

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

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

Upon motion of Pervis Brown and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to excuse Julie Farrar. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith and Pervis Brown, 6. The President declared the motion passed.

City staff present: Todd Roth – Engineer, Jim Lang – Interim Police Chief, Paul Ricci – Fire Chief, Scott Miller – General Services Director, Thomas Schwan – Transit Administrator, 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 Diedre Cole and second of Wesley Poole, the commission voted to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2012 meeting and dispensed with the oral reading. The President declared the motion passed.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (*agenda items only*)

Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street, said the Lions Park project is being closed out and asked about the \$3,000 deduction for the basketball hoops and when the facility will open.

Don Mather, 402 Cove Street, said improvements continue to be made on Curran Street through property development and support is needed to make improvements at the east end of the street (Item #6). Property owners will continue to improve their property to benefit all public use.

PUBLIC HEARING

John Hamilton **opened a public hearing regarding the proposed vacation of a portion of Huron Street (0.4109 acres) located between Venice Road and the main line East/West railroad tracks owned by Norfolk Southern Railway Company.** Carrie Handy said the applicant for the petition for vacation is Norfolk Southern and the adjoining property owners have signed it. The railroad is working to acquire adjacent properties and will be the only property owner surrounding the area if the commission chooses to vacate this portion of Huron Street. Carrie Handy said the project is for a connecting track and representatives from the railroad are in the audience to provide an overview of the proposed vacation and answer any questions.

Fred Schesney, Norfolk Southern Engineer from Atlanta, said Norfolk Southern would like to set up a connection track between the North/South Sandusky line and the East/West Chicago line. This project is the \$150 million yard expansion project in Bellevue which results in other initiatives to move freight from the southeast to the midwest. This track will allow connections to go from the North/South to the Chicago area and Norfolk Southern is looking to get this track in as soon as possible.

Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street, said there were supposed to be cul-de-sacs on both sides and this request is premature. Sharon Johnson asked if this will interfere with the agreement already in place. Fred Schesney said there will be a cul-de-sac on the north side but there will not be one on the south side and this is where the connection track will go. Fred Schesney said Norfolk Southern is working with the Ohio Department of Transportation to ensure this is within the budget constraints for the project. Todd Roth said they are trying to avoid overlapping construction efforts with ODOT and Mosser Construction. Mosser Construction has agreed to put the turnaround in now based upon the closure for safety and service vehicles to get turned around on the north side of the tracks. Todd Roth said there is no need for a cul-de-sac on the south side as there is not a street to maintain services. Todd Roth said there will be a change order in the construction agreement to deduct the cost of the cul-de-sac on the south side.

Norm Stierhoff, 5415 West Bogart Road, said this project is to benefit the people who do not benefit Sandusky; the railroad does nothing for Sandusky except cause problems. Norm Stierhoff owns property on Superior Street which is all shut off and now the city is going to close a street for the railroad; he asked how much they are paying for this right-of-way. The railroad has already spent money to buy adjoining property prior to city commission approval and after the planning commission approved this;

the only formality is the planning commission did not approve it first. Norm Stierhoff asked why the city should shut down Huron Street which only gives people one out when getting to the railroad tracks. Everything else has been closed and no provisions were made for the business people in Sandusky. He has been stepped on all through this project and no one is worried about him. Norm Stierhoff said the city commission has no money but it is giving property away to the railroad so they can do something that is not practical to start with. They are going to run this to the southwest, this is all song and dance, and the city commission has to look out for the taxpayers on George Street and Superior Street.

John Hamilton asked if there were any other comments for or against this proposed vacation. There being none, the President declared the public hearing closed.

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 Carrie R. Handy, Chief Planner

ORDINANCE NO. 12-082: It is requested an ordinance be passed **vacating a portion of Huron Street located between Venice Road and the main line east-west railroad tracks owned by Norfolk Southern Railway Company with a total area of approximately 0.4109 acres, within the city, as set forth on the vacation plat, a copy of which is marked Exhibit “A-2” attached to this ordinance and incorporated herein;** 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: Wesley Poole said this is not being done just for the railroad, it is progress for Sandusky. The expansion in Bellevue will be good for the area. Huron Street was scheduled to be closed at the end of this project and the city will save money by not having to spend money to place the cul-de-sac on the south side and is a benefit. The north side was going to be closed under ODOT's schedule and when the railroad stepped up and suggested they were interested in this project, everything was placed on hold. The city is not interfering and the suggestion this is only for the benefit of the railroad is not an accurate statement. If ODOT was going to close the crossing before the end of the project anyway, there is not a big change here. He understands concerns, but people on adjacent properties have signed on. For folks who will be inconvenienced by a train, there is no answer. Wesley Poole said he was stopped in this area last week and went down Broadway Street and then up to Monroe Street. It is not reasonable to stop this large of an expansion for what may only be a month extension. Wesley Poole said he recently read in the Cleveland Plain Dealer the City of Cleveland has been pursuing exactly what the City of Sandusky has just been offered. Wesley Poole said he supports this and these are the reasons why. Jeff Smith said he agrees with Wesley Poole.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith and Pervis Brown, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith and Pervis Brown, 6. 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 deed preparation, recording fees and any other customary fees that may be due and payable in the ordinary course of the sale and purchase transaction. The city will recoup the cost of the expenses from the non-refundable earnest money deposit of one hundred and twenty five dollars (\$125) required to be paid by the purchasers. The taxing districts will begin collecting approximately two hundred forty nine dollars and fifty three cents (\$249.53) per year in real estate taxes. The sale of this property will enhance surrounding property values and the taxing districts will once again begin collecting real property taxes.

ORDINANCE NO. 12-083: 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 #56-60232.000 located on East Market Street, 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 Keith Grohe and second of Pervis Brown, the commission voted to approve this ordinance according to Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith and Pervis Brown, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith and Pervis Brown, 6. The President declared the ordinance passed.

ITEM #3 – Submitted by Thomas Schwan, Transit Administrator

Budgetary Information: The Rural Transit Program operating funds have a significant impact on the transit system's budget, as it comprises a very large amount of the total operating budget. Without this funding, services would have to be drastically reduced. The capital funds will allow the city to purchase new and replacement vehicles for the city-owned fleet at a significantly reduced price. The required local matching funds will be generated by contracts established by STS.

RESOLUTION NO. 021-12R: It is requested a resolution be passed **authorizing the filing of a grant application with the Ohio Department of Transportation through the U.S. DOT Federal Transit Administration for the CY 2013 Rural Transit Program Grant for the Sandusky Transit System;** and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

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

ITEM #4 – Submitted by Todd J. Roth, P.E., P.S.

Budgetary Information: The proposed estimated cost is \$22,815. All costs associated with this agreement will be initially paid by the city and reimbursed through the Clean Ohio Revitalization funding.

ORDINANCE NO. 12-084: 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 in relation to the Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund grant for the former Apex Manufacturing property project;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Keith Grohe 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: John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith and Pervis Brown, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith and Pervis Brown, 6. The President declared the ordinance passed.

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

Budgetary Information: The original contract amount was \$894,203 and the current contract amount is \$871,641. With this third & final change order, the final contract amount is \$882,626.90. The funding sources are as follows: \$106,008.25 from the water fund, \$114,871.25 from the sewer fund, \$70,000 from the Land and Water Conservation grant, \$2,892 from the Sandusky/Erie County Community Foundation grant, and \$588,855.40 from Community Development Block Grant funds. The breakdown for change order #3 is: \$5,030.25 from the water fund, \$710.25 from the sewer fund and \$5,245.40 from CDBG.

ORDINANCE NO. 12-085: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to approve the third and final change order for work performed for the Lions Park project, Phase II, in the amount of \$10,985.90 to be paid to Kelstin, Inc., of Shelby, Ohio;** 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.

Discussion: Diedre Cole asked about the deduct amount for the basketball hoops and when Lions Park will officially be open. Todd Roth said the basketball poles were removed from the project because the specifications called for a moveable pole and this will not best serve the park. Permanent poles will be ordered and holes left so as not to disrupt the concrete which has already been poured. Todd Roth said he will try to pay for these through CDBG funds already intended for the project although he does not yet know the cost of the poles. Scott Miller said this is approximately \$4,000. Todd Roth said issues have been cleared with the contractor and there are a couple of loose ends to tidy up. The park can be

opened as soon as the commission wants it open. Scott Miller said the restrooms were opened last weekend. The city is working on signage for rules and regulations for the splash pad (no bicycles, skateboards, etc.) and the installation of benches. John Hamilton said the Huron Park splash pad normally closes after Labor Day weekend and this is coming up soon. John Hamilton said it looks like the city is approximately \$12,000 under budget for Phase II and Todd Roth said some of the veneer on the exterior of the building was removed and held costs down considerably. John Hamilton asked if there were plans for a ribbon cutting and Scott Miller said not at this point. Wesley Poole asked Carrie Handy to provide an overall picture of what was completed in both phases of the project. There is a concrete splash pad and a new restroom building but the old one is still up. Carrie Handy said Phase I (Fall, 2010) included the re-grading of the shoreline. Phase II includes the improvements just finished: new splash pad, restroom building, basketball courts and two new play areas. The play equipment will be coming yet this year, half will be installed next year. The basketball hoops will be here very soon. City crews will try to demolish the old restroom building this winter and the play equipment along the shoreline will be removed in preparation for the new bicycle/pedestrian pathway to be constructed next spring. There will be a half mile loop around the park and the city is looking for sources for the parking lot improvements and this will be the next big chunk of money for the park. The Lions Club is working on some things and has promised to raise money for a new sign and landscaping around the sign with potential grants from Lions International. Diedre Cole asked if there are plans to recycle the old play equipment and Scott Miller said he is working with the vendor to salvage and reconfigure for potential use with updated features elsewhere. It is believed this can be removed without damage. Diedre Cole said the idea of a ribbon cutting is a good one and asked if this can be coordinated with the Lions Club as they have been beneficial. Carrie Handy said Lions Club would help put an event together and have been trying to think of a fundraiser or event.

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

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

Budgetary Information: The total estimated project cost including engineering, inspection, advertising and miscellaneous expenses is \$55,000. The city is responsible for the entire project cost and \$32,800 will be paid with sewer funds and \$22,200 will be paid with street funds.

RESOLUTION NO. 022-12R: It is requested a resolution of necessity be passed **for the city to proceed with the Curran Street pavement and drainage improvements project, approving the specifications and engineer's estimate of cost and directing the city manager to advertise and receive bids;** and declaring that this resolution shall take effect under suspension of the rules as contained in and in accordance with Section 13 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Pervis Brown and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to approve this resolution according to Section 13 of the city charter.

Discussion: Diedre Cole said she spoke with Todd Roth a few days ago about this project and she has concerns about the drainage of the storm water into Sandusky Bay. She thought the city is going backward and needs to find an alternative to this. Todd Roth said there are a couple of things the city can do, but this is not an easy fix. A filter system can be placed around the catch basins so this can filter through. The other alternative is to use filter bags on the catch basins to filter sediment out and will need to be periodically maintained to prevent sediment from getting into the water. Wesley Poole said he supports the project and this end of Curran Street probably becomes an ice pond in the winter and makes it dangerous for street plows. This is primarily a drainage project and is necessary for this area. Todd Roth said Cedar Point probably can offer alternatives as they have a lot of concrete and he will speak with Erie Soil & Water about this. Todd Roth said there are currently four catch basins on each side and perhaps the number of catch basins can be reduced and adjustment made to the length of the area the water flows would also help. Todd Roth said the city will look at the filter bags and other things to help with storm water management. Diedre Cole asked how much this will add to the project and Todd Roth said this may actually reduce the cost of the project; if the filters are purchased, this may initially increase the cost slightly, but there will be a minor maintenance cost in the future.

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

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

Budgetary Information: The construction estimate for the Campbell Street resurfacing project is \$225,278. The Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) application request will be for \$130,278 in funding. The remaining \$95,000 will be funded with CDBG funds. The construction estimate for the Columbus Avenue, Phase II resurfacing project is \$403,384. The OPWC application request will be for \$235,000. The sewer fund will fund \$29,250 and CDBG funds will fund \$139,134.

A. [RESOLUTION NO. 023-12R](#): It is requested a resolution be passed **authorizing the submission of an application by the city manager for financial assistance and to enter into a project agreement with the Ohio Public Works Commission in order to participate in the Ohio Public Works Commission's State Capital Improvement and/or local transportation improvement programs authorized by Chapter 164 (Aid to Local Government Improvements) of the Ohio Revised Code for the Campbell Street resurfacing project;** and declaring that this resolution take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

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

B. [RESOLUTION NO. 024-12R](#): It is requested a resolution be passed **authorizing the submission of an application by the city manager for financial assistance and to enter into a project agreement with the Ohio Public Works Commission in order to participate in the Ohio Public Works Commission's state capital improvement and/or local transportation improvement programs authorized by Chapter 164 (Aid to Local Government Improvements) of the Ohio Revised Code for the Columbus Avenue Phase II resurfacing project;** and declaring that this resolution take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Diedre Cole and second of Pervis Brown, the commission voted to approve this resolution according to Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: John Hamilton said he will abstain from voting on this resolution as it affects him directly.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith and Pervis Brown, 5. Abstain: John Hamilton, 1. Roll call on the resolution: Yeas: Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith and Pervis Brown, 5. Abstain: John Hamilton, 1. The President declared the resolution passed.

ITEM #8 - Submitted by Hank S. Solowiej, CPA, Finance Director

Budgetary Information: This submerged land lease is payable by the City of Sandusky as the lease holder. The Sandusky Sailing Club will reimburse the city for the cost of the lease pursuant to their lease agreement with the city. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources does not allow a sub-lease holder to make a submerged lands lease payment on the city's behalf. Ordinance 11-076 was passed by the city commission on August 22, 2011, approving payment in the amount of \$18,104.36, for the period September 1, 2011 – August 31, 2012.

[ORDINANCE NO. 12-086](#): It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to make payment to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Office of Coastal Management for rental payment on submerged lands lease File #SUB-0530-ER for the period of September 1, 2012 through August 31, 2013;** 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 Keith Grohe, the commission voted to approve this ordinance according to Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith and Pervis Brown, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith and Pervis Brown, 6. The President declared the ordinance passed.

ITEM #9 - Submitted by Hank S. Solowiej, CPA, Finance Director

Budgetary Information: There would be an estimated savings of up to 18% for these electric accounts. The savings over 12 months is estimated to be greater than \$100,000. This savings is larger than the city residential and small commercial accounts aggregation program administered by AMP Ohio which

provides a savings of 3%. Programs like these are available to larger users with usage greater than 700,000 kWh per year.

ORDINANCE NO. 12-087: It is requested an ordinance be passed **approving a pricing schedule addendum to the agreement with First Energy Solutions for electric service for the city's largest accounts located in the City of Sandusky for the period of June, 2013 to June, 2014;** 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 Wesley Poole, the commission voted to approve this ordinance according to Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Wesley Poole told Hank Solowiej he did a good job with this. Hank Solowiej said it is a bit early to do this, but it is a large savings. John Hamilton asked what effect this has on the budget and Hank Solowiej said this will lower the price paid for electricity at the sewer plant. The general fund budget is looking good for 2012 and the city had a strong year with income, admission and lodging taxes to hopefully break even.

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

ITEM #10 – Submitted by Paul E. Ricci, Fire Chief

Budgetary Information: The total amount for the equipment is \$65,000. The federal share covers \$58,500 (90%) of the proposed expenditures. The matching \$6,500 (10%) funds for this purchase will be provided by funds from the city's equipment replacement fund (EMS Fund).

RESOLUTION NO. 025-12R: It is requested a resolution be passed **approving and ratifying the grant application submitted to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the 2012 Assistance to Firefighters grant program and, if awarded, authorizing the city manager to execute any required agreements;** and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Keith Grohe, the commission voted to approve this resolution according to Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Wesley Poole asked Paul Ricci to talk about what this money will be spent for. Paul Ricci said the application is for replacement of equipment used for the purpose of extricating people from vehicles. The tools used currently were manufactured in 1994 and vehicles are now made with high strength steel and this is an upgrade.

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

ITEM #11 – Submitted by Scott A. Miller, Director of General Services

Budgetary Information: No general fund money will be required for this purchase. This purchase has been budgeted for in the water fund and sufficient funds are available to purchase the equipment.

ORDINANCE NO. 12-088: It is requested an ordinance be passed **repealing Ordinance No. 12-061, passed on June 11, 2012; authorizing and directing the city manager to purchase one (1) 2012 John Deere 410K backhoe loader from Buck & Knobby Equipment Company of Ottawa Lake, Michigan, through the State of Ohio Department of Administrative Services cooperative purchasing program for the water distribution division; declaring the 1986 Model 510C John Deere backhoe, Serial #738283, as unnecessary and unfit for city use pursuant to Section 25 of the city charter;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Keith Grohe 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: John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith and Pervis Brown, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith and Pervis Brown, 6. The President declared the ordinance passed.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Upon motion of Diedre Cole and second of Wesley Poole, the commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$750 from the Ohio Elks Association for the general services department for flags at Veteran's Park, the Jackson Street Pier and other facilities. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Wesley Poole and second of Pervis Brown, the commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$250 from Lake Erie Investments for the Firefighters Combat Challenge. The President declared the motion passed.

Nicole Ard asked Jim Lang to provide **an update regarding the \$50,000 donation made by Cedar Point for the police department.** Jim Lang said the report writing room is now complete and anyone who wishes to tour the facility can stop down.

Nicole Ard said **Ken Lilje has been appointed as a regular member of the Housing Appeals Board (previously he was an alternate member). Gary Guendelsberger has been appointed as an alternate member of the Housing Appeals Board. Both terms will expire December 31, 2014.**

Nicole Ard said she will be bringing forth information about **two economic development projects.**

Nicole Ard said she provided **a letter from the Ohio Department of Development about the city's housing grant** and staff will be meeting with the state to begin working on our next application.

Nicole Ard thanked several people for their efforts with the recent **community cleanup project by Team Home Depot** including Kelly Kresser and Keith Grohe. Team Home Depot is planning to return in mid-September and interested community groups wishing to do something similar can contact the city. Nicole Ard thanked Home Depot for their interest in helping the City of Sandusky. John Hamilton thanked **Team Home Depot** for all of the work they did.

Nicole Ard said the **Erie County Economic Development Council** provided an opportunity for people to attend a **regional economic development partnership activity** and she was able to participate in this.

Nicole Ard said **three new reserve police officers have been hired including Richard Shiltz, Joshua Drury and Major Ruffin.**

Nicole Ard said **the Sandusky Fire Department recently held a promotion ceremony and swearing-in for new firefighter Joshua Cumston.**

OLD BUSINESS

Diedre Cole said she received a call today and a **Safe Routes to School Grant Consultant has been assigned to the City of Sandusky** and a teleconference will be held next week with the local team. Diedre Cole said she told the consultant Adams Junior High School has been closed and these students moved to Sandusky High School.

Pervis Brown said the **Police Chief Selection Committee** completed their duties on Friday and the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police completed their assessment on Saturday. The committee will meet once again after the assessment results are returned to choose the top three names and have a professional background check performed so names can be sent to the city manager for selection.

Upon motion of Pervis Brown and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to expend up to \$5,000 for background checks to be done on the three finalists.

Discussion: Wesley Poole asked for details on this expenditure of \$5,000. Pervis Brown said this is to provide a thorough criminal history of three candidates including a history of the schools attended, a criminal record and to check there is no 'dirt' to ensure the city is getting a clean person to the best of their ability. This has been recommended by the Ohio Chiefs of Police Association. Jeff Smith asked if this is standard practice for hiring a police chief and Pervis Brown said it is standard in this profession, including police officers. Keith Grohe asked if this amount is the ceiling for costs and if the total will not be more than \$5,000 and Pervis Brown indicated it is. Pervis Brown said there are feelers out to obtain an approximate cost to lock in, but at this time, they have not called to confirm. John Hamilton said this is \$5,000 for all three candidates. Pervis Brown said if he finds this is different, he will let the commission know.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: John Hamilton, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith and Pervis Brown, 5. Nays: Diedre Cole, 1. The President declared the motion passed.

Wesley Poole said it is getting close to November and **Todd Roth (the city engineer) will be ending his employment with the City of Sandusky**. Wesley Poole asked if the city is going to start looking for a new city engineer as the city manager has said she will not be providing any recommendations. John Hamilton said this falls under the city manager's job and there will be a meeting on Friday where this can be discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

Upon motion of Wesley Poole and second of Diedre Cole, the commission voted to appoint Hank Solowiej as a regular member, and Nicole Ard as an alternate member, of the Revolving Loan Fund Committee. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith and Pervis Brown, 6. The President declared the motion passed.

John Hamilton said there are three vacancies on the **Revolving Loan Fund Committee** and two persons have offered their names for these positions. Other interested persons in the community can apply.

Upon motion of John Hamilton and second of Diedre Cole, the commission voted to appoint Sharon Johnson to the Revolving Loan Fund Committee for a term ending December 31, 2014. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith and Pervis Brown, 6. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Wesley Poole, the commission voted to appoint Anthony Jones to the Revolving Loan Fund Committee for a term ending December 31, 2014. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith and Pervis Brown, 6. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Pervis Brown and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to allow the city manager to change the administrative assistant position in the city manager's office from part-time to full-time and to advertise for this opening.

Discussion: Pervis Brown said this will allow for staffing from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. for the public and to provide someone to answer the phones and provide other clerical assistance. Diedre Cole asked why the city commission should have input regarding the administrative assistant position in the city manager's office as they have no input regarding the hiring of a full- or part-time city engineer. This decision should be left to the city manager. Wesley Poole said he is confused; he agrees the city commission should be saying something about the engineer, but questioned whether the commission has input regarding staff, or not, and this as good a place as any to talk about it. Wesley Poole said he agrees the city manager should have a full-time assistant. Pervis Brown said the city commission approved the budget which allowed for a part-time person to be employed in the city manager's office and this is why he is asking for the city commission to approve this change. When cuts were made previously, this position was changed from full-time to part-time and Hank Solowiej can provide verification of this. John Hamilton said this basically is to amend the budget. Wesley Poole said the city now has a contracted engineer and the city commission should show some consistency so it appears they know that they are doing and is what this comes down to. John Hamilton said there is a meeting Friday at 8 a.m., which was requested by Wesley Poole, and this will be discussed. Nicole Ard said she appreciates this, but asked if it can be placed on hold for a little while.

Pervis Brown requested this motion be tabled.

Upon motion of Pervis Brown and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to request the Law Director, or someone from his office, to conduct an investigation into the allegations and accusations made by some of the city commissioners concerning his (Pervis Brown) conduct as Chairman of the Police Chief Selection Committee and the action and interaction of the members of this board.

Discussion: Pervis Brown said false and baseless criticisms are nothing more than speculation and innuendos made in an attempt to disprove the actions of the selection committee. Pervis Brown said he is asking for this even though the process is almost complete and the committee still has final work to do. Pervis Brown said it is important for the community and the selection board members to dispel any myths about allegations of improper conduct or undue influence by him or any other members of the board.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith and Pervis Brown, 6. 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, general services department. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith and Pervis Brown, 6. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Pervis Brown and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to hold an executive session regarding pending litigation. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: John Hamilton, Diedre Cole, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith and Pervis Brown, 6. The President declared the motion passed.

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

Jeff Krabill, 300 East Water Street, thanked city personnel for working on different projects including removal of rails on Hancock Street, improvements to Market Street and excavation of the culvert at the foot of Hancock Street. Given the budget cuts endured, the staff has to work harder and in spite of this, there are projects being completed well outside of the normal day-to-day business and are remarkable. City staff has skill sets to perform these jobs and will save the city and its taxpayers from contracting the work. The leadership should be commended and take a bow for saving a great deal of money. Jeff Krabill said the parks look amazing in spite of having only two full-time staff members and a handful of volunteers.

Don Mather, 402 Cove Street, said the city will be losing Griffing Airport as it will be relocating to Port Clinton. The Griffing's have served the local community for many years and the City of Sandusky should do something to thank them. This family has worked tirelessly since 1962 in the city (previously in Perkins Township starting in 1937). This business has been lost as it has been eaten alive because of the economy.

Andy Ouriel, [Sandusky Register](#), asked the opening date for Lions Park so new features can be utilized. Scott Miller said the restrooms are open and useable; the splash pad still is in need of signage and benches. Hopefully there will be time to turn on the splash pad prior to the end of the season, but there is no specific date. Andy Ouriel asked what is considered the end of the season and Scott Miller said Labor Day is generally considered the end of season but if it is warm, it may be opened up. Andy Ouriel asked if the city has done anything like this before (regarding the investigation with the Police Chief Selection Committee), who will spearhead the process and what type of reports will be completed about the committee members' integrity. John Hamilton said this is a new one on him and nothing like this has happened since he has been on the commission and this will explore new ground. Andy Ouriel asked what Pervis Brown is hoping to get (out of the investigation) and Pervis Brown said allegations have been made that are not true and he wishes to verify they are untrue.

Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street, asked who will conduct the investigation (regarding the Police Chief Selection Committee) and Don Icsman said the motion was to have the investigation conducted by him or by someone in his office and he will start working on this. Don Icsman said there is a question whether or not he can be impartial and objective with the board of directors whom he answers to. This may be done by an attorney and no one has said anything about a police investigation. Sharon Johnson said if an attorney is used, this is big bucks and Don Icsman said it is big bucks for an environmental attorney, and for an engineer. Sharon Johnson said she is concerned about the liability of the allegations. Don Icsman said no one made any statements about the city and any alleged defamation would be a personal cause of action. Sharon Johnson said discrimination which was insinuated makes her nervous and someone should have protected the city and stopped the conversation. Don Icsman said the city commissioners have a first amendment right to give their opinions and he is not the police for freedom of speech.

The President announced a recess of the regular session at 6:13 p.m. Two executive sessions were held beginning at 6:25 p.m. Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Pervis Brown, the commission voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 p.m. The President declared the motion passed.

Kelly L. Kresser
Clerk of the City Commission

John F. Hamilton
President of the City Commission