

President Craig Stahl called the meeting to order at 5 p.m. and opened with the **Invocation**, given by Julie Farrar, followed by the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

On motion of Julie Farrar and second of Dave Waddington, the Commission excused Bob Warner from the meeting. Roll Call: All Ayes.

The Clerk called the **roll** and the following Commissioners responded: Julie Farrar, Craig Stahl, Brett Fuqua, Pervis Brown, Dave Waddington and Dan Kaman.

A **Proclamation** was read by Craig Stahl proclaiming August 24, 2009, "Tim Belden Day" in the City of Sandusky as Tim Belden is leaving the State of Ohio as champion for both the TDGA Title at Plum Brook and the Mills Creek Club Championship.

Under **Audience Participation**, the following offered their comments on Agenda items:

Mr. John Ginty, 5055 Providence Drive, asked why the city is reluctant to ask [Cedar Point](#) and its visitors to increase the Admissions Tax (Items #1 and #2). He asked about the city's obligation to the [Ohio EPA](#) for enforcement of its Combined Sewer Overflow's (Item #3). He stated the Liquor License transfers (Items #5 and #6) were for the former Brass Pelican and the former IAB Club, respectively.

Julie Farrar asked those at the table to turn their microphones on when speaking and off when not as she has received calls from persons listening to the meetings on television and a lot of paperwork shuffling is being carried over the broadcasts.

A Presentation was made by Carrie Handy, Planner, and Phil Enderle of [The Collaborative](#) regarding the Lions Park Master Plan. Carrie Handy indicated the purchase of the **trailer park on Monroe Street** has been completed and quotations are being sought to remove the trailers from the property. Once the Master Plan is completed, the Steering Committee will guide the process. The Steering Committee currently includes Dave Waddington, Bob Warner, Carrie Handy, Michele Hall, Mike Pisarsky, Eric Dodrill, Stephen Dice, Andy Kraus, Jim Greek, Joe Hayberger, Mike Zuilhof, Ned Bromm, Sherri Waddington, Tom Sharrah and Martha Thompson.

An RFP was prepared in May and proposals were due to the city by June 15; a total of 11 were returned from consultants. The Master Plan Committee then reviewed and scored the proposals and met to identify the top 3 overall: The Collaborative, [Kinzelman Kline Gossman](#) and [Behnke and Associates](#). Representatives from these three companies were interviewed by the Committee members on July 30 and August 4; afterwards, The Collaborative was selected as the preferred firm.

Phil Enderle then addressed the Commissioners and stated this marks an exciting day for the city for the rebirth of a historic park and the good feelings it will generate. He stressed his excitement to be part of a team for the rebirth of this great community asset. Phil Enderle gave an overview of his qualifications and of The Collaborative along with some of their initial thoughts for the project. Phil Enderle is a Landscape Architect and a 23-year employee of this Toledo firm. The Collaborative has been in existence since 1973 and they are celebrating their 36th Anniversary. The company employs architects, landscape architects, interior designers, graphic designers and planning staff for a total of 42 staff members. They have a teamwork philosophy and will act as a facilitator for our project. They have done over 150 Parks and Recreation projects with half of these for Parks Master Plans. Fifteen have been lakefront or beach projects. They work with the National Park Service and the National Trust for Public Lands and believe the process is just as important as the end product. Their philosophy is to perform a project in three phases: 1) data assessment, 2) options, and 3) plan refinement.

Phil Enderle said their first question concerned what the park is today and what the goals and dreams are for the future. He stressed that we get to the end product through open dialogue, commitment and consistency, community input and practical design. In the end, the benefits include excitement from the community (residents), the placement of the city in a position of action and looking to our future with confidence. He then presented two case studies performed by The Collaborative, two of which were Master Plans.

The Meadowbrook Marsh project in [Danbury Township](#) is a 100-acre parcel and began with a site walkthrough. Public forums were held and a final Master Plan was then submitted.

The [Lakeview Park](#) project in Lorain is similar to Lions Park because of its proximity to the lake and the fact it is surrounded by single-family homes. Access initially was difficult because of an 18' vertical drop to the beach. The park dates over 100 years and was a bus stop in the 1920's. The Lorain County Metro Parks signed a long-term lease agreement with the city for \$1 for the park in exchange for maintenance and improvement of the park.

Concepts were then developed via public forums and a final concept chosen. An old rose garden and a fountain were brought back to restore the grandeur of the old park and beach access was improved through the rebuilding of a boathouse. The boathouse had been wiped out first by a tornado and then destroyed by a fire; the historical content and details were restored. Beach access was improved and a public amphitheatre designed. The original brick columns with ornamental arches can be viewed on numerous pages of the [Flickr](#) website. The community was given a sense of ownership through many of these historical details.

Representatives from The Collaborative had numerous first impressions of Lions Park. They were enthusiastic about sharing the creativity of three different concepts. The first, identified as Site A, included the consolidation of the current parking areas which currently are fragmented. It is felt currently there is no cohesiveness to the park and a main entrance will be developed entering from Winnebago Street into a centralized parking lot. This park design includes athletic fields, play equipment, and opening up other areas for family use. The two existing park shelters would be demolished but rebuilt as well as the existing restrooms. A new centerline with parking ramps and ADA accessibility to the beach would be created.

Site B is respectful to the nearby homeowners with no vehicular access from Marquette or LaSalle Streets. The two current restroom facilities will be kept, a playground will be developed and Site B maintains a level of sustainability. Phil Enderle stated Site B would be a low or no mow area, rather grasses and/or wildflowers would be used for green space. This would cut down considerably on the amount of pollutants released by regular mowing which he equated to approximately 3,000 hours in a car each year.

Concept or Site C is the least favored plan with public access via LaSalle or Marquette Streets and a dead end for Winnebago Street. This concept includes a new restroom facility, stairs and ramps for accessibility and playground and recreational areas. Mr. Enderle would anticipate a meeting in mid-September to begin the process and the development of a Master Plan by the first of the year.

Craig Stahl asked if there were any comments from the table at the conclusion of the presentation. Dave Waddington said he was hopeful a **cooperative agreement between the city and [Erie MetroParks](#)** could be formed and the work done in phases and by being flexible with funding. He would like to move forward with good working relationships. He stated this project makes for a good day in light of the bad phone calls and emails received as Commissioners.

Craig Stahl asked Phil Enderle to review the Lakeview Park slide again. Craig Stahl noted there are three distinctive breakwalls which are 50' out, similar to [Presque Isle State Park](#) in Erie, PA and at [East Harbor State Park](#). These types of breakwalls do a wonderful job of collecting sand. Mr. Enderle stated the Corps has already done some preliminary research and they will be looking into this concept for Sandusky. He further stated the wind/wave orientation is important for a quality beach at this park.

Julie Farrar suggested the **ADA accessible ramp(s) to the beach** be designed for everyone and not "look" like an accessible ramp. Mr. Enderle stated the ramp would be designed with a flat grade and without handrails so both persons needing assistance and those not needing assistance would be able to use it. He looks forward to working with the City of Sandusky on this project.

Carrie Handy then asked the City Commissioners to authorize staff to negotiate a contract with The Collaborative for the Lions Park Beach Project. **Upon motion of Brett Fuqua and second of Julie Farrar, the Commission authorized staff to negotiate a contract with The Collaborative. Roll Call: All Ayes.**

On motion of Pervis Brown and second of Dave Waddington, the Commissioners approved the Minutes of the July 20 and August 17, 2009 meetings and dispensed with the oral reading of the minutes. Roll Call: All Ayes.

On motion of Brett Fuqua and second of Dave Waddington, the Commissioners moved to accept all communications. Roll Call: All Ayes.

ITEM #1 – Communication – Kathryn K. McKillips, Deputy Engineer

BUDGETARY INFORMATION: The estimated construction cost of the **Cedar Point Water Main Looping Project** is \$1,132,980. The City is applying for \$400,000 in funding from The Ohio Public Works Commission. The City's cost of the project would be paid out of the Water Fund for \$732,980.

RESOLUTION NO. 020-09R - 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](#).

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Dan Kaman, the Commission authorized the passage of this Resolution under suspension of the rules in full accordance of Section 14 of the City Charter.

Discussion: Dan Kaman asked about the **new water towers** which were recently installed and what this would mean for our capacity and the EPA mandate if these were not running at capacity. John Hancock stated the existing tank would be taken down at the conclusion of the project. He was not sure what the capacity is for the looping, but there would be adequate fire protection once completed.

Roll Call on the Motion: All Ayes. Roll call on the Resolution: All Ayes.

ITEM #2 – Communication - Kathryn K. McKillips, Deputy Engineer

BUDGETARY INFORMATION: The estimated construction cost of the **Lane Street Sewer Separation Project** is \$800,000. The City is applying for \$400,000 in funding from The Ohio Public Works Commission. The City's cost of the project would be paid out of the Sewer Fund for \$400,000.

RESOLUTION NO. 021-09R - 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.

Upon motion of Dan Kaman and second of Dave Waddington, the Commission authorized the passage of this Resolution under suspension of the rules in full accordance of Section 14 of the City Charter. Roll Call on the Motion: All Ayes. Roll call on the Resolution: All Ayes.

ITEM #3 – Communication - Kathryn K. McKillips, Deputy Engineer

BUDGETARY INFORMATION: The City is applying for \$400,000 in **Credit Enhancement Funding to offset interest costs for the OWDA Loan in place for the project.**

RESOLUTION NO. 022-09R - 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.

Upon motion of Pervis Brown and second of Brett Fuqua, the Commission authorized the passage of this Resolution under suspension of the rules in full accordance of Section 14 of the City Charter. Roll Call on the Motion: All Ayes. Roll call on the Resolution: All Ayes.

ITEM #4 – Communication - Kathryn K. McKillips, Deputy Engineer

BUDGETARY INFORMATION: There is no budgetary impact.

ORDINANCE NO. 09-070 - Amending Part Nine (Streets, Utilities, and Public Services Code), Title Three (Utilities), by the addition of Chapter 941 (Illicit Discharge and Illegal Connection Control) of the Codified Ordinances.

Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Dan Kaman, the Commission authorized the passage of this Resolution under suspension of the rules in full accordance of Section 14 of the City Charter. Roll Call on the Motion: All Ayes. Roll Call on the Ordinance.

ITEM #5 - A communication was read from the [Ohio Department of Liquor Control](#), submitting an application for a new request of **D5J Liquor Permit to MS Erie Bay Inc. dba Water Street Bar & Grill**, 101 E. Water Street, Sandusky, Ohio 44870.

Upon motion of Dan Kaman and second of Julie Farrar, the Clerk was requested to notify the Ohio Department of Liquor Control that the city has no objection to this request. Roll Call: All Ayes.

ITEM #6 - A communication was read from the Ohio Department of Liquor Control, submitting an application for a transfer request of **D1, D2, D3, and D6 Liquor Permits from Villa Ventures LLC dba Cedar Villa Restaurant, 1918 Cleveland Road, Sandusky, Ohio 44870 to Cheap Seats Bar & Grill LLC dba Cheap Seats Bar & Grill, 1504 Milan Road, Sandusky, Ohio 44870.**

Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Dan Kaman, the Clerk was requested to notify the Ohio Department of Liquor Control that the city has no objection to this request. Dave Waddington asked to abstain due to a conflict of interest. Roll Call: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Craig Stahl, Brett Fuqua, Pervis Brown, Dan Kaman. Abstain: Dave Waddington.

Matt Kline then gave his **City Manager's Report**.

Upon motion of Pervis Brown and second of Craig Stahl, a donation in the amount of \$100 was accepted from Ed Taylor for the Sandusky Firefighters' Charity Fund.

Matt Kline stated there have been many things said and written regarding the **city's budget and the General Fund in particular**. The reporting has sometimes been incorrect and he gave the example of the dismissal of the former Police Chief which has been incorrectly reported to cost the city money when, in fact, it has not cost us anything. As for the Housing Department, there has been \$1 million spent in home repairs and there is a long process ahead to recoup monies through both legal and civil matters currently being pursued. Cuts have been made and a breakdown has been prepared to educate the public tonight about the General Fund. Matt Kline stated some ideas generated by the City Commissioners have been implemented while others have not. Dan Kaman submitted some ideas and Matt Kline respectfully disagrees with the term "non-essential employees" as he feels some of those identified are quite essential in helping provide services. Hank Solowiej has helped run numbers on some positions and an estimated \$44,000 of General Fund monies will be saved this year while we should realize approximately \$265,000 of savings in the General Fund in 2010.

Matt Kline stated the importance of Administrative Secretaries working for the city and that Sandusky is not unique to other governmental entities in the processing of volumes of paperwork. As an example, Bob and Ruth Haag can attest to their work in creating the Brownfields room which is a "forest of trees". Matt Kline feels our current secretaries give us the best value for the work we get.

Other ideas suggested include a 3% pay cut for the administrative staff and the elimination of paid holidays unless worked by the employee(s). This would create Charter complications and this cannot be taken away from the employees. Another idea submitted was to contract with North Central EMS for medical emergencies which would not serve to reduce the number of Firefighters as we would still have to provide manpower for fighting fires (12 employees per shift). Additionally, the monies generated through our EMS billing would be lost to another entity. Matt Kline stated the recent elimination of overtime in the SFD and the occasional closure of Station 3 is not good.

Other cost savings ideas suggested include departments rotating and giving up one day of pay each month. Unfortunately, there are three union contracts which must be considered and all are scheduled to be re-negotiated beginning this fall (September). Matt Kline said employees in all of the city's Departments work very hard and gave the example of the Recreation Department which is staffed by one full-time and one part-time employee, Michele Hall and Judy Nagy. Most of the city's Recreation programs are offset by grant monies and affect our quality of life. The cost to the General Fund thus far in 2009 for programming has been only \$1,461.70 which is minimal.

The Sunday newspaper stated there were 294 employees working for the city. This is misleading as that number included those who worked for our summer camps and may have only been employed for one or two weeks. It also included part-time employees (e.g. Mills Creek Golf Course and the City Commissioners) and seasonal employees. We do not have 294 full-time employees and Matt Kline is not happy with the way this is being reported. In Michele Hall's first year with the city, there were approximately 2,500 children who participated in our recreational programs at a cost of \$8.41 per child. This year, 3,676 children participated at a cost of \$3.33 per child. Michele Hall works hard and provides good quality programming for little cost.

The city's Administrative Secretaries, specifically in the Police and Fire Departments, provide assistance with budgeting, accounts payable, payroll, inventory control, procurement, notarizing documents, inspections, scheduling, personnel, grants, Quartermaster recordkeeping, records retention and much more. The Community Development Department has been cut to two persons and during our last monitoring visit with HUD, we were told our ability to maintain staffing is of major concern in order to continue receiving \$800,000 of CDBG monies each year. We would be at risk of losing the entire program if we cut these jobs further.

Matt Kline utilized a Power Point presentation to give a breakdown of the General Fund. 85.75% of Income Tax collections are placed into the General Fund (5% for Capital and 6.25% for Debt Service). He stated some people have told him we do not need more money if we have money to buy a trailer park or put in a splash pad. He stressed no General Fund (or Income Tax) monies were spent on these projects. To get a sense of how General Fund monies are broken down, a pie chart showing the percentage of monies used for our Funds broken down by: 1) Safety Services - Police & Fire, 2) Services – Horticultural Services, Cemetery, Building Maintenance, Community & Economic Development, Mechanics, Recreation, Engineering, Building Inspection and Street Lighting, 3) Administration – Law, Finance, Tax, Administrative Services, IT, the City Manager's Office and the City Commissioners Office, 4) Municipal Court, and 5) Debt Service. At the end of 2007, there were:

105 employees in Police and Fire; 64% of General Fund expenses
 32 in our Service departments; 22% of General Fund expenses
 37 in Administration; 8% of General Fund expenses
 14 in Municipal Court; 5% of General Fund expenses
 Debt Service; 1% of General Fund expenses

This totals 188 employees which touch some portion of the General Fund.

In 2010, if we maintain what we have today, it is projected there will be:

111 employees in Police and Fire (+6)*; 71% of General Fund expenses
 28 in our service departments; 18% of General Fund expenses
 25 in Administration; 6% of General Fund expenses
 14 in the Municipal Court; 1% of General Fund expenses

**Matt Kline noted the increase in safety services is because of retirements submitted shortly after he started working for the city and the subsequent new hires made to replace these individuals.*

Matt Kline said everyone wants him to cut out more and more of our Administration; thirty percent has already been cut from this group and he does not feel he can cut any more from Administration. He also keeps hearing he should cut out middle management but does not know who middle management is. We are down to 178 employees who touch some part of the General Fund. Of the 25 in the Administrative group, John Hancock keeps being identified as an employee. Matt Kline said John Hancock is not a city employee; rather, he is a contracted service. There continues to be focus on the \$90,000 contract, but without John Hancock this would mean the elimination of the projects passed tonight, including the waterline looping project. The Engineering staff has already been cut by five persons and only \$30,000 of John Hancock's contract is paid for with General Fund dollars. Prior to his hiring, we had a Project Engineer, Sanitary Engineer, Traffic Engineer, Community Development Director and an Assistant City Manager on staff. John Hancock is not in charge of IT or HR as some people will believe and he (Matt Kline) will continue to defend the decision to contract with him.

There are certain assumptions that must be made to project into 2010 and the numbers are based upon the month of July. We are projecting August revenues will be worse than the month of July with \$15.5 million of General Fund revenues and \$17.5 million of General Fund expenses in 2010. We have not yet seen a bottoming out of our revenues. We have already made \$350,000 in cuts this year and are projecting \$800,000 for next year as the cuts will have a greater impact with the elimination of overtime in the Police and Fire Departments and the possible closing of Station 3; we are still looking at other cuts totaling approximately \$850,000 based upon July numbers and this number will continue to go up. Matt Kline is required by Charter to provide a budget to the City Commission by November 1 and he promises the budget presented will be balanced; being balanced will mean we will have to cut in excess of \$850,000; there is not much more to cut from Administration. The two areas of Service and Safety will have to be considered for cuts. Matt Kline is hoping this presentation shows the impact of our expenses

and the decrease in our revenues and why we are asking for a quarter percent increase in the Income Tax to maintain services. If this does not pass, this could mean no Greenhouse or flowers in our parks unless a volunteer group steps forward, no Golf Course, no Recreation programming, and the elimination of some Fire and Police personnel and essentially closing Station 3. Matt Kline said he does not bring his recommendations to the Commissioners lightly; he is trying to provide the same amount of services with less people and less money. He believes there is some confusion when he says we are going to be cutting services because the services are provided by people; if we continue to cut people then there is no way we can make services available.

Craig Stahl asked if there were any questions for Matt Kline.

Dave Waddington stated he spoke with Sharon Barnes today and there **are two free Brush and Leaf Drop-offs** on September 26 – 27 which is a great deal for residents, but the leaves fall after these dates. Sandusky residents can take bagged leaves to Barnes after this date at no cost.

Dave Waddington asked Matt Kline if we were planning to **bid for one unified hauler**. Matt Kline said he had met with Sharon Barnes about this and he is currently working on bidding for **garbage hauling** and that the **brush contract** would be under a separate bid. Dave Waddington stated our leaf collection costs are about \$100,000 per year and if residents bagged their leaves in paper biodegradable bags as required, this would lessen our costs as this would mean less stops for our workers.

Dave Waddington asked Matt Kline about **the lack of ladders along the new Chesapeake walkway** and said if someone fell into the water, they would have to swim to the east side of the Jackson Street Pier; if it was dark or in the wintertime, this would be difficult. He asked Matt Kline to look into this.

Dave Waddington asked Matt Kline about the **Keller Building roof** which appears to be separated or bowed. There are several windows blown out again and he asked who is responsible for this. He asked if there were any dollars left from the \$100,000 from Mid States or from insurance for the roof collapse. He knew a Clyde roofing company did the roof repairs, Feick's did the windows and Burdue did work on the fire escape and wondered what guarantee(s) may be available to us. He thought there was roughly \$50,000 left and if we are talking with a development group, we must perform upkeep and address these issues. We are also getting closer to winter. He stated we can drive by and pretend it is not there, but this is something we need to address. Matt Kline agreed to look into these issues.

Dave Waddington stated there is a meeting regarding the **West End Grade Separation project** on Wednesday at 5 p.m. at the City Service Center. This project is currently in the hands of ODOT and the city has done its part with the project.

OLD BUSINESS: There were no items brought up under Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS: Dave Waddington said **the new Director of [Erie County Economic Development Corporation \(ECEDC\)](#), Brian Coughlin**, will be at [Mr. Smith's Coffeehouse](#) this Saturday at 8 a.m. Brian Coughlin is supportive (as is Dave Waddington) of the proposed NASA airstrip and it is vital. He is working on the development of a new Strategic Plan which is a win for all of us. Dan Kaman said he is excited to talk and meet Brian Coughlin and he has a wealth of information, knowledge and experience in economic development as well as ideas for our area – some things we have not thought about. Dan Kaman stated Brian Coughlin puts a different spin on the airport project and he (Brian) and Pat Shenigo are doing an excellent job at keeping this at the forefront with our higher up elected officials. Dave Waddington said he is hopeful in the future we would provide dollars to support ECEDC. He believes we provided \$10,000 in 2007 and 2008 and this year it was zero. Pat Shenigo is pushing this; he knows we are struggling for money, but we cannot let this slide by. It is going to take a few months or a year possibly but he feels this can work if we all work together.

On motion of Brett Fuqua and second of Dave Waddington, the Commissioners voted to hold an Executive Session regarding Collective Bargaining. Roll Call: All Ayes.

On motion of Brett Fuqua and second of Pervis Brown, the Commissioners voted to hold an Executive Session regarding the Law Department. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Dave Waddington thanked Kelly Kresser for filling in; he stated the Commissioners got pushed to home plate by the Mayor.

Under **Audience Participation**, Cynthia Ball, 1213 First Street, spoke as a lifelong resident and member of the Sandusky Tree Commission. She introduced Jim Arthur, 1104 Erie Blvd., and Joe Viviano, 721 Cedar Point Road, also Tree Commission members. Jim Arthur then read a letter to the City Commissioners regarding the elimination of the position of Horticultural Services Superintendent held by Mike Pisarsky into the record.

Diedre Cole, 807 Hancock Street, spoke about a recent gust of wind which downed a Buckeye tree upon her vehicle and could have ended up being a very serious issue. She used her vehicle to block the street until assistance arrived from SPD and Ohio Edison.

Tom Yeager, 512 Mills Street, addressed the Commissioners regarding the elimination of overtime in SPD and SFD; he wondered what would happen if a fire broke out or robbery was taking place at 10 p.m. and shifts were going to change. He also spoke about the salaries of employees at City Hall for a town of our size.

John Ginty, 5055 Providence Drive, asked about the bridge work at Bardshar Road and Fremont Avenue. John Hancock indicated he would follow up with John Ginty about this work.

Jason Brake, 2002 First Street, indicated he had spoken with Assistant Chief Sams regarding a Safety Service levy for the ballot rather than an Income Tax increase. He stated this would probably have a better chance of passing. Craig Stahl indicated the citizens will fully understand the issue on the ballot and will make choices accordingly. Further, he (Craig Stahl) stated if the Income Tax levy is defeated, Public Safety Services will be cut. It is too late for a Safety Service levy to be placed on the November, 2009, ballot, but the next Commission can discuss this.

Tom Haley, 43 Shoreway Drive, states he knows only what he reads in the newspaper. He stressed if cutting \$1.2 million from the city's budget is necessary, employees making over \$75,000 could be cut by three percent, those making over \$60,000 could be cut by two percent and the remaining salaries could be cut by one percent - all for 2 years. This would make the needed cuts. Tom Haley also asked the Commissioners to consider raising the Amusement Tax which was implemented in 1971 at 3%. He felt if it were raised consistent with the increases in sales tax (currently at 6%), the budget problems could be solved. He did not feel there would be one city employee who would not be willing to give up 1% of their salary to save a job.

Tom Yeager, 512 Mills Street, asked if the city pays to dump brush and tree limbs at Barnes Nursery.

Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street, told the City Commissioners she felt the legislation passed regarding the [Sandusky Yacht Club](#) (SYC) was sneaky and hopes it does not happen again. She did not understand the emergency on either part and three Commissioners met with SYC officials without an attorney. Craig Stahl indicated three Commissioners were assigned to negotiate. Don Icsman said although this is not the usual way of conducting business, it is legal and the notes from the meeting were made part of the official document and integrated with it.

Tim Schwanger, 362 Sheffield Way, asked Matt Kline about John Hancock's position with the city and if the projects on tonight's Agenda could have been done without him. He stated there are still other employees putting items on the Agenda. Tim Schwanger asked why the Admissions Tax increase is a taboo topic. He recalled Julie Farrar saying she would like the tourists to pay more and Matt Kline was checking into the "tourist trade" paying more taxes. He stated the redo of Hayes Avenue is a route to Cedar Point and the proposed railroad overpass will also be, so the Commissioners should bite the bullet and do it now as [Cedar Point](#) pricing is being set for next year right now.

Dennis Timple, 553 Bimini Drive, addressed the Commission and indicated he had recently talked with 55 tourists visiting Cedar Point and not one of them had any idea what the current Admissions Tax was, but most thought it was ten percent while it really is only three percent. He did not believe one person would change their plans to come here because of a higher tax; one stated he would pay \$3 that evening to help improve the streets in our town.

Tom Haley, 43 Shoreway Drive, commended the city on the resurfacing of Mills and Park Streets.

Craig Stahl adjourned the regular session of the Sandusky City Commission meeting at 6:58 p.m.

An Executive Session was held on Collective Bargaining.

An Executive Session was held on the Law Department.

At 7:47 p.m., the City Commissioners returned to the table and the meeting adjourned.

Kelly L. Kresser
Interim Clerk of the City Commission

Craig H. Stahl
President of the City Commission