

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

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

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

City staff present: Paul Ricci – Fire Chief, John Orzech – Police Chief, Anna Enderle – Planner, Jane Cullen – Project Engineer, 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 Julie Farrar, the commission voted to approve the minutes of the March 25 city commission meeting and suspend the oral reading. The President declared the motion passed.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (*agenda items only*)

Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street, said she has serious concerns about the parking study (Item #1). There will be recommendations made and she would like to know how they will be paid for if the item passes.

Tom Sloma, representing the board members of the Sandusky State Theatre, said the board supports the downtown parking study (Item #1) as a contributing entity to the downtown area. There are parking problems during large events and this is an important item. About one year ago, the theatre hosted an event at the same time as another downtown event and there is concern for safety of the patrons. During this event, a patron attended who was in a wheelchair and Columbus Avenue was closed. They were forced to park their vehicle near the Sandusky Register. This study will help to alleviate some of these problems and bring to light events at the theatre.

John Lippus, Executive Director of the Sandusky Main Street Association (SMA), 279 East Market Street, thanked the city for considering this proposal (Item #1). This is a long term strategic plan, not a parking study. This project was brought to the SMA by the downtown property/business owners and residents. There have been challenges with both parking and management of parking and the SMA has been asked to fund a plan to address this for the present and future revitalization of the downtown area. More information is available through the SMA and results will be available to the public. John Lippus said he was tasked to find money for this project and he was able to raise over half of the money through a local foundation. This started at a much higher cost and there were negotiations to get to the current price; three different proposals were considered.

Matt Ehrhardt, 105 West Water Street, said downtown Sandusky is thriving from both residential and business perspectives and parking is a challenge. For anyone who does not live or work downtown, it is tough to say there is not a problem. Matt Ehrhardt supports spending this money and said there are issues with safety and lighting which can be taken care of by illuminating some of the darker areas and this should be done sooner rather than later. Residents need to know where to park and where not to park and be alert at any time of the day or night. Issues differ during weekdays, weekends and during special events. Some people leave vehicles for two or three days during the summer season. A professional, unbiased, detailed study is important as different points of view might be obtained as a resident or from a business owner. Matt Ehrhardt said there needs to be agreement on what is to be done and a professional company is the solution. Results can be used to market the downtown and the challenges will be identified with a level of detail.

Cesare Avallone, 402 46th Street, and owner of two downtown businesses, said he supports this item (Item #1) as currently parking in the downtown is not properly managed. This information will provide insight on how to properly manage parking and provide parking solutions to help with growth.

PRESENTATIONS

John Hamilton presented a **name plate to the new Police Chief, John Orzech**, and said it has been about five years since the city has had an official police chief and he is looking forward to working with him (John).

Crystal Dymond, Storm Water Program Coordinator for Erie County Soil & Water Conservation District (ECSWCD), provided an update on the city's storm water program and presented the 2012 annual report. The Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) general permit is issued through the EPA and regulates the city for this unfunded regulatory mandate. The permit requires six minimum control measures including:

- public education and outreach
- public involvement
- construction erosion and sediment controls
- post construction water quality
- illicit discharge detection and elimination
- good housekeeping pollution prevention

Other regulated communities working with Erie County Soil and Water include the City of Huron, City of Sandusky, City of Vermilion, Perkins Township, Margaretta Township, the Village of Bay View and the Erie County Commission/County Engineer. These communities worked together to hire a storm water coordinator to establish a storm water committee. In 2011, the ECSWCD established partnerships, communication and building confidence in these local communities. 2012 was a year of implementation for programs.

Each of the participating communities will receive a copy of the annual report including contact information, a table of organization for each of the minimum control measures, a copy of the MS4 Permit and a flash drive with all supporting documentation. In 2012, the storm water committee was changed to the Clean Water Coalition and goals were set. These meetings are held quarterly and a website was designed and developed for each of the participating communities. ECSWCD provided technical assistance, filed annual reports, paid annual fees to the Ohio EPA, applied for or supported grants for all communities, submitted a program assessment and provided an annual survey and annual evaluation.

ECSWCD received \$13,718 in grant monies in 2011; in 2012, this number increased to \$97,500 for the operation of the office or to support the local communities. Grants received include the following:

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| • Healthy Water Healthy People | \$500.00 |
| • Construction BMP Workshop | 2,500.00 |
| • ODNR rainwater manuals | 1,500.00 |
| • NERR Science Collaborative | 5,000.00 |
| • SWIF grant | 88,000.00 |

In 2013, ECSWDC will be working to obtain the following grants:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| • Storm drain decals | \$562.50 |
| • NERR Science Collaborative | 5,000.00 |
| • IEvolve with BGSU | 90,000.00 |

In addition, the ECSWCD purchased banners which reached over 40,000 persons at different events, provided information through printed newsletters and brochures, on the World Wide Web and on the radio to help with the public education best management practices. Crystal Dymond said pervious pavement has been demonstrated and is in place at the new Perkins Township Hall. The ECSWCD participated in the annual Earth Day event which reached 1,700 participants. A green roof project was completed along with rain barrels and "The Green Pod" and is now available for educational purposes. ECSWCD hosted the Huron River Cleanup and a teacher workshop along with many other programs and educational opportunities.

Crystal Dymond said site inspections are done through the city's engineering department to ensure compliance with regulations and said there is no pollution from storm water. Training is being provided

to different entities to look at waterways and make sure there is no illicit discharge; plans are being developed for areas where there may be illicit discharge. A regulatory mechanism is required. A pollution prevention program has been established for the City of Sandusky and annual training is provided for employees. A new theme and educational component will be done each year. Audits are performed by the EPA and there are fines and penalties for non-compliance. The City of Vermilion was audited in December, 2010, and they had to pay a hefty fine and make many changes to be in compliance. Crystal Dymond said ECSWCD needs to promote its annual theme: "Where does your water shed?" to educate persons about where water goes as it drains from their property. A subcommittee must be established to implement some programs. The storm water management plan was last updated in 2008 and a draft will be prepared for updating. Sustainable funding is being discussed for 2014 and everyone must be involved in order to be successful. In 2013, in order to meet compliance, illicit discharge mapping must be complete. The storm water management plan will need to be finalized and implemented including updating local ordinances. Crystal Dymond officially turned over the annual report to the City Commission Clerk.

John Hamilton asked if there were any questions and Julie Farrar asked if pervious pavement is used exclusively in parking lots. Crystal Dymond said it is mainly used in parking lots and in areas where there is a high potential for pollution. John Hamilton asked how a person could experiment with this and Crystal Dymond said they could contact her office and this will encourage good stewardship. Julie Farrar asked about membership on the subcommittee and if there is a limit from the city. Crystal Dymond said two representatives are sufficient.

Mike Chambers, National League of Cities, presented information about a service line warranty program. This program would provide a service line warranty for residents which includes the lateral portion of the sewer or water line running from the city main to the point of entry into a home. All marketing, billing, customer service and claims would be administered through NLC and there is no cost to the city; ten percent of all revenue is given back to the city for their participation. One of the benefits of the program is it provides a solution for the resident to cover costly repairs. Typically, a water line warranty costs \$5.95 per month and a sewer line warranty costs \$7.95 per month. This covers a break or clog in these lines and a 24-hour a day service center dispatches a local plumber to make the necessary repairs. Local plumbers would be familiar with the local code and will ensure repairs are made according to the code. The program is marketed twice each year through a direct mailer to residents. Once enrolled, customer service and satisfaction is guaranteed and of the claims made, less than two percent of those filed are denied; the majority of these denials are due to non-payment. Over 200 cities participate in this program across the country including twelve or thirteen in the State of Ohio.

PUBLIC HEARING

John Hamilton opened a **Public Hearing regarding the 2013 draft Annual Action Plan.**

Anna Enderle, Planner, said this is **the second of two public hearings for the 2013 CDBG Action Plan.** The city will be receiving approximately \$641,841 from the Department of Housing and Urban Development although the number is still not exact as there has been discussion of a five percent cut. The following are the categories and the amount budgeted:

• Administration	\$105,566.00
• Housing programs	\$100,000.00
• Public services	\$96,276.00
• Public facility and improvement programs	295,056.00
• Other (code enforcement officer)	36,000.00
• Clearance and demolition	9,000.00
• RLF/economic development	464,000.00

A final action plan will be available at the May 13 city commission meeting so that it can be submitted to HUD by the May 15 deadline.

Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street, said she has been asking for Fifth Street to be resurfaced for several years and Anna Enderle said the city is still looking for funds and Fifth Street is on the list. Sharon Johnson said she has also asked about Central Avenue and Buchanan Street which are both on the list.

John Hamilton asked if the code enforcement officers have a goal/number of stops they make each week or month. Anna Enderle said there is a goal and this is exceeded each year (the number of complaints addressed within the six months which this position is funded by CDBG).

The President declared the public hearing closed.

CURRENT BUSINESS

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

ITEM #1 - ORDERED IN 3.25.13

ORDINANCE NO. 13-032: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager and/or finance director to expend funds in the amount of \$18,500 as the city's contribution for the preparation of a strategic parking plan and program implementation action plan for the Sandusky Main Street Association by Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. of Phoenix, Arizona;** 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 Pervis Brown, the commission voted to approve this ordinance according to Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Wesley Poole said he agrees with the problems outlined regarding downtown parking but said parking is not mismanaged, it is ignored and has not been managed at all. A \$38,000 plan or study will not resolve the problems outlined by persons who spoke tonight. As an example, Wesley Poole said Matt Ehrhardt talked about the opinions of residents, business owners and customers and that an outside company will question them, but the proposal states this study and the data collection will be done locally. When the study is completed, the city will have to make decisions about things we already know such as - the parking lots need to be repaved and lighting needs to be added. The city will have to decide if the residents are willing to park in a parking lot across the street, if employers will insist forcing employees to park in other parking lots, and if not, how the city will enforce this. This can be done with parking meters or aggressive enforcement and after telling the city all of the things which they already know or have been outlined in other studies. The city will still have to decide whether it is willing to accept these recommendations. Wesley Poole said \$38,000 is a lot of money to spend to tell us what we already know although there may be a few other things recommended which we did not already come up with, but they will not add up to \$38,000 worth of solving a problem. Wesley Poole said the city accepted \$20,000 to help pay for this and as written, the ordinance states the city is giving SMA \$18,500. Wesley Poole deferred to the city attorney as to whether this study should be returned to the city so there is no discussion about whether it belongs to the SMA or the citizens of Sandusky. Don Icsman said the ordinance was worded this way purposely and when the city does something, it is a little different; the city had nothing to do with this selection. If the city were to complete this, we would have to start over with selection and the proposal contains a number of things cities are not permitted to do (indemnification, limiting damages). Don Icsman said he first saw this when the commission received it and these are things he noticed after legislation was ordered in. It may take some time to make a selection. Don Icsman said SMA has indicated this information will be shared with the city once completed. John Lippus said when the plan is completed, SMA will be making a presentation to the city commission. This will ultimately be the result and the city will be the owners of the product once completed. John Lippus said he is comfortable signing an agreement which states this, if necessary. Julie Farrar said she is in support of this plan which will be a tool for the city to utilize for the downtown and said a parking problem is a good problem to have. Julie Farrar said elderly persons will be living in the Rieger building which is moving forward and the city will have to think about them, along with people who visit the community daily, business owners, employees and residents. This may show how the city can generate revenue from parking, especially persons who park from Thursday to Sunday and do not live here. Julie Farrar said she has to pay to park in any city she visits and this is just the way it is. Sandusky needs to be ready for the future and the parking issues need to be addressed. The city also needs to have a Master Plan for future developers and for those who are already here. Julie Farrar said spending \$18,500 from the Battery Park TIF is a drop in the bucket compared to money spent over the years for other things. In 2009, the city had \$115,471 in the TIF; in 2010, this dropped to \$5,390 after spending \$72,300 for one company – Haag Environmental – and no one was complaining about this when the city was paying them to do work for us. People are saying there will be nothing to show for it, but there will be something to show for it: the city will have a plan once this is completed which the city can take or not take. Generating revenue will help pay for the future of the plan and the city will not know unless someone from the outside tells us what we need to do. This could mean putting another

story on the parking garage, creating a parking pass for residents or charging for some parking. Perhaps the city can generate enough revenue for an officer to patrol these parking areas. Julie Farrar said she remembers the old parking meters downtown and she has been to shopping plazas where patrons put quarters into a meter and stated people pay to park all the time. This can be done without running businesses out of town. Julie Farrar said she got on the city commission as she wants the city to succeed and she will vote yes on this item as she believes this is what Sandusky needs. Julie Farrar said she is grateful John Lippus was able to get \$20,000 to complete this plan as there are people who know it needs to be done and the foundations would like to make sure their money is well spent. This will pay dividends once completed. Pervis Brown said in order to be successful at anything, plans are needed to provide guidance. Wesley Poole said Don Icsman identified some issues dealing with the safeguards and procedures in place to protect taxpayer money and he finds it inappropriate to find a novel way to circumvent these in order to reassign the project by saying it is a SMA project. This proposal has been around since September and would have been voted through at the last meeting with no comment whatsoever if he had not spoken. This is inappropriate and the commission should be ashamed. Julie Farrar asked Don Icsman if this circumvents anything. Wesley Poole said there is a process involved in order to bring legislation forward which includes getting bids when spending this kind of money to ensure the city is getting the best for its money and this process was circumvented by going outside. This should have been the city's work from the beginning rather than sending it to SMA to change it to suit their needs first, and then by getting the final version through SMA. SMA has no authority to implement any parking procedure in the downtown and the city's own engineer has not been asked for an opinion. Don Icsman said he cannot characterize anything said and this is his (Wes) opinion. Don Icsman said he is not saying the city may not have gotten to where the SMA is, but when the city competitively bids items, there are times they are selected because of particular skill, knowledge or aptitude. The point is, this was done through SMA processes, not the city's. The city may have still gotten to the same place but by reading the documents, SMA is the client, the timeline was for September, 2012 and there are a number of items the city would not have been legally able to agree to and there would be changes if the city were to enter into the contract, but not significant changes. Don Icsman said the best the city can do is contribute money toward this and is what the foundation is asking. It seemed the city commission wanted to do this by ordering in legislation rather than slowing this down or starting the process over. Julie Farrar said she does not believe there would be anyone who could do this for less than \$18,500 if the city were to bid this, and called for the question. Jeff Smith said funding will be from the Battery Park TIF and this funding is in place for economic development purposes for downtown. Don Icsman said as a matter of clarification of Robert's Rules of Order, when someone calls for the question, a vote is taken.

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

ITEM #2 – Submitted by Victoria Kurt, Recreation Program Supervisor

Budgetary Information: The agreement will not result in any additional budgetary expenses. The city will benefit from the agreed upon rental fee income of \$70 per month and electric service reimbursement of \$30 per month.

ORDINANCE NO. 13-033: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to enter into a lease agreement with Connie Weyer dba Ma Da & Dewey for the Dorn Community Park concession area beginning May 1, 2013 through August 15, 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 Wesley Poole, the commission voted to approve this ordinance according to Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown and John Hamilton, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown and John Hamilton, 6. The President declared the ordinance passed.

ITEM #3 – Submitted by Victoria Kurt, Recreation Program Supervisor

Budgetary Information: The item being proposed will not have a negative impact on the budget, but revenue of approximately \$56,366.74.

RESOLUTION NO. 014-13R: It is requested a resolution be passed **authorizing limited seasonal dockage at the Paper District Marina;** 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. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Wesley Poole,

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

ITEM #4 – Submitted by Jane E. Cullen, P.E.

Budgetary Information: The project cost is estimated at \$237,529.70 and will be funded with Jobs & Commerce Economic Development program funds through the Ohio Department of Transportation in the amount of \$80,000 or 33.68% of the project construction cost, whichever is the lesser amount. The Community Development Block Grant Revolving Loan Fund monies will cover the remaining \$157,529.70. Once the construction plans are finalized, the sewer fund may cover the storm sewer costs.

ORDINANCE NO. 13-034: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to enter into a Jobs and Commerce Economic Development Agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation for the Ferndale Drive improvement 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 Wesley Poole, the commission voted to approve this ordinance according to Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown and John Hamilton, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown and John Hamilton, 6. The President declared the ordinance passed.

ITEM #5 – Submitted by Jane E. Cullen, P.E.

Budgetary Information: The cost of the recording is estimated to be \$68 and is to be paid with funds from the engineering department's budget.

ORDINANCE NO. 13-035: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing the city manager to enter into a license agreement with Gary S. and Diane M. Ackerman to provide for the use of a certain portion of the city's right-of-way as described in the grant of a license for encroachment, a copy of which is attached to this ordinance, marked exhibit "1" 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 Keith Grohe, the commission voted to approve this ordinance according to Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown and John Hamilton, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown and John Hamilton, 6. The President declared the ordinance passed.

ITEM #6 – Submitted by Jane E. Cullen, P.E.

Budgetary Information: The cost of the recording is estimated to be \$68 and is to be paid with funds from the engineering department's budget.

ORDINANCE NO. 13-036: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing the city manager to enter into a license agreement with Larry K. and Crystal R. Kessler to provide for the use of a certain portion of the city's right-of-way as described in the grant of a license for encroachment, a copy of which is attached to this ordinance, marked exhibit "1" and incorporated herein;** 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: Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown and John Hamilton, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown and John Hamilton, 6. The President declared the ordinance passed.

ITEM #7 – Submitted by Nicole Ard, City Manager

Budgetary Information: The draft city budget includes consideration of the \$80,000 request for construction management services.

ORDINANCE NO. 13-037: It is requested an ordinance be passed **approving a request for a project scope modification with MWH Americas, Inc., relating to their agreement for professional design/engineering services for the big island water works chemical improvement project and to expend an amount not to exceed \$86,780;** 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: Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown and John Hamilton, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown and John Hamilton, 6. The President declared the ordinance passed.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Upon motion of Keith Grohe and second of Pervis Brown, the commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$25 from the American Association of University Women for the city greenhouse.

Discussion: Nicole Ard said this was presented to her as an honorarium for speaking at the organization's meeting and she is not permitted to accept gifts. She will sign this check over to the City of Sandusky for use at the greenhouse.

The President declared the motion passed.

Nicole Ard said she **extended an offer to John Orzech on Good Friday for the position of Police Chief.** Today at 4:30 p.m., John Orzech provided her a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Fraternal Order of Police, the last step for him to be named the Chief of Police. This will be executed and Nicole Ard said she is looking forward to many, many good things. John Orzech said a swearing in ceremony will take place at 4:30 p.m. on April 9 in the lobby of the city building. Nicole Ard thanked members of the Police Chief Search Committee, the Ohio Chiefs Association, the two retired police chiefs who assisted with the process, Deb Leslie - Civil Service Clerk - and the city managers who served as panelists.

Nicole Ard said **she has legal counsel and will be following up regarding two recent articles in the newspaper, specifically an online article which appeared over the weekend and called her a liar.** Nicole Ard said what was presented was not correct and this will be handled directly with the organization. Nicole Ard said there was also an article about the city's compliance with the EPA regarding the Chesapeake which was incorrect. It was implied the city and the Chesapeake owners were not in compliance, but the city's legal counsel submitted materials to the EPA in February. This was sent to an EPA staff person (not Ryan Patterson) who then contacted the city; the parking lot is not the city's responsibility and Chesapeake had already made arrangements to conduct the repairs. Nicole Ard said an agent also made contact with her and he was very concerned as to what people were seeing and the impact it would have on the Chesapeake. Nicole Ard wanted to make it very clear to folks they are in compliance and are working together as presented in a past commission meeting regarding work for the annual report. This report was late due to a person who had relocated and the city received notice of this and the issue has been resolved and she wants to make this very clear to the public.

Nicole Ard said she provided a memorandum regarding administrative salaries as discussed during the budget presentation. There is a recommendation for a **1.5% increase for administrative employees as well as an adjustment proposed by Chief Paul Ricci for his administrative assistant.** The administrative assistant had significant changes made to her job duties approximately two years ago and this needed to be followed up on regarding prior commission agreement. Nicole Ard said these are two items that will be processed if there is no other comment and the finance director has said he will be briefing members of the Audit/Finance Committee.

Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Keith Grohe, the commission voted to approve the 1.5% salary adjustment for administrative employees. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Wesley Poole, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown and John Hamilton, 6. The President declared the motion passed.

Nicole Ard said she will be providing information at a future meeting regarding the **Keller Building** as she received notification the city will need **additional funding to help complete the specifications** for engineering (another \$16,000).

Nicole Ard said with commission approval, the city will pay **annual dues to the Erie County of Chamber of Commerce** in the amount of \$340.

Upon motion of Pervis Brown and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to expend \$340 for 2013 dues to the Erie County Chamber of Commerce. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Wesley Poole,

Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown and John Hamilton, 6. The President declared the motion passed.

Nicole Ard thanked the **Sandusky Main Street Association for their generous offer to allow their summer intern to perform work for the City of Sandusky.** Nicole Ard said Anna Enderle has already eagerly identified some projects and the intern will start in May. She is a local college student with a background in design.

Nicole Ard said if there are no other concerns, the **Erie County Health Department will be installing raised gardening containers at Churchwell Park** in follow-up to a request from the residents and in order for them to have cold weather crops.

Nicole Ard said **second interviews will be held for the position of city engineer** later this week.

Nicole Ard thanked different **staff members who have been performing work at Lions Park.** The new entry sign was installed by a private contractor and was donated by the Sandusky Lions Club.

Nicole Ard said the **city's boat launch facility will be opening** on Saturday, April 13.

Nicole Ard said **many activities will take place this weekend including a Crappie U.S.A. Spring Qualifier fishing tournament, the Kids Fishing Rodeo and the Humane Society's 5K Run/Walk.**

Wesley Poole asked why there is **limited access to the Sandusky Register website on the city's network** as he could not open their site while Nicole Ard was talking this evening. Nicole Ard said most organizations limit their employees' access to websites. Wesley Poole said as a city commissioner he thinks he may have been asked if he wanted his access limited and Nicole Ard said this has been in place for several years, perhaps since 2007, and was not done to block Wesley Poole specifically. Wesley Poole asked if this applies only to the city building and Don Rumbutis said it applies to the city's network.

OLD BUSINESS

Keith Grohe **thanked Twila Johnson who allowed for a community garden project on her property** at the corner of Taylor and Brown Streets. Keith Grohe said he will be donating money for this location to get it going.

NEW BUSINESS

Julie Farrar thanked the **Sandusky Main Street Association** for donating time with their summer intern and as a point of clarification, asked John Lippus to clarify what this organization does as they raise their own money and are self-funded. John Lippus said the SMA does not receive any public funding which is unlike other Ohio and national Main Street communities; funding is raised through grants, private donations, or other monies. John Lippus said his salary is paid through a grant and it is not paid through money raised by programs. In 2011, the SMA donated approximately \$54,000 back into the downtown community through projects and promotions. Last year was a little tougher and approximately \$32,000 - \$34,000 was put back into the downtown for marketing the downtown as a destination, marketing downtown as an opportunity for business growth and development and by putting on events which bring people downtown. This draws awareness of what is being done downtown and perhaps brings people who may be future investors or developers. SMA has been in business for ten years and great strides have been made downtown in the last six years. The SMA does not own any property, but their job is to make properties better for everyone and make downtown healthy. This starts on the inside and grows out and is a national statistic and SMA is moving in this direction. John Lippus thanked the commission for being great partners with SMA over the years and said the downtown could not grow without this partnership. The SMA mission is being accomplished.

John Hamilton said members of the **Friends of Pipe Creek and the Sandusky Rowing Club are working together** and a meeting was held on Saturday to discuss jointly erecting a building/structure and planning regattas together. They will be reaching out to college students about rowing and Sandusky may perhaps produce future Olympians as rowing is an Olympic sport. They would like to keep the River Avenue property area natural and are in the early phases of building and have the money and an architectural plan to do it. There is a need to identify land, ensure the city owns it, and make it accessible for everyone.

John Hamilton said he was approached by a couple of different people and there is interest in **resurrecting the restroom facilities at the Sandusky Bay Pavilion**. After The Big Splash Raffle hosted by the Sandusky Maritime Museum, 3,000 questionnaires were distributed and 1,500 indicated the restrooms need to be repaired. This was a free study and the Maritime Museum asked if there is \$10,000 available from the Battery Park TIF and/or local charities to match this amount in order to spruce these up for the summer season.

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

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

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street, asked if the Paper District Marina is scheduled to open April 15 and Nicole Ard said this is scheduled for May. Nicole Ard said interviews were held today for dockhands at the marina and an announcement will be made when it is ready for opening. Sharon Johnson said she understands where Wesley Poole is coming from regarding the SMA picking their contractor as tax dollars are being put into this project and the city needs to be very careful with this.

John Lippus, Sandusky Main Street Association, said the reason SMA offered to assist with the study is because this was a tool used to negotiate the price (down). As volunteers, SMA will use their time to help with the assessments. A professional will be with them and will help set up materials. John Lippus announced the Duck Derby will be held on April 28 at 6 p.m. at Kalahari and this is the SMA's biggest fundraiser of the year. John Lippus said there was no intended malice regarding this study and he learned how to do proposals and bids when he worked for the city. He followed the city's guidelines and believes this was carried out in a manner which the city would have taken anyway. Wesley Poole said he realizes there is no malice and SMA does a lot of good things for the community. His issues deal with not following procedures set in place for the benefit of the public. This process started in September and he is not sure who John Lippus has been working with, but two weeks ago, this was offered for a vote without discussion and he does not think this is the type of process he is willing to endorse. Wesley Poole said the best thing this community can do is get behind a program it would like to do as a city which has the support of the community. In this particular case, this was all done behind closed doors and he (John) figured out where to get his four votes to push it through. This does not build any kind of relationship with the rest of the community. There are other areas in the city that could use this type of economic development help from the city commission. Anytime anyone comes to the commission with a new study or idea that has been vetted only by SMA and pushed through, it does not build a strong community. Wesley Poole said the exact thing could have been accomplished by starting in September and including all of the commissioners in the conversation and he may have been supportive of what they are doing. John Lippus apologized if the commission did not receive this information, but it was given to staff in September. John Lippus said the SMA has been continually working on this and asking the status since September. The SMA has always done everything with staff and he cannot help it if staff does not do anything or does not get it to the commission. The SMA will continue to try and promote downtown revitalization and he has a problem with Wesley Poole saying they are trying to push this through as this is not the case. The SMA has been up front with city staff the whole time and if he (Wes) would like to meet one on one to discuss this, it can be scheduled. Jeff Smith asked when the SMA last came to the city with a plan they wanted funding for and John Lippus said he cannot remember. Julie Farrar told John Lippus she had this information since September and was aware of it.

Matt Morgan, 1219 East Perkins Avenue, said he recently ran into an interesting and good problem where internet access at The Hero Zone for online play is being saturated. He contacted Buckeye Cable to explore some options with the coaxial copper and their next highest plan is very expensive. He was given the name of someone who is interested in installing a fiber optic network and the area has been surveyed where it could go in. The Hero Zone is an acceptable location for a fiber optic node but the only problem is, while Buckeye will pay for installation of the fiber optics, they will only do so if there are enough customers who will use the service. As he understands, The Hero Zone is the only business with a possible subscription. If there are any other businesses or organizations interested in modernizing their internet connection, they should ask about fiber optic with Buckeye to look further into this service communications in Sandusky. John Hamilton said the Revolving Loan Fund is available and may be able to provide assistance, if qualified.

The President announced a recess of the regular session at 6:37 p.m. One executive session was held beginning at 6:48 p.m. Upon motion of Pervis Brown and second of Keith Grohe, the commission voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m. The President declared the motion passed.

Kelly L. Kresser, CMC
Clerk of the City Commission

John F. Hamilton
President of the City Commission