

John Hamilton called the meeting to order at 5 p.m. after Keith Grohe requested a **moment of silence for both the survivors and the departed in the Texas and Boston tragedies**, and the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

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

City staff present: Paul Ricci – Fire Chief, John Orzech – Police Chief, Anna Enderle – Planner, Jane Cullen – Project Engineer, Thomas Schwan – Transit Administrator, Don Icsman – Law Director, Nicole Ard - City Manager, Hank Solowiej – Finance Director and Kelly Kresser – Commission Clerk.

Upon motion of Keith Grohe and second of Diedre Cole, the commission voted to approve the minutes of the April 8 city commission meeting and suspend the oral reading. The President declared the motion passed.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (*agenda items only*)

None.

PROCLAMATIONS

John Hamilton presented a Proclamation to Marla Chudy, Board Member of **Mental Health America of Sandusky and Erie County, declaring May, 2013 Mental Health Month** in the City of Sandusky.

Wesley Poole presented a **Proclamation to Danny Rielly, Erie County Coordinator of American Bikers Aimed Toward Education, declaring May, 2013 Motorcycle Awareness Month** in the City of Sandusky.

PUBLIC HEARING

John Hamilton opened a public hearing regarding a **proposed amendment to the City of Sandusky's Zone Map**.

Anna Enderle, Planner, said this proposed amendment to the zone map is for ten parcels along the north side of the 900 block of West Market Street between Lawrence and McDonough Streets, as well as a small portion of Lawrence Street which was vacated several years ago and is currently zoned public facilities. All of these properties are currently zoned either residential business (RB) or public facilities (PF) and it is proposed to change their zoning/use to limited manufacturing (LM) to allow for future manufacturing development although there are no definitive plans at this time. Wesley Poole asked why he should vote for this and Anna Enderle said these properties are currently vacant and are owned by Sirico LLC. They would like them rezoned for manufacturing uses for future developments or to make available for redevelopment.

There were no additional questions or comments. John Hamilton declared the public hearing closed.

CURRENT BUSINESS

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

CURRENT BUSINESS

ITEM #1 – Submitted by Amanda Meyers, Paralegal

Budgetary Information: The cost of this acquisition will be approximately the administrative staff time necessary for acquisition and recorder fees. The city will recoup these costs upon sale. The taxing districts will not collect the delinquent taxes, assessments, penalties and interest currently due and owing in the amount of \$15,751.28 whether the city accepts the property or not. However, it is presumed that the city will be maintaining the property in the event of forfeiture to the State of Ohio, in which case the property will be exempt from taxation and the city will not be able to assess the property for the costs of mowing and maintenance. By returning this abandoned nonproductive land to tax producing status, the taxing districts will begin collecting approximately \$1,544.72 yearly in real estate taxes, which could eventually increase with rehabilitation and development of the property.

RESOLUTION NO. 015-13R: It is requested a resolution be passed **approving and accepting certain real property for acquisition into the land reutilization program**; and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

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

ITEM #2

ORDINANCE NO. 13-038: It is requested an ordinance be passed **ratifying, accepting and approving a collective bargaining agreement between the City of Sandusky, an Ohio Charter municipal corporation, and the Fraternal Order of Police, Ohio Labor Council, Inc., the collective bargaining unit for certain employees of the Sandusky Police Department, for the period January 1, 2013, through December 31, 2015, a copy of which is 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 Julie Farrar, the commission voted to approve this ordinance according to Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Diedre Cole asked if the contract provision for uniform allowance permitting officers to purchase a duty knife, handgun or patrol rifle is new and asked whether the items become the property of that officer. John Orzech said this is a new contract provision and in the previous contract, the uniform allowance authorized payment two times each year for police officers could purchase uniforms or equipment. These changes were negotiated so employees will utilize a quartermaster system and in order to spend the city's money wisely. Payments are not made directly to the employee without approval by the Police Chief. Diedre Cole asked how this is reported and who will pay the tax and Hank Solowiej said this will be set up similar to the fire department's quartermaster system and according to IRS regulations. Wesley Poole said the employees will receive this \$750 annual allowance to either clean uniforms or purchase (allowed) items and stated the commission is being asked to trade clean uniforms for buying an officer a gun or a rifle and this is what he takes from this item. John Orzech said with the prior contract, officers received this money and could spend it any way they wished. With the new language, it is known what is being purchased with the money. John Orzech said the language about rifles was added and this can only be utilized once during the officer's career and Diedre Cole said this struck her as odd. Wesley Poole said he does not know if this is appropriate and sees no reason for the City of Sandusky to purchase guns or rifles. He does not believe this was a good decision. John Hamilton asked if officers do a lot of practice shooting and who currently pays for these barrels when they are worn out as they are a mechanical piece of equipment. John Orzech said the city is responsible for the duty firearms only.

Diedre Cole said one section of this proposed contract states: "employees hired after January 1, 1999 shall be subject to the fitness standards and shall participate in the fitness program as outlined", while a different section states: "employees who are required or who elect to participate in the fitness program may opt out at any time during this agreement." Diedre Cole said she is confused as to how someone opts out of a requirement. John Orzech said when this program initially went into effect, officers hired after 1999 were required to participate. In 1997, it was decided the employees could opt out and this has been in effect for the last two contracts. There used to be discipline attached to the program as well which was removed several contracts ago. The language in the current proposed contract has been in effect for the last two. Wesley Poole asked John Orzech to speak to what this program actually is and John Orzech said it was put into place so officers would maintain a certain level of physical fitness and they are required to perform in a fitness course behind the police station; there is an incentive for doing this. Wesley Poole stated what this says to him is some officers have to be fit but others do not (if they choose not to participate). John Orzech said hopefully officers will maintain a level of fitness as this is expected of them, but being in the program is no longer a requirement. Wesley Poole said a police department where the officers decide whether or not they will be fit for duty is not good for the city. John Hamilton asked if there is a minimum standard or if this is age related. John Orzech said there is no age requirement and this contract has been in existence for a while without changes being made.

Keith Grohe asked if the weapons, when purchased, will be solely in the name of the officer or if they will become property of the officer when they leave the city's employment. John Orzech said according to how this was written, they will become the property of the officer when they leave. Wesley Poole asked if these are the officer's property at the time of purchase and John Orzech said they are. Wesley

Poole asked if a duty weapon is provided to officers and John Orzech confirmed they are provided. Keith Grohe asked what this will be utilized for (backup, personal) and John Orzech said he would venture to say these will be used as a backup weapon as a duty weapon is already provided. There are officers who have purchased their own rifles and who are proficient with different skill packages so they are efficient when using a high powered rifle.

Jeff Smith said this is similar to when he was in the Marines and an allowance was provided so that there was no excuse for showing up to work with a messed up uniform. Ultimately, this allowance is for laundering uniforms and/or for the purchase of one gun every five years and John Orzech clarified this is for the purchase of one gun for each respective officer's career. Keith Grohe said this clears it up for him.

Nicole Ard said from discussions during preparation of the budget, there are incentives for employees to be as fit as possible as they will help by contributing toward their health insurance plans. There has also been discussion about reinstating the wellness committee and instituting a formal wellness program in order to stay as healthy as possible.

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

ITEM #3 – Submitted by John Orzech, Police Chief

Budgetary Information: The total cost of the sixteen (16) vests is estimated at \$10,360 which will be paid with funds allocated from the police department's operating budget. If funds are awarded, the bulletproof vest partnership program will reimburse the city up to 50% of the total cost of vests purchased and delivered.

RESOLUTION NO. 016-13R: It is requested a resolution be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to file an application with the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance, for funding through the FY 2013 bulletproof vest partnership program;** and declaring that this resolution 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 resolution according to Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Diedre Cole said these vests have to be fitted for each officer and the city is purchasing seven new vests for new hires due to retirements and asked if this means the city is purchasing vests for persons who have not yet been hired. John Orzech said these are for officers who have already been hired and for officers whose current vests have met their factory warranties. Every five years, new vests are provided to the officers.

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

ITEM #4 – Submitted by John Orzech, Police Chief

Budgetary Information: The cost for each physical is \$609.95 and officers can opt in or out of the program up to the time of the physical. There are currently 36 employees that are eligible for physicals for a total estimated cost for the medical examinations of \$21,958.20. The cost for the exams is included in the police department 2013 operating budget.

ORDINANCE NO. 13-039: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to expend funds to Firelands Corporate Health Center of Sandusky, Ohio, for annual medical examinations to be completed for the Sandusky Police Department in CY 2013;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

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

ITEM #5 – Submitted by Victoria Kurt, Recreation Division Supervisor

Budgetary Information: The agreements will not result in any additional budgetary expenses. The city will benefit from the agreed upon ball field maintenance performed by the leagues.

A. [ORDINANCE NO. 13-040](#): It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to enter into a five year license agreement with Sandusky City Schools for priority use of Field #6 located at Dorn Community Park and Rather Field located at Jaycee Park South for the Sandusky High School Boy's Varsity and Junior Varsity baseball programs and Sandusky High School Girl's Varsity and Junior Varsity softball programs (March 1 through May 30) beginning March 1, 2013;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

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

B. [ORDINANCE NO. 13-041](#): It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to enter into a five year license agreement with Sandusky Amvets Baseball League for priority use of Field #1 and the concession stand located at Amvets Junior Park and Fields #1, #2, #3, #4 and the concession stand and storage shed located at Sprau Park for the Sandusky Amvets Baseball League and Sandusky Eagles Baseball League programs (May 1 through August 31) beginning May 1, 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: Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole and Wesley Poole, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole and Wesley Poole, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.

ITEM #6 – Submitted by Thomas Schwan, Public Transit Administrator

Budgetary Information: The state grant, if awarded, will allow Sandusky Transit System to sustain the SPARC service for our residents. The project will have no impact on the city's budget as all monies for the additional service will be provided through State of Ohio JARC grant funding and matching local sources other than city general revenue funds.

[RESOLUTION NO. 017-13R](#): It is requested a resolution be **passed approving and ratifying a grant application submitted to the Ohio Department of Transportation through the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Federal Transit Administration for the CY 2014 Job Access Reverse Commute program grant for the Sandusky Transit System;** and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

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

ITEM #7 – Submitted by Jane E. Cullen, P.E.

Budgetary Information: The cost for this work is \$26,000 and will be paid for with the proceeds from the taxable urban renewal revenue bonds.

[ORDINANCE NO. 13-042](#): It is requested an ordinance be passed **approving and ratifying an agreement with Partners Environmental Consulting, Inc., of Solon, Ohio, for certified professional services for the preparation of demolition specifications and contractor bidding associated with the demolition of the Keller Building;** 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. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole and Wesley Poole, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole and Wesley Poole, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.

ITEM #8 – Submitted by Kelly Kresser, Commission Clerk

A request has been received from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control requesting a new D5A (spirituous liquor for on premises consumption only, beer, wine and mixed beverages for on premises, or off premises in original sealed containers, until 2:30 a.m. for hotel or motel with 50 or more rooms for transient guests) and a new D6 (Sale of intoxicating liquor on Sunday between the hours of 10 a.m. or 11 a.m. and midnight) liquor permits for Juan Bernardino dba Nachos Mexican Restaurant, 1649 Cleveland Road, Sandusky. It is requested the commission clerk be authorized to notify the Ohio Division of Liquor Control the city has no objection to this request.

Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Pervis Brown, the commission voted to request the city commission clerk, Kelly Kresser, to notify the Ohio Division of Liquor Control the city has no objection to this request.

Discussion: Diedre Cole said she noticed this is the restaurant next to D.J.'s Bar and there is a hotel behind it. As she understands it, this will allow for the sale of closed containers for off-site carry. Julie Farrar said this is for carry-out sales but will not allow for opening containers and walking onto Cleveland Road; Diedre Cole said only over to D.J.'s.

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

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Upon motion of Diedre Cole and second of Pervis Brown, the commission voted to accept three \$20 Pizza Hut gift cards which were utilized for the Sandusky Fire Department's awards luncheon and donated by Platinum Restoration Company. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Diedre Cole, the commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$20 from Scott and Denise Ommert for the Friends of the Greenhouse. The President declared the motion passed.

Nicole Ard said this Saturday is **Green Day in the City of Sandusky** and the following events will take place:

- **Tire Recycling Drop-off** at Ohio Tire Terminal, 2620 West Monroe Street, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Residents must show proof of Sandusky residency, tractor tires are not allowed and rims must be removed from the tires.
- **City Greenhouse Open House** at 601 Franklin Street, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- **Arbor Day Celebration**, 10:30 a.m. – 11 a.m., "Go Green" poem contest and tree planting ceremony.

Nicole Ard thanked Kelly Kromer who helped take the initiative to find a more efficient and cost effective way to dispose of tires.

Nicole Ard thanked Julie Brooks for her invitation to attend the **recent ribbon cutting for their Baby Garden at the Sandusky Library**. This area is for families with little ones under the age of two to play and interact in a soft environment while developing their skills.

Nicole Ard thanked **Kharma Salon for being the first donor to host the upcoming Movies By the Bay at the Paper District Marina and Amphitheatre**. This is the inaugural season for family-friendly movies at the Paper District Amphitheatre and other businesses who may be interested in being a sponsor can contact Victoria Kurt at 419.627.5886. Diedre Cole asked the cost to sponsor a movie and Nicole Ard said this is approximately \$500. There will also be information forthcoming about **Beats by the Bay**, a music series to be presented at the Paper District Amphitheatre.

Nicole Ard said there was interest in **using a realtor to list land bank properties** (discussed at the last meeting). Before signing off on this agreement, Nicole Ard said she would like to make sure the commission is aware the realtor is donating her time to list these, but the city will pay a 5% commission to a buyer who uses a realtor (the buyer's agent). Nicole Ard said Don Icsman indicated the city has done this once before, but she wanted to make sure everyone is aware and there are not concerns.

Nicole Ard said included with the city manager's report is a proposal for the purchase and installation of **a pergola at the Paper District Marina**. This purchase is for a secure, fiberglass pergola at a discounted rate and will help to address weather and climate issues. The Sandusky High School woodworking class will be providing labor free of charge for the installation. The cost to purchase the pergola is \$14,800 with a 3 – 4 week turnaround for processing. The city will be accepting seasonal dockage applications on May 15 and she would like to get this process moving.

George Poulos said this is a partnering opportunity and anyone who visited the area last year is aware it was difficult to sustain umbrellas with the high winds. This pergola would be a permanent item and is a nice unit. The City of Sandusky will partner with the Sandusky Adult Vocational class to perform the installation. The costs associated with this purchase and installation will be paid by the vendor who will be operating the restaurant and this is pretty much at cost. George Poulos said he would like to get this ordered so it is up in time for the start of the season in June and the numbers may still be negotiated down. This is a controlled fill area and the city will have to be careful with these controls. Diedre Cole asked where the pergola was purchased that is in Shoreline Park and said this is the third one in the city (there is also one at the greenhouse). George Poulos said there are many different vendors for the wooden pergolas and this particular one is made of fiberglass. Jeff Smith asked where the funds will come from for this purchase and Nicole Ard said economic development funding is the recommended source; Julie Farrar asked if there is \$14,800 in the economic development funds and George Poulos said he would like the opportunity to proceed with this purchase so the city can take advantage of wholesale pricing. Wesley Poole said this is an improvement to an asset the city needs to make work and he supports it. Diedre Cole said this is a wonderful idea but she does not want to lose focus of the fact the city made a commitment to do something with the plaza areas and they are looking pretty bad. Nicole Ard said when the discussion originally took place regarding the Keller Building, the city received a letter from the Old House Guild about future activities for the plaza areas. Nicole Ard said there is also interest in preparing an RFQ for the Shoreline Park and Lions Park facilities and integrating restaurants with recreational parks and/or facilities.

Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to approve spending up to \$15,000 for the purchase of a pergola for the Paper District Marina.

Discussion: Keith Grohe asked if there is a contract signed with the vendor for the Paper District Marina for 2013 and Nicole Ard said this has not yet been executed. Keith Grohe asked if this (pergola) will be figured into the contract with the vendor and Nicole Ard said this will be an improvement to the city's building/facility, is a city investment, and will stay with the building. Jeff Smith said it looks like this would cost \$60,000 - \$70,000 and this is a good savings for the City of Sandusky. Nicole Ard said application can be made after May 15 for seasonal dockage at the Paper District Marina. Diedre Cole said the retail price for the pergola is \$18,000 and city can purchase it for \$14,500. George Poulos said this is the starting number from the company but he believes we can do better. Jeff Smith said this will be installed using free labor and George Poulos said this is a substantial savings (probably around \$10,000). Julie Farrar said partnering with the schools is a good idea and free labor is wonderful. The training the students will have and their ownership in the city will definitely make her a "yes" vote.

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

Nicole Ard thanked Troy Vaccaro and the other staff members who worked with him to accomplish the **recent sales of surplus property on the www.GovDeals.com website**. The city sold two vehicles on this website, one for \$6,000 and the other for \$2,600.

Nicole Ard said the **city received a grant from the railroad for the Police Department's bicycle patrol**.

Wesley Poole said **a telephone pole was recently knocked down on Huntington Avenue** (under the Milan Road overpass) and asked the city to investigate whether a **guardrail** would be of assistance rather than continuing to replace the telephone poles and having residents without power.

OLD BUSINESS

Jeff Smith said there has been a rumor around town Sandusky has paid **\$45,000 for the demolition of the Apex building**, but none of this funding came from city tax dollars. This money came from the U.S. Environmental Protection Act grant which the city helped to apply for and was signed June 30, 2011.

Jeff Smith said he went over **Nicole Ard's contract specific to the evaluation process** and nowhere does it state the Novak Consulting Group would return to provide an evaluation for Nicole Ard. Jeff Smith said Don Icsman also looked at the contract and he did not see anything to indicate this. Jeff Smith said he spoke with the owner of the Novak Consulting Group as well as Catherine Tuck-Parrish who facilitated the hiring and this was never in the contract, nor was it ever suggested. They actually stated the opposite: it would be inappropriate for an outside firm to evaluate an employee based on an evaluation as it is an opinion. Jeff Smith said they both told him this is not a standard practice and the idea that an outside firm would come in and evaluate the city's employee - or that it would be in a contract or paid for by the city - is absurd. Jeff Smith said this was never suggested and the miscommunication may be that the contract language states Novak would contact Nicole Ard and the Mayor within the year to see how things were going. Jeff Smith said he would like to put this to rest.

NEW BUSINESS

John Hamilton asked if appropriations were being made for **removal of tires at the former Matthes Coal property** on Hayes Avenue and Paul Ricci said they have contracted with a company for the removal, but this has been delayed because of weather.

Jeff Smith said there will be a public meeting with members of **the Crime Prevention Council** on Tuesday, April 23 at 6 p.m. at the Central Fire Station. This meeting will address how to start a neighborhood block watch.

John Hamilton said Gene Kidwell of **the Wightman Wieber Foundation** approached the **City of Sandusky with an offer of \$10,000 (would include a \$10,000 match by the city) to do work in the restrooms at the Sandusky Bay Pavilion (SBP) property** so these can be ready for the KidsFest event. John Hamilton said he would like to open this for discussion as the SBP property will be open this year for the KidsFest, the Toast of Ohio Wine Festival and The Big Splash Raffle. Approximately 12,000 – 15,000 persons attend the KidsFest event and John Hamilton said he walked the property today with Pervis Brown and the bathrooms are in bad shape. The toilets are filled up and the water is not turned on. Jeff Smith asked if he (Pervis) is referring to the bathrooms on the exterior wall or the ones connected to the SBP property and John Hamilton said he is referring to the ones inside the SBP property. Wesley Poole said he supports this and the property is another important city asset. The fact the Foundation is willing to spend this kind of money to upgrade it for public use sets it as a priority for them. The city should approve going along with the program pending further information regarding what should be done. Wesley Poole said repair or replacement of the roof of the building has been discussed, but until the fate of the building is decided, perhaps the city can repair the hole in the roof over the bathrooms and replace the porcelain (or whatever the engineer finds appropriate) so a suitable place is made available. Wesley Poole said this will make it a nicer place for those who have expressed interest in utilizing it and to come up with a list of suitable improvements and move forward. John Hamilton said the city is currently in the first year of a five-year agreement with the Sandusky Area Maritime Museum and they should have a hand in preparing this list. Keith Grohe said he is in support of this, it is long overdue, and he has been in the facility; the bathrooms are appalling and are leaking everywhere. This is a good thing for the community and he does not see anything bad with it. Jeff Smith said he is split about this because the city has no Master Plan for this property. The city can graciously accept this offer, but it needs a plan. This is similar to having a vehicle with a broken engine and repainting it until the engine is fixed. Jeff Smith questioned whether the city should accept this money which has been honorably offered to put into a building which we do not know the fate of. He spoke with some of the business owners downtown and he will vote affirmatively for this, but the city needs to have a plan. It is very hard to accept money from a local Foundation (which is drying up) when we do not know if this property will remain. Jeff Smith asked if this money is for the restrooms and the roof repair and John Hamilton said they are interested in both. Jeff Smith said the estimates for the roof are \$44,000 and if the donation is \$10,000 and is then matched by the city, the amount will not touch the cost of the roof repairs. John Hamilton said he believes they are more concerned about the restrooms at this point in time and having a more presentable place during events. Nicole Ard said she clarified today these are the SBP restrooms and roof repairs above the restrooms and they would like to have these completed prior to the May 18 KidsFest event. The city asked John Feick to follow up with estimates received last year and this information was distributed. Nicole Ard said she is concerned with the city's ability to accept this money and get anything done in the short timeframe even if it is the restroom repair(s). This may be a longer term activity for the city and persons may have to be contracted in order to complete the work. It will take a little more than \$20,000 to take care of everything.

Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Pervis Brown, the commission voted to accept the donation of \$10,000 from the Wightman Wieber Foundation and agree to match this.

Discussion: Julie Farrar said she does not have a problem with repairing the restrooms and recalled used this property when it was first opened as Surf's Up. She said it will probably still be here when her term ends. If the city provides \$10,000 from the Battery Park TIF and accepts \$10,000 from the Wightman Wieber Foundation, it will still be saddled with fixing the roof and asked if this agreement will force the city to come up with additional monies to make these repairs. Keith Grohe said he is listening and getting mad as he looks at what the city spends in other parks - such as Washington Park - and this is exorbitant in comparison. The city neglects certain parks and other commissioners have neglected to do maintenance because of lack of money and at some point, the city needs to be proactive or continue to be reactive. There has been talk of tearing this property down or selling it, but here is a Foundation willing to provide \$10,000. The bathrooms are a safety hazard and need to be redone at some point. The city needs to look at its entire park system and Keith Grohe asked where the money is going to come from. He asked if this can be split up, or to come up with a better plan rather than sticking a large dollar amount into one park. Diedre Cole said no one loves Surf's Up more than she does and this is like sticking a finger in a hole in a dam. This is taking a small portion of a large property that is in major disrepair and making repairs for which the city does not have a future plan. Diedre Cole suggested taking this money (if the Foundation agrees), closing the restrooms and utilizing port-a-potties to get through this year to save everyone money. The city needs to come up with a plan for the area. The roof will still be in need of repair and the new fixtures will only be damaged by water. Diedre Cole said she is grateful for the money and is happy to accept it, but asked if it would be the most judicious thing to take it. Pervis Brown said he toured this property and has a little bit of knowledge about the building and its wear and tear. The roof is almost 30 years old, but the structure is sound and is not in disarray. The plumbing has been disconnected for winterization and new fixtures can be installed and reconnected. A toilet can be purchased at Lowe's for \$58. Pervis Brown said the city has not stuck a dime in this property in over 30 years and we have let things deteriorate to a degree they are no longer repairable and continue to debate what we are going to do with it. This is an opportunity to make a move as activities are planned for summer and we should have a facility where restrooms can be used and hands can be washed. Port-a-potties are out of the question when we have a restroom facility capable of being utilized. This Foundation wants to help the city to move this property forward and we should not reject this.

Jeff Smith said last year, the city had 13 reservations at the SBP which netted \$400. There are activities all summer long in Central Park and there are not even restrooms at this location. Jeff Smith said he drives to Lions Park regularly and past Central Park daily, and sees many more people utilizing Central Park than Lions Park, yet the city just put a lot of money into Lions Park. If we are talking about maintaining parks, rarely do people go to the SBP property, yet we are going to spend \$10,000 of city money for a park that is not visited regularly. Jeff Smith said he is honored to be offered this money, but it is too bad there is not a plan and to him, the city should not throw money at it "just because". If he were to put \$10,000 into something, he would choose a centrally located park such as Central Park. If the city is to do anything, the first thing should be to fill in the pool and this is a tough decision. John Hamilton said the SBP is more of an event park and the Sandusky Area Maritime Museum will sponsor more events. The Big Splash Raffle moved back to the SBP from the Erie County Fairgrounds as this is where participants wanted to have it. Their questionnaires indicated they wanted nicer restrooms at the SBP and if the city moves to improve them, more events will be held here. Wesley Poole said Central Park and the SBP are two places with different purposes regarding comparison. Central Park is a neighborhood park where neighboring kids can go home to use the bathroom just like when he was a kid. The community has just said they have a plan to use the facility and have come to the city with money and this is important for them as they have been watching the city do nothing with this property for a long time. If they provide money, they are asking the city to join them in building the SBP into something it has the potential to be. This area will be suitably used once fixed up. Wesley Poole suggested the staff meet with those who host events here and come up with a laundry list of improvements for multiple different events. A timeline can then be set up including where the money will come from. The community is now saying they are taking the lead and asking the commissioners to please put together the resources to make this into something. Wesley Poole said the hole in the roof over the toilets should be fixed and it will eventually need to be taken down, it is just a question of when and what will replace it. Diedre Cole said this will leave the city 19 business days to accomplish this work and said the city does not have the staff to do this. It will cost more than \$10,000 and asked if there is an estimate of how much more. Nicole Ard said this needs to be worked out and hopefully with more flexibility. In speaking with the recreation director, the Foundation understands the roof will not be addressed and everyone needs to be flexible. John Hamilton said the city should look to use money from the Battery Park TIF which he saw drained a couple of years ago by \$140,000 to tell the city it has coal tar for a second time. He said \$18,000 was pulled from this account for another parking study which will probably be set on a shelf somewhere and this is a brick and mortar project. Diedre Cole said the city will not spend any more than \$15,000 from the Battery Park TIF and obviously the city will need more than \$10,000, but asked what the cap is. Wesley Poole asked what staff is doing that they cannot be

pulled away to change out six toilets. Jeff Smith asked if the city will have to go out to bid for this work and Nicole Ard said this has been the whole discussion from the point of where the money was suggested to be taken from. Nicole Ard said city staff is currently trying to ready all city facilities for the season and there are different divisions trying to get this area ready to make the SBP look more presentable for KidsFest. This is the first the city has been able to identify the specifics of the restroom improvements and John Hamilton said the Foundation has offered to spend their money so long as the city agrees to spend theirs. Wesley Poole said he understands staff is doing a lot of things and asked if they can be diverted to do these five toilets. Nicole Ard said they can be diverted, but something else will be given up. Wesley Poole said this will be made a priority. Jeff Smith said there are too many unanswered questions for him to support this at this time. Julie Farrar said she does not have a problem accepting this and capping it at \$10,000 for improvements of the new toilets, new toilet paper dispensers and a new roof on a portion of the building. The problem is the new roof will cost more and asked where this money will come from. Nicole Ard said as a reminder, about a week ago, a message was sent from the National Trust for Public Lands regarding a proposal to the Foundations to have a Master Plan prepared for this facility. There are some nuances as to how this will look, but the city may be able to work with the Foundation through their support if it may meet both the needs of the city and the needs of those who wish to improve the property for other uses. This can be considered for the longer term. John Hamilton said he is the one who capped this at \$10,000 when asked by Gene Kidwell from the Wightman Wieber Foundation.

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

Julie Farrar asked the commission to consider **appointing Anna Enderle as the city's voting alternate member on the Erie County Land Bank Committee** (since the departure of Carrie Handy). **Upon motion of Diedre Cole and second of Pervis Brown the commission voted for Anna Enderle to be the city's alternate member on the Erie County Land Bank Committee. The President declared the motion passed.**

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

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

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Timothy Work, 517 42nd Street, said he is a member of the Sandusky Crime Prevention Council and invited residents who are interested to attend a meeting on April 23 at 6 p.m. at the Central Fire Station in order to help make the community a better place to live. The members of this council have been great to work with and the city has problems, but they are not insurmountable and they can make a difference. He said people need to be strong and work together to overcome obstacles. People who live in the community should take pride in its diversity as this is a strength which a lot of communities do not have. Timothy Work said there should be stricter code enforcement regarding housing, parking, trash, curfews and bicycle safety as this will improve our quality of life and could be a potential source of revenue. The SBP used to be a beautiful facility and this money could be better spent by developing a master plan rather than patching it up. He asked if Lions Park could be used for KidsFest. Wesley Poole asked if he (Timothy) would find it okay that after the final analysis is completed, the new toilets and fixtures would be reused in the next phase of whatever is done and Timothy Work said this would make sense.

John Hartman, 533 East Perkins Avenue, said he is also a member of the Sandusky Crime Prevention Council and his phone number is 330.221.3090. He would enjoy sharing positive information at the Crime Prevention Council meeting from Fire Marshal Rudy Ruiz, Lt. Phil Frost and Sgt. Ron Snyder.

The President announced a recess of the regular session at 6:30 p.m. Two executive sessions were held beginning at 6:41 p.m. Upon motion of Wesley Poole and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 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