

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, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar and Pervis Brown.

Upon motion of Wesley Poole and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to excuse Diedre Cole. 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, Carrie Handy – Planner, Don Rumbutis – IT Department, 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 Jeff Smith, the commission voted to approve the minutes of the November 13 meeting and dispensed with the oral reading. The President declared the motion passed.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (*agenda items only*)

Tim Schwanger, 362 Sheffield Way, asked if construction of shelters at the transit stops is still at the top of the list, or if the money to fund Item #3 is taking money away from this project. Tim Schwanger said the Ferndale Drive project will help a local company retain 40 jobs, but he is concerned about the city's financing of the project. He asked why the city is not using partial sewer funds rather than one hundred percent CDBG funds as this is reduced each year.

PRESENTATIONS

John Hamilton said each year, the City of Sandusky chooses ten residential properties and one commercial property to receive a **Pride Results in Desirable Environment (P.R.I.D.E.) award**. Sandusky homes and businesses are chosen based upon significant visible improvements or a superbly maintained property.

John Hamilton thanked Darlene Armour who helped the City of Sandusky by obtaining gift certificates for the winners and expressed his appreciation to the restaurant owners who provided them including: the downtown Subway location, Mr. Smith's Coffee House, Joe Wok, Sandusky Yacht Club, ZINC Brasserie, Water Street Bar & Grille, Pier 684, Sail In, East Side Café, Port Sandusky, Berardi's, J. Bistro, Mama B's Pizza, the Lunch Box and Hot Dog Tony's.

The 2012 P.R.I.D.E. award winners were recognized and accepted their certificates:

- Frank & Karen Baker, 305 42nd Street
- Troy & Mary Crabtree, 1118 Warren Street
- Sandra De Lamatre, 1213 Fifth Street
- Mark & Laurie Fogg, 130 Huntington Place
- James & Katherine Maloney, 712 Dorn Drive
- David & Diane Marcus, 436 Dewey Street
- Jim & Anne McGookey, 311 46th Street
- Frank & Josephine Muscioni, for 1419 Marlboro Street
- William & Susan Patterson, 4401 Ferndale Drive
- Joe & Wiengkaew Pimma, 805 West Jefferson Street
- Commercial property winner: Sandusky Yacht Club, 529 East Water Street

PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing was held regarding a request to vacate a portion of Pleasantview Place. Carrie Handy said this was submitted by Karely Properties and there is only one adjoining property owner. This is a small section of right-of-way approximately 25' x 60' wide and Pleasantview Place is a very small street immediately west of Bennett Avenue and west of the western edge of Lions Park. The property owner would like to make improvements to the property and this would allow him to reconfigure the garage on the property. He also owns a small triangle on the east side of the property and cannot do much without this vacation. Carrie Handy said the Planning Commission voted to recommend this be approved by the city commission.

There were no comments from the public and no questions from the city commission and **John Hamilton declared the public hearing closed.**

CURRENT BUSINESS

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

ITEM #1 – Submitted by Todd J. Roth, P.E., P.S.

Budgetary Information: The proposed estimated cost is \$249,500. All costs associated with this agreement will be initially paid by the city and reimbursed through the COAF funding.

ORDINANCE NO. 12-108: 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 Assistance Fund grant for the former D.C. Filter 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 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, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar and Pervis Brown, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: John Hamilton, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar and Pervis Brown, 6. The President declared the ordinance passed.

ITEM #2 – Submitted by Todd J. Roth, P.E., P.S.

Budgetary Information: The estimated cost of the project, including engineering, inspection, advertising and miscellaneous costs is \$150,000. The project will be funded with grant money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

RESOLUTION NO. 036-12R: It is requested a resolution be passed **declaring the necessity for the city to proceed with the proposed Sandusky Transit System parking lot and fence improvements project; approving the specifications and engineer's estimate of cost thereof; and directing the city manager to advertise for and receive bids in relation thereto;** and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

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

Discussion: Julie Farrar asked the status of construction of shelters at the transit pickup locations and Thomas Schwan said this is separate from the shelter project; approximately \$68,000 was received from the Revolving Loan Fund.

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

ITEM #3 – Submitted by Todd J. Roth, P.E., P.S.

Budgetary Information: The original contract with Kirk Brothers, Inc. was \$3,650,000 which included a \$200,000 allowance. With this final change order in the amount of \$14,918.57, the allowance is reduced to \$138,265.32 and the final contract amount is reduced to \$3,511,734.68. The contract with Kirk Brothers, Inc. is being paid with water funds through an Ohio Water Development Authority loan.

ORDINANCE NO. 12-109: 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 Big Island Water Works chemical improvement project in the amount of \$14,918.57 by Kirk Bros. Co. Inc., of Alvada, Ohio;** 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 Wesley Poole, the commission voted to approve this ordinance according to Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: John Hamilton, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar and Pervis Brown, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: John Hamilton, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar and Pervis Brown, 6. The President declared the ordinance passed.

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

Budgetary Information: The original contract with South Shore Electric, Inc. was \$1,321,100, which included a \$25,000 allowance. With this final change order in the amount of \$21,626.43, the allowance is reduced to \$0.00 and the final contract amount will increase to \$1,327,077.43. The contract with South Shore Electric, Inc. is being paid with water funds through an Ohio Water Development Authority loan.

ORDINANCE NO. 12-110: 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 Big Island Water Works chemical improvement project in the amount of \$21,626.43 by South Shore Electric, Inc., of Elyria, 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. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: John Hamilton, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar and Pervis Brown, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: John Hamilton, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar 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 with Wilkes & Co. is \$193,512, which included a \$15,000 allowance. With this final change order in the amount of \$5,261, the allowance is reduced to \$9,348.50 and the final contract amount is reduced to \$184,163.50. The contract with Wilkes & Co. is being paid with water funds through an Ohio Water Development Authority loan.

ORDINANCE NO. 12-111: 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 Big Island Water Works chemical improvement project in the amount of \$5,261 by Wilkes & Company of Huron, Ohio, in relation to the HVAC contract;** 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, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar and Pervis Brown, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: John Hamilton, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar and Pervis Brown, 6. The President declared the ordinance passed.

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

Budgetary Information: The original contract with Wilkes & Co. was \$106,860, which included a \$25,000 allowance. With this final change order in the amount of \$4,131, the allowance is reduced to \$15,533 and the contract amount will be reduced to \$91,327. The contract with Wilkes & Co. is being paid with water funds through an Ohio Water Development Authority loan.

ORDINANCE NO. 12-112: 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 Big Island Water Works chemical improvement project in the amount of \$4,131 by Wilkes & Company of Huron, Ohio, in relation to the plumbing contract;** 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 Wesley Poole, the commission voted to approve this ordinance according to Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: John Hamilton, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar and Pervis Brown, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: John Hamilton, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar and Pervis Brown, 6. The President declared the ordinance passed.

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

Budgetary Information: The original contract with S.A. Comunale Co. was \$33,800, which included a \$5,000 allowance. With this final change order in the amount of \$286.25, the allowance is reduced to \$4,713.75 and the final contract amount is reduced to \$29,086.25. The contract with S.A. Comunale Co. is being paid with water funds through an Ohio Water Development Authority loan.

ORDINANCE NO. 12-113: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to approve the second and final change order for work performed for the Big Island Water Works chemical improvement project in the amount of \$286.25 by S.A. Comunale Co. Inc., of Barberton, 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. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: John Hamilton, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar and Pervis Brown, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: John Hamilton, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar and Pervis Brown, 6. The President declared the ordinance passed.

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

Budgetary Information: The annual cost has become part of the annual operating budget and the City of Sandusky's total cost for 2012 – 2013 will be an amount not to exceed \$390,000. The insurance year is December 1, 2012 through November 30, 2013. Based on exposures, the cost will be distributed to the general fund (\$228,150), street fund (\$33,930), water fund (\$60,723) and sewer fund (\$67,197). The prior year ordinance was passed by the city commission on November 28, 2011 (Ordinance 11-113) that covered the period December 1, 2011 through November 30, 2012, for a total amount of \$488,840.

ORDINANCE NO. 12-114: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager and/or finance director to make payment to Arthur J. Gallagher & Company for property, casualty and liability insurance costs for the period of December 1, 2012 through November 30, 2013;** 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.

Discussion: Wesley Poole recognized the efforts made by staff to get this done with a significant savings from last year. John Hamilton pointed out the Audit/Finance Committee spent considerable time on this issue and are all volunteers.

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

ITEM #9 – Submitted by Carrie R. Handy, Chief Planner

ORDINANCE NO. 12-115: It is requested an ordinance be passed **approving an amendment to the city's FY 2012 one-year action plan for the community development block grant program year of July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013, and authorizing and directing the city manager to submit the amended action plan to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development;** 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. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: John Hamilton, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar and Pervis Brown, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: John Hamilton, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar and Pervis Brown, 6. The President declared the ordinance passed.

ITEM #10 – Submitted by Carrie R. Handy, Chief Planner

Budgetary Information: The proposal will have an immediate impact as the current owner of the building is \$8,369.61 delinquent on his real estate taxes and these will be paid at closing. The project will also have an ongoing positive impact on the general fund as 25% of the increase in value will be subject to real estate taxes during the abatement period. The project also involves over \$5,000,000 in renovations and the construction workers involved will pay city income taxes on wages earned at the project site.

ORDINANCE NO. 12-116: It is requested an ordinance be passed **ratifying the community reinvestment area agreement and community area compensation agreement with Buckeye Community Twenty Two, LP; authorizing the city manager to execute the community reinvestment area agreement substantially in the same form attached to this ordinance;** 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 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, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar and Pervis Brown, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: John Hamilton, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar and Pervis Brown, 6. The President declared the ordinance passed.

ITEM #11 - Submitted by Carrie R. Handy, Chief Planner

Budgetary Information: Use of Revolving Loan Funds (RLF) does not impact the city operating budget as RLF funds are restricted in use and this loan is within the guidelines of the program. The proposal however will have an immediate financial impact as the current owner of the building is \$8,369.61 delinquent on his real estate taxes and these will be paid at closing. The project will also have an ongoing positive impact on the general fund through increased real estate and income taxes. The project also involves over \$5,000,000 in renovations and the construction workers involved will pay city income taxes on an estimated \$2,000,000 in wages earned at the project site.

ORDINANCE NO. 12-117: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and approving an economic development loan in the amount of \$150,000 to Buckeye Community Twenty Two, LP;** 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 Wesley Poole, the commission voted to approve this ordinance according to Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Julie Farrar introduced Roy Lowenstein of Buckeye Community Twenty Two, LP and said she is excited about this project for the former Rieger building.

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

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Nicole Ard said George Poulos is here to provide a briefing regarding **the proposal for the city building**. George Poulos said his summary includes a recap of the renovation costs associated with the city building as well as the costs for expansion of the municipal court. Its importance is the city cannot proceed with the courtroom expansion without doing infrastructure work in the building and this has always been the case. The project started with Poulos & Associates in 1993 and it is now approaching 20 years. In 1993, a major addition of approximately 14,000 S.F. was considered to the east of the current building while utilizing the existing city hall as well as the front for courtroom expansion. Additional space will be vacated and utilized for civil functions and civic organizations. The expansion, and this renovation, totaled \$5.2 million at that time while today's budget is \$6.65 million for the entire renovation of the current facility as well as the courtroom expansion (which is \$2.7 million by itself). George Poulos said he looked at how to phase in the \$4 million necessary for this expansion. The plans prepared in 1993 were shelved as it was deemed too costly and the city decided it might entertain other options including the Parker proposal, the potential to sell the Meigs Street property and consideration for a location in the downtown area. One of the necessities was to evaluate existing infrastructure and utilities to determine how they could support this addition; there is not very much here and city hall is running at about 110% of power and utility usage. On top of this, the city has exhausted all of the mechanical systems as well as its main electrical feeders and this has put a strain on the city building. This will not allow expansion of the courtroom facility without expending roughly \$2 million. In order to do the \$2 million courtroom facility expansion, George Poulos said the city is looking at spending somewhere between \$1.8 million and \$2 million simultaneously and this needs to be isolated from the expansion project. Sprinklers need to be installed in the building. George Poulos said what he thinks is necessary is to put this evaluation into a master plan with the thought process of where we are going with departments and divisions along with the same footprint for the courtroom facility. It will be good to know what we will have, what will be used for space allocations and what we are willing to give up for some lease space options. The "bones" of the building are good from a structural component but that is it; the rest needs to be put into a working format and turned into a green facility that is going to rid itself of some of the mold considerations and the leaking windows; the building was well beyond its life 20 years ago, but we got another 20 years out of it. It is very important to give this consideration before spending any more money for expansion. The Judge will not want to hear his project cannot start project right away, but at the same time, the city needs to take a serious look at what to do with this facility. Nicole Ard asked George Poulos to talk more about the electrical and fire code issues. George Poulos said as the city expands and utilizes every inch of space, there are probably areas that have been turned into storage rooms which house electrical panels and these exist throughout the facility. This is part of getting the best use of what we have right now and George Poulos would really not want to rate this facility in its current condition as a building official. John Hamilton said all of the systems are approaching a stage of being completely worn out and George Poulos said some of the engineers looking at the building did not even want to continue. Wesley Poole asked George Poulos for advice on the next step and said he is supportive of preparing a master plan and doing this in phases. George

Poulos said this project cannot start without having money to continue on. If the project is started, the front section can be built at the same time as windows are being replaced so the new up-to-date mechanical systems can be put in that run about 60% more efficiently than what we have right now; this will cut back on utilities. The design of this facility needs to be taken to the next stage which has been done with the court facility. Wesley Poole said he is asking what the commission needs to do to get to the next step. George Poulos said as an architect, he needs to continue to work with the city manager to physically continue to develop a master plan to put into a preliminary drawing. John Hamilton asked if this would be either reworking this building or starting new and it sounds like the current building needs to be taken down to steel beams. George Poulos said there is a lot of wasted space here and 8' corridors or long corridors are not built anymore; suites are built where people work together. George Poulos shared the model done 20 years ago with Nicole Ard and said it is in the conference room and this really opens the door to where we need to be in the future. Pervis Brown said he is in favor of doing something as this ball has been kicked down the road for a long time. He asked Hank Solowiej for a rough estimate of gas and electric costs. In 2010, gas and electric costs were \$74,125; they were \$62,495 in 2011 and \$54,680 YTD in 2012. These are extraordinary energy costs and he has been harping on the windows and heat loss and does not know why we need all of this glass. There is heat loss with single-paned windows and this costs the city money although some of the energy costs have decreased as there are not employees in all of the offices now. Pervis Brown said he is in favor of continuing to develop a master plan and moving forward as the longer the building sits, the more money the city loses. If this were his house with these windows, they would be replaced as the payback is only five to ten years. Pervis Brown said the commission is not doing the citizens of this community any favors by doing nothing or saying we are going to do it "next year". Keith Grohe asked for confirmation of the costs for renovations; George Poulos said the costs to renovate are approximately \$470,000 per floor; he is concerned about overruns because of the age of the building. George Poulos said this is very much true and the current city hall is built like an old schoolhouse without serious structural problems. Julie Farrar asked George Poulos, in his professional opinion, if he would renovate the current city hall or build new, and if renovating is throwing good money after bad. George Poulos said there is absolutely no question what he would be doing. Julie Farrar said a lot of money will be put into something that is very antiquated and George Poulos said this is what the city is looking at. He and the other architects from the office looked at this for over four hours and he does not feel comfortable with the commission rejuvenating this facility and still ending up with the old bones previously alluded to. There is a lot of glass which might be framed in to walls and he is currently working on a new 13,000 S.F. township hall for Perkins Township which is \$2.4 million. If doubled, he would have more than what is needed for city hall and would spend less money. Jeff Smith said if the city is to spend taxpayer's money wisely, it would be more economical to move than to build new. George Poulos said the only thing not yet analyzed is chopping off part of the building and utilizing some of the current structure as the city has downsized considerably in the last 20 years. Part of the process is looking at what Sandusky will really need in the future. George Poulos said he is not looking for a \$6 million project if he is paying for it as a citizen. This could be something spectacular for less money and would serve our needs and be here for the next 50 years with the right technology; utility costs would be cut in half. Jeff Smith said he would hate to remodel this facility for \$7 million "just because" when this would not do justice even if moving is considered. Jeff Smith said he is here to spend his fellow citizens' tax dollars wisely, including his children, and to reduce energy costs by half over the next 50 years. He would like to open his eyes to the idea of building new. Wesley Poole asked George Poulos if new windows are put into city hall, the concept is this would be the same as new windows in a new building which would cost \$6 million or \$7 million. George Poulos said with this particular budget and what is needed for a new city hall - he has known for over 20 years - the city needs to think if this is going in the right direction or not. Space can be shared with the municipal court and the city commission and the judge is already in tune with this. It would probably be cheaper to build a new facility as renovation work is at least 1.4 - 1.8 times the cost of building new. The current building has to be torn out while new is constructed and asked if this will serve our long term needs and the marketing image we want to share. George Poulos said this is a tough answer and he does not have it yet, but he could after spending some time with Nicole Ard, going through the process, and looking at the allocation of space for the functions necessary, per her direction. Nicole Ard said what is happening with the engineer's position is part of the reason it has taken this long as she is talking with different departments about what we are to do and how we are to do it. This is in line with what George Poulos is talking about as far as how we operate and what space(s) will be required in the future. Nicole Ard said she was previously able to work with George Poulos and there is a purchase order with his firm; she can continue to work with him and in the next couple of weeks can share information about the position and things she has in mind going forward. There are reports from some of the different companies being utilized by George Poulos along with their estimates. George Poulos said one thing that was never accomplished was validating where the city is with the mechanical systems, etc. and upwards of \$10,000 was spent with the engineering analysis and getting to this step in the cycle. We can now proceed to the next step in the event we continue with the expansion of the Judge's chambers. George Poulos said we could not exclude how we put the addition

on without dealing with the current city hall. This is all part of the planning process which the city manager alluded to and putting this into a working space; there are spaces that physically connect and things that we would not do right now if designing from scratch. Another couple of months are needed to get to this point and no more money needs to be spent, this is just part of the process. George Poulos said the city needs to establish this number and we need to work on how we are going to populate this space; he does not want to renovate and end up with the same thing we have right now. Keith Grohe said he is all for getting together and working out what needs to be worked out and it is embarrassing to hear this started in 1993 and 20 years have gone by. Keith Grohe said to get the ball rolling and do what we have to do. Wesley Poole said he also is interested in seeing what is proposed. Several years ago, proposals were taken to relocate downtown and bids were received; these bids ran between \$12 - \$15 million and he believes is the reason the commission (at that time) decided to stay here. Wesley Poole asked George Poulos to filter into the discussion why he can do this now for so much less money. John Hamilton said it would be neat if this could be done prior to the length of time spent on the west end overpass. He was thinking about the utility numbers and 2011 was a mild winter as compared to 2010 and the city saved a lot of money then.

Upon motion of Pervis Brown and second of Wesley Poole, the commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$1,321 from Ruth Parker for the purchase of a bench and loop bike rack. The President declared the motion passed.

Nicole Ard asked Jim Lang to talk about **a grant from North Coast Homeland Security** and requested the city commission accept this grant, by motion. Jim Lang said a **license plate reader** was received one and one half weeks ago and is a grant from Homeland Security who actually received the grant to purchase several license plate readers; they asked different area departments if they wanted one and Jim Lang said the SPD requested one and it was installed free of cost. This has been used for the past four days and the equipment was developed in Canada. Two cameras are mounted on the trunk of the car, one facing the rear and one facing the front, and as cars pass, the plates can be read. The same occurs with parked cars and this can tell an officer if the vehicle plates are stolen or if there are any outstanding warrants on the driver. It is supposed to tell whether the driver is under suspension, but this part is not yet working. This is a valuable tool and is about 95% effective with very good success rates. Nicole Ard said the value is approximately \$17,000.

Upon motion of Pervis Brown and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to accept one license plate reader valued at approximately \$17,000 from North Coast Homeland Security. The President declared the motion passed.

Nicole Ard said **a grant was received from the Mylander Foundation for the Human Relations Commission** in the amount of \$1,250 for outreach and congratulated members of the HRC for their success in obtaining this grant.

Upon motion of Keith Grohe and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to accept this grant from the Mylander Foundation in the amount of \$1,250. The President declared the motion passed.

Nicole Ard said she provided an update regarding the **Revolving Loan Fund** and the city has a pretty good success rate based upon our staff and as compared to other cities. There are a few businesses that unfortunately have either gone bankrupt or had challenges. One positive activity will be on the Planning Commission agenda later this week for K & K Interiors; they received a forgivable loan a few years ago and they are now moving forward with a warehouse facility expansion project and this is a wonderful activity to have.

Nicole Ard said the city was contacted by the **American Water Works Association (AWWA) regarding the City of Sandusky hosting the spring conference for state officials**. Of particular interest to the AWWA is taking officials from the State of Ohio on tours of Big Island Water Works and the Waste Water Treatment Plant. This would entail staff time for the tours and in exchange, registrations will be provided at no cost for an educational experience.

Nicole Ard said the **2012 P.R.I.D.E. award winners** were in attendance this evening and the addresses of these properties are also listed on the city's webpage. Nicole Ard thanked Kelly Kresser for coordinating this. Julie Farrar thanked Darlene Armour for her assistance in obtaining gift certificates for the winners.

OLD BUSINESS

Keith Grohe asked if the problem with **overflowing recycle containers on First Street** has been taken care of and Scott Miller said it has.

NEW BUSINESS

John Hamilton said **Rev. Dan Miller resigned from the Human Relations Commission and he would like to nominate Jessica Ginty to fill this vacant position.** John Hamilton said Jessica is a young lady who would like to get active in the city and try to get others of her age and generation to do the same.

Upon motion of John Hamilton and second of Pervis Brown, the commission voted to appoint Jessica Ginty to a vacant position on the Human Relations Commission for a term which will expire October 10, 2017. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: John Hamilton, Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar and Pervis Brown, 6. The President declared the motion passed.

Wesley Poole asked when the city commission will consider the **proposed vacation of Pleasantview Place** and Carrie Handy said this will be on the next city commission agenda.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Tim Schwanger, 362 Sheffield Way, asked if the city commission or city manager have plans to move forward with the coal tar plume issue which has not been discussed for the last year. Nicole Ard said the commission recently approved a grant application for a communitywide assessment but it is not specific to the coal tar plume. John Hamilton said the commission is probably as idle as the coal tar. Tim Schwanger said he went through records for previous years and in the past when there has been a major amendment to the Consolidated Plan, the city has held a public hearing and asked if something has changed or if this is an oversight. Carrie Handy said a new citizens' participation plan was adopted last year and the city followed this process. This was not an amendment to the Consolidated Plan, it was an amendment to the annual Action Plan. There was also a 30-day public comment period regarding this and the comments get sent to HUD along with the amendment. Tim Schwanger asked if Pleasantview Place is currently used as a turnaround for safety services and Carrie Handy said police and fire looked at this and it is not; it is used as a driveway for the residence. Wesley Poole said Anna Enderle's report was excellent and he had no questions after reading it.

Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street, said looking a new city building is well and good, but the city needs to factor in land that would have to be purchased. The city owns the land which the current city hall sits on. Sharon Johnson said she would rather have city hall remain where it is and fix it up as it is a great building. Wesley Poole said with the limited information available currently, he tends to agree with Sharon Johnson, but when George Poulos finishes the study and shows what he has, he may change his mind. The city needs to think long and hard about where the services are regarding this proposal. Sharon Johnson said the city needs to look at a conflict of interest with George Poulos who is leaning toward a new building and may get the architectural contract to do this.

Andy Ouriel, Sandusky Register, said he sent an email to the city manager two weeks ago with questions the finance director had about next year's budget including the loss of local government funding, replacement of the city engineer and the IT director, and what to do with the six firefighters who are currently being paid by a grant obtained by Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur. Nicole Ard said answers were requested by today and she will get an answer to Andy Ouriel later. Nicole Ard said she has information and was told (by Andy) to put this in her manager's report but there are other items in this report and she actually has people she talks with about different things and is trying to be as conscientious as she can with all of the requests made during the past week. Andy Ouriel said these are pressing, legitimate concerns which deserve answers. Andy Ouriel said he emailed a question regarding minutes being taken at the Police Chief Selection Committee meetings and Pervis Brown said there were no notes taken at the previous meetings but this situation will be rectified. Andy Ouriel asked why he (Pervis) thinks this situation needs to be rectified and Pervis Brown said the situation will be rectified.

Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Keith Grohe, the commission voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 p.m. The President declared the motion passed.

Kelly L. Kresser
Clerk of the City Commission

John F. Hamilton
President of the City Commission