO ACCEPT FISCAL OFFICER'S CERTIFICATE

Upon motion of Wesley Poole and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to accept the Fiscal Officer's Certificate. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith and Julie Farrar, 7.

ORDINANCE NO. 12-076: It is requested an ordinance be passed providing for the issuance and sale of \$3,340,000 notes, in anticipation of the issuance of bonds, for the purpose of: 1) acquiring a fire boat and appurtenant equipment for the fire department; 2) improving the city municipal building by replacing the air conditioning unit, modifying the roof at the air conditioning unit location, upgrading duct work where necessary, and otherwise improving the same, all together with the necessary appurtenances thereto; 3) acquiring a triple combination fire pumper truck and appurtenant equipment for the fire department; 4) revitalizing the bayfront urban revitalization area by acquiring, clearing and improving certain properties in that area, undertaking the environmental clean-up and remediation of certain properties in that area, constructing road improvements and related utility and infrastructure improvements in that area and otherwise improving that area; 5) paying a portion of the cost of improving Hayes Avenue between certain termini by replacing sidewalks, rehabilitating the related underpass, including abutments, retaining walls and stairs, installing lighting and handrails, and otherwise improving the same, all together with the necessary appurtenances thereto; 6) paying a portion of the cost of eliminating grade crossings by constructing the Venice Road grade separation project in cooperation with the Ohio Department of Transportation; and 7) acquiring an ambulance and appurtenant equipment for the fire department; and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion of Pervis Brown and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to approve this ordinance according to Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Wesley Poole asked Hank Solowiej to provide a brief explanation of this ordinance. Hank Solowiej said this is a renewal of short-time debt and the biggest addition is the Venice Road project which was part of a separate borrowing. Some of the older items are for financing of equipment and the city pays this down each year. There is not a requirement for the bonds to be long-term; they are short-term while the interest rates are low. Wesley Poole said he assumes everyone is satisfied the city is doing the right thing since no one spoke to this item. Hank Solowiej said any interested person can stop in his office and he can explain this.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith and Julie Farrar, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith and Julie Farrar, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.

ITEM #4 – Submitted by Carrie Handy, Chief Planner

Budgetary Information: The City of Sandusky will award the Erie County General Health District a total of \$15,000 in CDBG funds to provide the community gardening program. The Erie County General Health District is providing an in-kind match of \$6,967. There is no impact to the city's general fund.

ORDINANCE NO. 12-077: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to enter into a subrecipient agreement with the Erie County General Health District and to expend an amount not to exceed \$15,000 from the FY 2011 Community Development Block Grant funds;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Keith Grohe, the commission voted to approve this ordinance according to Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Diedre Cole asked if this agreement is for the fiscal year and Todd Roth confirmed it is for activities taking place this year. Wesley Poole said it is good to start another garden in this area and the first two community garden projects were very successful.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith and Julie Farrar, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith and Julie Farrar, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.

ITEM #5 – Submitted by Todd J. Roth, P.E., P.S.

Budgetary Information: The city is administering the grant and has no financial obligation. The owner is responsible for any matching funds required for the grant and any additional funding that is reasonably necessary to complete the project.

ORDINANCE NO. 12-078: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to enter into a Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund Redevelopment Agreement with Famous Realty of Cleveland, Inc., in relation to the property located at 1643 First Street in Sandusky and formerly known as the Apex Electrical Manufacturing Company;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Diedre Cole and second of Wesley Poole, the commission voted to approve this ordinance according to Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith and Julie Farrar, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith and Julie Farrar, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.

ITEM #6 – Submitted by Todd J. Roth, P.E., P.S.

Budgetary Information: The total fee is not to exceed \$32,135. This amount will be paid with proceeds from the TIF arrangement on the Chesapeake Lofts Condominiums.

ORDINANCE NO. 12-079: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to enter into an agreement with Partners Environmental Consulting, Inc. of Solon, Ohio, for certified professional services for the sampling and analysis of dredged material;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Pervis Brown and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to approve this ordinance according to Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Diedre Cole asked if Tim Schwanger's questions were answered based upon an email received during the last week and Tim Schwanger said they were not. Diedre Cole said the question was about paying this item from Battery Park TIF funding. Diedre Cole said the invoice needs to be paid and this will work out in the end with Hoty's and suggested to Tim Schwanger that he speak with Todd Roth or Nicole Ard after the meeting. Wesley Poole said he does not believe there is anything on the table suggesting the city will be paid and Todd Roth said there is nothing in writing. Wesley Poole said this is from dredging in the city's marina. Don Icsman said the city's environmental legal counsel has discussed this with the city manager and the city has not compromised any of its rights nor has it done anything definitive with regard to our ultimate responsibility. Don Icsman said there is nothing which talks about liability, but in claims and discussions with other individuals, including the generator and co-generator of the material, there are writings. The city is the owner and according the EPA, the burden is upon us regardless of a dispute that has not been resolved. The city has not compromised anything, but needs to get moving so the EPA knows the city is doing something. Wesley Poole said he does not want the

message conveyed the city will necessarily pass this on to someone else and then be reimbursed. Don Icsman said the city may pay this entire amount and receive no reimbursement.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith and Julie Farrar, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith and Julie Farrar, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.

ITEM #7 – Submitted by Todd J. Roth, P.E., P.S.

Budgetary Information: The revised contract amount with change order #2 is \$550,308.59. The breakdown of the revised contract costs is as follows: \$420,611.97 from the Federal Highway Administration funds through the Ohio Department of Transportation and the Erie County Metropolitan Planning Organization, \$44,129.67 from Community Development Block Grant funds and \$85,566.95 from the street fund.

ORDINANCE NO. 12-080: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to approve the second change order for work being performed for the Cedar Point Drive improvement project in the amount of \$24,543.63 to be paid to Erie Blacktop, Inc., of Sandusky, Ohio;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Diedre Cole and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to approve this ordinance according to Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole, Jeff Smith and Julie Farrar, 6. Abstain: Keith Grohe, 1. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole, Jeff Smith and Julie Farrar, 6. Abstain: Keith Grohe, 1. The President declared the ordinance passed.

ITEM #8 - Submitted by Todd J. Roth, P.E., P.S.

Budgetary Information: The cost for this work is \$18,780 and will be paid with capital funds.

ORDINANCE NO. 12-081: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to enter into a contract with Ed Burdue & Company of Sandusky, Ohio, for the demolition of the Keller Building chimney;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Keith Grohe, the commission voted to approve this ordinance according to Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Diedre Cole asked when the chimney will be removed and how soon before this portion of Shoreline Drive can be reopened. Todd Roth said he will call the contractor to see when the work can be scheduled and will make the commission aware when the crane is scheduled. Todd Roth said wrapping needs to go around the chimney prior to demolition to keep materials from falling outward.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith and Julie Farrar, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith and Julie Farrar, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Diedre Cole, the commission voted to accept a donation from Brady Sign Company in the amount of \$1,000 for the Friends of the Greenhouse. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Keith Grohe and second of Diedre Cole, the commission voted to accept a donation from Leadership Erie County in the amount of \$10,360 for the Veteran's Memorial and flagpole area at Oakland Cemetery. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Pervis Brown, the commission voted to accept a donation from Digital Data Technology in the amount of \$100 for the firefighter's combat challenge. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Wesley Poole, the commission voted to accept a donation from Paul Tinker in the amount of \$100 for the firefighter's combat challenge. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Pervis Brown, the commission voted to accept a donation from McDonalds (TSGS, Inc.) in the amount of \$200 for the firefighter's combat challenge. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Pervis Brown, the commission voted to accept a donation from McDonalds (Join Restaurants LLC) in the amount of \$200 for the firefighter's combat challenge. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Pervis Brown and second of Keith Grohe, the commission voted to accept a donation from Sandusky Memorial Day Association in the amount of \$50 for the police trust fund. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Wesley Poole and second of Keith Grohe, the commission voted to accept a donation from Horton Emergency Vehicles in the amount of \$250 for the firefighter's combat challenge. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Pervis Brown and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to accept a donation from Vista Systems, Inc. in the amount of \$100 for the firefighter's combat challenge. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Pervis Brown and second of Keith Grohe, the commission voted to accept a donation from James and Shelly Snyder in the amount of \$100 for the firefighter's combat challenge. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Pervis Brown and second of Keith Grohe, the commission voted to accept a donation from VASU Communications in the amount of \$100 for the firefighter's combat challenge. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Diedre Cole and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to accept a donation from Interstate All Battery Center in the amount of \$100 for the firefighter's combat challenge. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Pervis Brown and second of Diedre Cole, the commission voted to accept a donation from Spoerr Precast Concrete, Inc. in the amount of \$100 for the firefighter's combat challenge. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Keith Grohe and second of Pervis Brown, the commission voted to accept a donation from Cousino Harris Disaster Kleenup in the amount of \$500 for the firefighter's combat challenge. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Keith Grohe and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to accept a donation from Status Solutions, LLC. in the amount of \$250 for the firefighter's combat challenge. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Pervis Brown and second of Keith Grohe, the commission voted to accept a donation from Firelands Hospital in the amount of \$1,000 for the firefighter's combat challenge. The President declared the motion passed.

Nicole Ard said she met recently with the Sandusky Main Street Association and Dr. Kirk Halliday from Erie/Ottawa Counties Mental Health Board regarding taking a **proposed project for a Sandusky facility, to be used by multiple colleges and universities, to the next level. The Erie/Ottawa Counties Mental Health Board has generously approved a match, up to \$50,000, for this purpose.** The next level includes submitting a funding application to the U.S. Economic Development Administration and a decision will be made in the fall. Nicole Ard said Carrie Handy has been working closely with this committee and letters of support from local business have been submitted.

Nicole Ard said a vote will be required during an upcoming city commission meeting regarding **road and storm sewer construction at Firelands Vending** which will support this and other businesses in the area.

Nicole Ard asked for a **public hearing to be set on September 18 at 5 p.m. for the transit expanded service area application to the State.**

Upon motion of Diedre Cole and second of Wesley Poole, the commission voted to hold a public hearing on September 18 at 5 p.m. regarding an expanded service area and application for operating and capital assistance grant funds for the Sandusky Transit System. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith and Julie Farrar, 7. The President declared the motion passed.

Nicole Ard congratulated **three new police officers:** Ron Brotherton, Anthony Bath and Jason Martin and **one new firefighter:** Michael Johnson. Nicole Ard also congratulated **those recently promoted in the police department:** Lt. Dannie Lewis and Sgt. Scott Dahlgren; **those recently promoted in the fire department:** Captain Dan Brake, Lt. Jason Roesch and Lt. Robert Bott. Nicole Ard congratulated **recent retirees from the fire department:** Lt. Ron Urig, Captain Jeff Ferrell and Don Henry.

Pervis Brown asked Don Icsman to outline the section of the charter regarding **procedure(s) for the Police Chief Selection Committee.** Don Icsman said except for the selection of a police or fire chief, the city follows the State of Ohio Civil Service laws according to Section 27 of the charter. The process begins with notification of a vacancy and advertisement according to the minimal qualifications; these steps were both done by the city manager/HR Division. Applications were accepted within a certain timeframe and the selection board was chosen and includes a city commission designee (Pervis Brown), a civil service designee and three citizens who are resident electors nominated by the city commission president and confirmed by the city commission. Applications were accepted and the applicants attested to the truth of the information submitted and were then delivered by HR and sent to the chairperson (Pervis Brown). Don Icsman said according to the charter, "The Selection Board, on the basis of merit and fitness, shall determine the qualifications of each applicant hereunder by administering such written examinations, psychological examinations and evaluations, oral assessments and examinations, and such other examinations, evaluations, and/or screening processes and procedures as said Board deems appropriate and practicable in determining the relative capacity and abilities of the applicants to discharge the duties and responsibilities of the position or office to which they aspire." This means any testing which is agreed upon by the selection board is done through the HR Division and ultimately no more than three names are selected and submitted to the city manager for her selection. The charter also states: "Said certification shall be the result of the exercise of judgment and discretion of the members of the Selection Board, and of the Board itself, arrived at individually and collectively as a result of the evaluation process described herein." Don Icsman said this is a deliberative process which the committee engages in and the criteria lists what should be done based upon individual and collective determination of the most fit and qualified individuals. The city manager then appoints one of the three candidates to the vacancy. Pervis Brown said at this time, five individuals are being considered through an assessment process and by hiring a professional group through the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police. They will be conducted in a two-day period and at the end of this screening process, the committee will make an assessment and the three names chosen will be given to the city manager for her consideration. It is important to understand the committee went through each of the applications and with the help of a professional, retired chief of police, (volunteer) who vetted the applicants to narrow them down to five.

Upon motion of Pervis Brown and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to allocate and appropriate \$2,980 for travel expenses for the candidates and \$5,130 for the assessment team to move forward with the next step of the hiring of Sandusky's new police chief.

Discussion: Diedre Cole said she appreciates the work which has been done by the Police Chief Selection Committee which has been diligent and fruitful but is concerned about the numerous phone calls she has received this week regarding the exclusion of certain candidates from a geographical location. Diedre Cole said she is concerned about allocating money for the process and would like to know if a basic, general search has been done to assure what was submitted by the candidates is accurate. In her general search, Diedre Cole said she found one candidate has a degree from a school which no longer exists, one has a degree from a school she has never heard of and will send a degree to anyone who sends them a certain amount of money. Before spending another dime the city does not have, someone needs to make absolutely certain this is the group of candidates the city wants to invest their money in. Wesley Poole asked if the money for expenses is to fly people to Sandusky to take the assessment and Pervis Brown said it is. Wesley Poole said he agrees an assessment is necessary and supports that cost, but the final three candidates to be interviewed by the city manager should be the ones whose travel is paid for. The assessment is the first step and two of the candidates may not move forward in the process; with additional research, some of the candidates may already be on other short lists for jobs and he does not think it is wise to invest city money in this fashion. If the five think they are that great,

they can pay to get themselves to the assessment. Wesley Poole said he has not heard where issues brought up by Diedre Cole come in to play in the actual process for discussion. He has heard some of the same allegations and moving forward, if the selection will be greeted with acceptance by the community, the allegations need to be addressed. Julie Farrar asked Nicole Ard if her expenses were paid for when she was interviewed for the position of city manager and Nicole Ard said she paid upfront for her airfare, car and meals but was reimbursed and the city would pay either way. Julie Farrar said this has been the standard practice and the city did not know who was going to be chosen as city manager, but the candidates were brought to town for two days of interviews, a community meet-and-greet, etc., and this request is not out of line from what has been done in the past. Wesley Poole said he was not here for this, but there is a difference between the city commission bringing candidates in for personal interviews and folks taking an aptitude test. Keith Grohe asked if anyone spoke with a member of the Police Chief Selection Committee to see how this was brought forward and asked if there is a way to verify any of the information and Pervis Brown said no one has approached him. Pervis Brown said this particular behavior is blindsided and irresponsible and should not be sanctioned by commissioners in the first place. Pervis Brown said it is irritating to assign someone a job to get a new Police Chief and then come with this garbage. Keith Grohe said common sense would say a member of the selection committee should have been approached and asked about these concerns. Julie Farrar asked Diedre Cole if she spoke with Pervis Brown about the process and Diedre Cole said she spoke to John Hamilton about speaking to Pervis Brown but he (John Hamilton) was unwilling to do this. Diedre Cole said her solution or suggestion was to have someone else appointed to replace Pervis Brown as this is an important process and the residents of Sandusky deserve the best possible police chief we can find. A process which has been clouded from the very onset places this person behind the eight ball from day one and is unfair. Jeff Smith asked what are the actual concerns if the process was clouded from the beginning as it is now being brought up a few days before the next step and Diedre Cole said she discussed this last week with him (Jeff Smith), and others, and no one wanted to address it. This is the white elephant in the room and Diedre Cole said she is not letting the commission get away with it and is sorry if people are disappointed, angry or upset. She is equally upset this process could possibly be tainted and how could a police chief search possibly be messed up. Jeff Smith asked what in fact Diedre Cole is worried about being clouded. Wesley Poole said he has been approached by several people who have said it is a foregone conclusion that folks from Perkins Township need not apply and this has been spoken of publicly. Jeff Smith asked Diedre Cole to please explain what has clouded the process and Diedre Cole said she has heard from various residents in the community that Perkins Township residents "need not apply" for this position and finds this statement reprehensible. The city has mutual aid agreements with Perkins Township and if one of the Perkins Township Trustees had made this type of statement, the city would be up in arms as it is hurtful, divisive and does not represent the character of this community. Diedre Cole said the search was extended and the announcement revised to state "until filled". It would have been easier to swallow had the committee not gone from 29 applicants - to 46 applicants - to 5 applicants - without an intermediary step to eliminate candidates, no explanation nor documentation. Diedre Cole said this would have been easier to take if work was done showing justification how these five names were reached, coupled with the fact there were allegations from within the community and concerns from residents which should be addressed; she is both a resident and a commissioner with concerns. Jeff Smith asked Diedre Cole asked if this were due to the fact on November 21, 2011, she met with one of the former Perkins Township police officers at The Better Half restaurant and told him she was going to make him the next chief. Jeff Smith said the officer told him about meeting with Diedre Cole and the next day, guaranteed him (the officer) she was going to have Chief Lang fired and put him (the officer) in the position of interim police chief. Jeff Smith said on November 23, 2011, a third party called him verifying this story and asked if this has anything to do with the discussion tonight. Diedre Cole said this is a lie and Jeff Smith said it absolutely is not a lie. Diedre Cole said she courted several candidates for this position and this is her job as a city commissioner. Diedre Cole one of the persons she encouraged to apply is Lt. John Orzech. Diedre Cole said she also encouraged two other candidates from Perkins Township to apply and she offered to get Mr. Matthews on the phone (with Jeff Smith) to ask if these statements are true; he will not tell you they are not true. Jeff Smith said Mr. Matthews came to see him on November 22 and said he was told he was going to be the next chief of police by Diedre Cole. Diedre Cole said she does not have that kind of power and neither does Jeff Smith. Jeff Smith said this is what he told Diedre Cole when she came to see him. John Hamilton said Diedre Cole had the same conversation with him last fall about her plan to get the police chief fired and making Mr. Matthews the police chief for about a year, then go through the motions of having an application process for a new police chief. Diedre Cole said John Hamilton is a liar as well. John Hamilton said he is going by the conversation he had with Diedre Cole. Wesley Poole asked if anyone at the table had any stories like this about him. Wesley Poole said if the city started this process and then someone suggested persons from Perkins Township should not apply as they would not get a fair vote, which he was told by several people was going on, there was an obligation to research it before making it a big public issue. One person wanted to do this and another did not, and now this has become a big public battle; he concurs, not as vehemently, with Diedre Cole, and the integrity of the process is all that

matters. Wesley Poole said all of these things are why this process should be unmarred by bias and are important. Wesley Poole asked if there is documentation from the committee that anyone in the community could look at to say this was a fair process. Pervis Brown said the committee has done exactly what it was supposed to do; the committee went through the applications and screened the applicants to determine if they were qualified or not according to the city's charter. Pervis Brown said if someone is not comfortable with the process, the charter needs to be changed. If someone is not comfortable with the intelligence or intellect of the members of the committee, that is too bad. Pervis Brown said for leaders to second guess or be shot in the back after doing what was asked is reprehensible. Pervis Brown said someone should have had the guts to have brought this to him before this meeting and this is spineless and is an effort to circumvent the entire process. Pervis Brown said the committee members did the job assigned and this is second-guessing. John Hamilton said Diedre Cole does not need his permission and does whatever she wants anyway. Diedre Cole said called John Hamilton as respect for his position as the mayor and this is unfounded. Julie Farrar said she has not received a call about the process and asked the same of Jeff Smith, Pervis Brown, John Hamilton and Keith Grohe who all stated "no". Julie Farrar said Diedre Cole and Wesley Poole are the only two who received phone calls but because of receiving these calls of hearsay, they are saying the process is tainted. Julie Farrar said if what Jeff Smith said in regards to Diedre Cole is just something somebody is saying and it is not true, this is also just hearsay so the commission should move on, consider it all hearsay, and get a new police chief hired. Wesley Poole said no one has been accused of anything and when citizens come to a commissioner with information, which happened in this case, the public should be able to support what is done. Wesley Poole said the opposition to speaking about this privately is as great as the opposition and varied opinions about discussing it publicly which Diedre Cole has done. He supports this as there is no other choice and now that this is said and done, it cannot be undone. Wesley Poole said he is not accusing anyone of anything and he is not opposed to the process. The question is whether or not the committee followed the process by which people can feel comfortable that everyone received a fair viewing of their applications and can be trusted as being done in the best interest of the citizens. Wesley Poole said when the committee members were appointed, what was withheld from everyone was that two of the committee members are a brother-in-law and sister-in-law. This is not unethical or against the law, but if only three citizens can be chosen, the commission should be broad-based to look at the applicants. Wesley Poole said the only person who may have known this is the individual who made the nominations and this started the ball rolling as he (Wesley Poole) was told three days after the vote there were persons assigned to the committee who were related to each other. This is not just something where someone is defending the person they wanted as police chief. Wesley Poole said he tried as best he could to get over what this committee has done and he can reasonably defend about 95% of their conclusions. A couple of the applicants on the list were omitted who had higher degrees of education and happen to be folks from the area and it is not unusual someone might question how a person with no college might have been chosen over one with a master's degree. Wesley Poole is not judging what has been done, but it is not unreasonable to ask the question. If the vote is split between paying the expenses and the assessment, he will vote yes for one and no for the other.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith and Julie Farrar, 5. Nays: Diedre Cole and Wesley Poole, 2. The President declared the motion passed.

Wesley Poole said the city has a **letter of commitment from the Ohio Department of Transportation to provide \$87,000 to upgrade the road in front of Firelands Vending** and thanked the staff for their work on this. Wesley Poole encouraged the commission to approve the additional funds to make this project happen. Firelands Vending has been waiting for this for twelve years (the number of years the grade separation project has been incubating) and the road project will open this area to additional businesses and the farms in this area will be able to run sewer tile for drainage for their fields. This is a good investment and he wants the city to meet the 90-day timeframe to come up with the additional monies.

Jeff Smith asked Nicole Ard about **riding along in the police department** and Nicole Ard said it was very quiet and Sgt. Graybill assisted her with a code to exit a room in the department. Nicole Ard said she saw Justice (canine officer) and he is doing well. Diedre Cole said she also rode along with staff in the fire and street departments and thanked the employees involved.

John Hamilton thanked all of those who have been **generous by donating money to the greenhouse, the firefighters combat challenge and the police trust fund** as this shows a real sense of the community. Nicole Ard said Paul Ricci and the staff from the fire department who participated in the combat challenge did well. Paul Ricci is a finalist for the national competition in the fall and it will be quite an adventure.

Wesley Poole said **the city is in compliance with the grant for the Sandusky Bay Pavilion (SBP)** and this is moving forward. Wesley Poole said Tim Schwanger was the squeaky wheel that kept the city on this and direction has been provided to do something with the SBP.

OLD BUSINESS

John Hamilton asked about the **connector for Bay View** and an engineering or legal report which the Erie County Board of Health is awaiting. Todd Roth said Jones & Henry Engineers did some research about whether the city could accept the flows being generated. Erie County was told the current agreement allows for an amendment and there is a meeting scheduled for August 4 and this hopefully will return to the city commission for a vote.

Jeff Smith said he would like to **schedule the next strategic plan meeting**. Wesley Poole asked to lean heavily upon Nicole Ard to put something into a useful format. Kelly Kresser suggested September 17, October 1 or October 22.

Upon motion of Keith Grohe and second of Wesley Poole, the commission voted to hold a special meeting on October 1 at 5 p.m. for this purpose. The President declared the motion passed.

Jeff Smith asked the **deadline for the Keller Building** and if there is anything the city can do prior to October 1 to get the ball rolling. Todd Roth said he can obtain estimates for the cost and one of the questions is where funding will come from. Diedre Cole asked if there are environmental concerns with taking the building down and Todd Roth said according to research, there is a question about TCE plumes and asbestos and these items will need to be abated first. Todd Roth said the safety (inside) will have to be evaluated first, assuming demolition is the direction the city will go. Wesley Poole asked about the \$500,000 figure that has been thrown around and Todd Roth said he would like to get numbers that are current. Todd Roth said this amount was estimated years ago and will it probably be at least \$500,000. Wesley Poole said it sounds as if tearing the building down is a foregone conclusion but he is not buying into this yet. Todd Roth said he is not saying the building is going to come down and Jeff Smith said he was just wondering what is going on with it.

John Hamilton **thanked the police, fire and general services departments for their assistance to the Sandusky Sailing Club during the recent Opti Nationals sailing event** which was a major success. There were approximately 400 kids in town with their parents and they were spending money. This opened the door for the Sandusky Sailing Club to host other events.

Pervis Brown said the **Police Chief Selection Committee** will meet on August 14 to determine the procedures and process to conduct interviews with the assessors.

NEW BUSINESS

Jeff Smith said it is the city commissions' job to be diligent with the income received from hardworking taxpayers of the City of Sandusky with a goal of cutting costs while still maintaining services. It is predicted Erie County alone will lose about \$19 million over FY 2012 and 2013 with the State of Ohio cutting back on appropriations. This loss is a combination between the schools and local governments. Sandusky Schools have been proactive by consolidating buildings and the Board of Education will now call Sandusky High School their home. Jeff Smith said Judge O'Brien has expressed plans to expand his court to the front lawn of the current city hall and the space is needed for security and safety, not just for the additional workload. A remodel only addresses the courts' concerns without addressing the rest of the building. The city building is in dire need of an upgrade not just to reduce expenses, but for security upgrades. It is important to keep the staff and visitors safe with the changing times. About two years ago, the city added about \$29,000 to the cost for an economic development study of the downtown by Anderson Economic Group. This study identified the number one thing the city should do to stimulate growth in downtown: **relocate city hall into the downtown area**. Jeff Smith said this is a combination of higher costs to maintain the building, dropping revenues and a lack of safety and security for city staff. The judge has set aside funds to expand the court.

Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to authorize Nicole Ard to form a steering committee to look into the feasibility of staying in the present city hall versus moving to a different location and to identify sources of income that could be used to modernize the current city hall or help with relocation.

Discussion: Diedre Cole asked how many times the city has to study the same issue and there is already a committee to evaluate economic development opportunities. Creating a second committee seems

redundant. Diedre Cole said the commission just voted to hold a strategic planning session on October 1 and she would like to hold this first rather than to use other time and resources that are best used elsewhere. Wesley Poole said he agrees the city should not take action until after the planning session on October 1. The pros and cons of relocating downtown can be discussed at that meeting. This is not necessarily a great idea and the downtown study does not say relocating city hall to the downtown is the number one priority. Wesley Poole said this is open for debate and a planning session is a good place to do it. Jeff Smith said Anderson Economic was asked their number one priority and their answer to the Sandusky Main Street Association was to relocate city hall into downtown to revitalize and continue to grow downtown. The number two issue is working on a downtown campus study, which is being worked on, and the third is redevelopment of Shoreline Drive to remove telephone poles which block the view and turning the north side of Shoreline Drive businesses to look more like the front rather than the back. Jeff Smith said this is definitely something the city should be working on now for the strategic plan meeting in October so the process has already begun. Pervis Brown said he has been down this road before and as a commission, a decision was made to stay at this location and plans have been put into place to expand the court and police department. A cost is being obtained for the remainder of the building and this process started because the commission voted to make a decision to stay here. Pervis Brown said to reverse this in the middle of the process and go in another direction is not wise and he will not be part of something depending upon which way the wind blows; it is a little late in the game for this. Pervis Brown said the city should move forward to develop what it has (current city hall) and call it a beautiful place for the City of Sandusky. The city building has been run for many years without doing anything to it and the city kept looking toward making repairs "tomorrow" which is why it is in its current condition. Pervis Brown said the city probably loses enough heat from its windows, which were studied a few years ago, to pay for a couple of buildings. The city had the money to pay for these but used the money to pay for something else and the commission should stay true to what it has voted upon and move on rather than going backward. Julie Farrar said she and Pervis Brown have been here a long time and have not always agreed, but are still friends. She understands someone pulling the rug out from underneath you when working on something for so long as she, John Hamilton and Pervis Brown were on a committee to hire the new city manager, politics flipped-flopped, and another committee was formed and the job taken away which was frustrating. Julie Farrar said this work was not done in vain and the work is still ready to go, but this is only to look into the concept. The city is supposed to meet nine safety standards for its court but meet none. The city planner has been working in her office and had to call the police on two occasions because of an irate citizen who scared her. Julie Farrar asked if the plans will address these factors for the employees and Pervis Brown said this will happen. Julie Farrar said this is worth a look as she has been told city hall is too big and would not like to put \$500,000 into the current city hall and have someone in two or three years say put in a new roof, insulation or windows. Three more years later, someone could say the air conditioner needs to be replaced or fixed. Julie Farrar would like the city to do more footwork and see what will happen with feasibility and funding. Diedre Cole asked Hank Solowiej if the city has the money and Julie Farrar said this has not been looked into. Wesley Poole said the city looked at this before and this is approximately \$8 – \$10 million and Hank Solowiej said the city does not have this money. The only thing holding the city up from putting safety features into place is the city telling them to go ahead and start. Wesley Pole said all of the safety issues the judge is looking for will be included in the proposal. Wesley Poole said assuming the city will borrow \$8 – \$10 million to build a new building in which to pay a water bill will not change significantly how services are performed. Paying off notes in the future comes out of money to fix streets, parks and other things the commission wants to do in the community. Hank Solowiej said this would put a tremendous amount of strain on funding for capital projects. If this were all to be funded by outside sources this would be a moot point, but city funds could only be used through borrowing and he is not certain the city has the capacity to borrow this amount. Keith Grohe said he is totally confused and knows there have been studies done about this. Keith Grohe asked Jeff Smith if he could guarantee this would not cost the city money and Jeff Smith said he is only looking for research to be done. If free research done by the steering committee proves it is absolutely crazy to move, he will be out shoveling with the judge. He said once a golden shovel is placed in the ground at the current city building, his grandchildren are stuck with it because it will never move. Jeff Smith said he will do everything he can for the City of Sandusky and will continue to bring things up that may not be popular. Diedre Cole asked for an idea of the people comprised of the steering committee and Jeff Smith said that would be up to Nicole Ard. Diedre Cole asked if there is already an economic development committee in place for these types of assessments. Don Icsman said there is a committee but not to get bogged down in semantics. So long as the functions are performed with the same components and goal, this is all one can really ask for. Nicole Ard said there are people in this community who have experience in some of the areas not currently represented on the committee (i.e. commercial realtors, bankers, etc.) to give a better perspective of what is going on. Don Icsman said the committee was put together with good intentions to end up in front of the city commission after their due diligence is performed. The committee can be made up of any persons the city commissioners wish. Keith Grohe said so long as this does not cost money to look into, he has no problem. He likes to think outside of the box and if this can be pulled off it

would be great. Wesley Poole said it may not cost money because a group coming forward with a specific outcome would cause some to buy into whatever is recommended. Wesley Poole said the number one issue brought up by the downtown study is to improve gateway and destination signage; another is enhanced pedestrian crosswalks; this is not what Jeff Smith told the commission and is the key. This does not compare accurately with the retail study. Jeff Smith said the Sandusky Main Street Association asked Anderson Economic to outline the top three issues and he has these in writing. Wesley Poole said the SMA asked for something after the fact based upon what they wanted to accomplish. Jeff Smith said SMA does free work for the City of Sandusky and will not move into city hall, but are trying to help the city. Wesley Poole said one does not get to prop oneself up on Anderson Economic Group as the basis for action by adlibbing what they have said. This is going outside of the report which the city paid for and is using a side document other than the one presented and taking it as the recommendation to act upon. This has been expanded to suit an end and he does not support it. Pervis Brown said his main concern is if the city decides to do this, everything that has been accomplished will be frozen (architectural planning, etc.) until the commission decides to continue. Keith Grohe asked how long the study may take and Jeff Smith said a realistic outlook would be three or four months. Wesley Poole said four months to redo a study that was done two years ago, including getting bids to build downtown knowing is not a reality, means beginning work would not start until next summer for the city building expansion. Nicole Ard said the designer doing work with the court to assess the mechanicals for the existing building would like something in writing to be paid for them. Rehabbing and retrofitting the building will have a cost in addition to those performing a study. Nicole Ard said she wanted to make it clear there will be a cost and she will be asking for approximately \$10,000 for local contractors to be compensated to look at this facility. Nicole Ard said the city can talk in terms of not having money, but to stay in the current city hall, money will have to be invested. In order to be realistic, the commission needs to be prepared for maintenance, its parking lot and/or for security. Keith Grohe said he would like to table this and appreciates the offer by Jeff Smith. He does not see a problem with looking into anything new and making life better for everyone and will look at this again on October 1.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: John Hamilton, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, 3. Nays: Pervis Brown, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, 4. The President declared the motion failed.

Nicole Ard said there is still an issue with **the costs associated with the architect and is what the courts will be waiting for to follow up on this discussion.** Diedre Cole asked if the architect is needed for the court expansion and Nicole Ard said an architect is needed to determine needs to retrofit the current city building. Diedre Cole said since this is for the court and they have money, let the Judge pay for it. Nicole Ard said this is for the expansion and renovation of city hall and expanding into the grassy area in front of the building, while retrofitting other areas of the building. Wesley Poole asked if there is a reason the city manager does not just decide to do this as a matter of progress and not ask for money. Nicole Ard said based upon the discussion which just took place, it is good to get input. Wesley Poole asked if the city manager is looking for insight as opposed to approval to spend money and Nicole Ard said she would like authorization to spend money not to exceed \$10,000.

Upon motion of Pervis Brown and second of Keith Grohe, the commission voted to authorize the expenditure of up to \$10,000 to look into the current city hall.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith and Julie Farrar, 7. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Wesley Poole and second of Keith Grohe, the commission voted to authorize the law director to provide the commission with options for an ordinance to require or permit point of sale inspections for residential properties in the City of Sandusky.

Discussion: Wesley Poole said it is his intent to research other cities which require **point of sale inspections.** Prior to selling residential homes, owners should meet some minimum code standards and he would like to research this to help in Sandusky neighborhoods. He would like to see options where this is done elsewhere prior to moving forward. John Hamilton said this is only for investigation. Don Icsman said the biggest question will be who is going to do the work and he can show what other cities are doing. Ultimately, there are some good ideas brought forward but it will be about enforcement. Wesley Poole said anything that gets done in the city needs to be funded and staffed or resourced and the question is how big of a priority is it to ensure residential properties in the city meet a residential standard to consider for adoption.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith and Julie Farrar, 6. Nays: Pervis Brown, 1. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Diedre Cole and second of Wesley Poole, the commission voted to hold a public hearing on August 27 at 5 p.m. for the proposed vacation of a portion of Huron Street. The President declared the motion passed.

John Hamilton said on Saturday, August 18 beginning at 7 a.m., **volunteers from Team Home Depot will be on Butler Street and Cleveland Road to beautify the area by trimming, providing weed applications, spreading mulch, and picking up trash and yard waste.** This effort was organized by the Sandusky Home Depot store in partnership with the City of Sandusky, Cedar Point, Erie Soil & Water Conservation District, Garner Sanitation, Days Inn, Quality Inn and BAS Broadcasting. Members of the community are encouraged to spend time showing their pride in the community by helping to clean up and beautify their own neighborhoods on August 18. John Hamilton said Cedar Point is providing boxed lunches and said it would be nice for citizens to show up with local citizens and help out.

Jeff Smith said there was **a recent incident with crowds of kids fighting and asked if there is anything as a commission that can be done to fight this.** There is a curfew law but is there anything else that can be done. Nicole Ard said she recently rode with a police officer and there are a couple of organizations working on activities to help bring awareness such as the Boys and Girls Club and there are programs in place at the Nehemiah Center and through the Human Relations Commission. There are some things happening to help people understand what resources are out there and available.

Diedre Cole said this has been a **very heated and passionate commission meeting** and children learn from the commission. Diedre Cole apologized for publicly calling Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Smith liars. Diedre Cole said she disagrees with them, but is certain their contention is inaccurate. Children are upset because we are upset and they take their lead from us. It would behoove everyone to take a look at how they talk to one another, how they behave in public and how they interact.

Upon motion of Diedre Cole and second of Pervis Brown, the commission voted to hold an executive session regarding personnel, police department. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith and Julie Farrar, 7. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Diedre Cole and second of Pervis Brown, the commission voted to hold an executive session regarding personnel, fire department. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith and Julie Farrar, 7. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Diedre Cole and second of Wesley Poole, the commission voted to hold an executive session regarding personnel, city manager. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith and Julie Farrar, 7. The President declared the motion passed.

John Hamilton said there are **vacancies on the Housing Appeals Board and the Revolving Loan Fund Committee** and interested persons should submit a volunteer application. Wesley Poole said applications have been received and Kelly Kresser said appointments to the Housing Appeals Board are made by the city manager, with the consent of the city commission; members of the Revolving Loan Fund Committee are appointed by the city commission. John Hamilton said he would like to wait until the next meeting to make appointments.

John Hamilton said one of the **green "aids to navigation" lights is missing at the Sandusky Sailing Club** and Scott Miller said it is on order and will be up as soon as possible.

Under **Audience Participation**, the following persons offered their comments:

Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street, said she attended many of the Police Chief Selection Committee meetings and the members have set the bar very high and worked hard looking for education and experience; she sees nothing wrong with what is going on. Sharon Johnson said a city commissioner has no business approaching any officer and telling them to submit a resume. The committee is working very hard in a difficult situation to choose someone to be the chief. Sharon Johnson said she is glad the city hall relocation was voted down as the city has been through a lot and cannot get itself up and running while putting out fires. Backs are up against the wall with staff and labor and projects that cannot be done to consider relocating city hall at the eleventh hour when the judge wants to start on his court. Jeff Smith said he did speak with the judge/courts and they prefer to move. Sharon Johnson said the police department remodel is ongoing and Cedar Point just donated \$50,000 for this purpose and Jeff Smith said this was looked into and the equipment can be relocated.

Christina Ruiz, Girl Scout Troop 369, said she is working on a silver award project and is distributing carbon monoxide detectors to people who need them throughout Erie County. The local fire department is taking names for this list. The installation date is August 18.

Mrs. Kammer, 1801 Hayes Avenue, said she was at the last commission meeting talking about how hard she worked to get the city money for their roads by calling legislators. Mrs. Kammer said in 1974, she fought hard for child abuse and wrote articles in the National Enquirer. Mrs. Kammer said the trial is ongoing for Kevin Randleman and the death penalty law should be automatic for any person who kills a police officer while on duty. Petitions should be signed and taken to the lawmakers in Officer Dunn's name. The police chief should not be brought in from another area, but brought up through the ranks.

Randy Hunt, 271 Riverside Drive, Rossford, Ohio, said he runs an investment firm in Rossford, Ohio. Randy Hunt said Diedre Cole stated to just let the (city) building burn. There is a \$3 million bond investment and his firm has tried to work with the City of Sandusky and Erie County but all bond deals go to one guy out of Sandusky. Merrill Lynch could bid on the bonds and it could be competitive and would be nice to see the money stay local. Randy Hunt said Pervis Brown asked how many times the commission could change its mind on city hall and this has happened many times over the last 100 years. Randy Hunt said the city will never borrow money at a lower rate as interest rates are at a 60-year low. Randy Hunt said Wesley Poole disagreed with the Anderson Group but to look at their credentials versus any other. Wesley Poole said he did not disagree with the Anderson Group, rather what was reported as the prioritized list was not accurate. Randy Hunt said the study being worked upon for city hall is two years old and is ancient. The city should look at this with an open mind and in phases and look at a number for demolition. The city should then look at what the property is worth and what someone would pay for it and do with it.

Tim Schwanger, 362 Sheffield Way, said it was fairly encouraging to see some debate at the table. Tim Schwanger asked the original amount of the \$125,000 note for the city building. Over the last couple of years, the city has added an elevator and had an option to build up rather than out and to look at this for future needs of the building. Tim Schwanger said there were discussions about the dredging for the paper district marina and the contractor, from what he understands, did not dig the marina deep enough. It appears perhaps the city is utilizing the Chesapeake TIF to pay for this and not require the contractor to pay a portion. There should be discussion to recoup some of these costs and utilize the TIF money to do other work such as completing the Chesapeake Plazas. Wesley Poole said his position is if the city can recoup money from the company, he would like to see the city get some of it back. He is not certain the city will be able to do this. Tim Schwanger said the contractor was partly at fault and although this money is usable for this type of activity, he would like the city to try and get some of the money back. Diedre Cole asked Tim Schwanger to speak with Todd Roth after the meeting as this issue is a little more complex.

The President announced a recess of the regular session at 7:07 p.m. Three executive sessions were held beginning at 7:20 p.m. Upon motion Jeff Smith of and second of Pervis Brown, the commission voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. The President declared the motion passed.

Kelly L. Kresser
Clerk of the City Commission

John F. Hamilton
President of the City Commission