

Dennis Murray 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: Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole & Julie Farrar.

City staff present: Jim Green - SFD Captain, John Orzech - Police Chief, Aaron Klein - City Engineer, Rebecca Corrigan - Chief Planner, Don Rumbutis - IT, Don Icsman - Law Director, Hank Solowiej - Finance Director, Nicole Ard - City Manager and Kelly Kresser - Commission Clerk.

Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to excuse Keith Grohe. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Wesley Poole, the commission voted to approve the minutes of the January 27 city commission meeting and suspend the oral reading. The President declared the motion passed.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (*agenda items only*)

None.

CURRENT BUSINESS

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

ITEM #1 – Submitted by Aaron M. Klein, P.E.

SUBMERGED LANDS LEASE FOR CURRAN STREET

PASSED AT FIRST READING 1.27.14

Budgetary Information: The city will be required to pay \$1 each year to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to maintain this lease.

RESOLUTION NO. 005-14R: It is requested a resolution be adopted pursuant to Section 1506.11 of the Ohio Revised Code finding and determining that based upon the representations and application filed by the City of Sandusky, the use and development of the territory so described, a submerged lands lease may be entered into by the State's Director of Natural Resources.

Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Wesley Poole, the commission voted to approve this resolution in accordance with Section 13 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole and Julie Farrar, 6. Roll call on the resolution: Yeas: Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole and Julie Farrar, 6. The President declared the resolution passed.

ITEM #2 – Submitted by Amanda Meyers, Paralegal

ACCEPT PARCEL LOCATED AT 511 MCDONOUGH STREET THROUGH LAND REUTILIZATION PROGRAM

Budgetary Information: The cost of this acquisition will be approximately eighty six dollars and fifty cents (\$86.50) which includes title exams, title fees, recording fees and transfer fees, but the city will recoup them upon sale. The taxing districts will not collect the delinquent taxes, assessments, penalties and interest currently due and owing in the amount of three thousand seven hundred eighty two dollars and forty one cents (\$3,782.41) of which six hundred sixty nine dollars and twenty one cents (\$669.21) is owed to the city for assessments. By returning this nonproductive land to tax producing status, the taxing districts will begin collecting approximately one hundred forty three dollars and ninety one cents (\$143.91) yearly in real estate taxes and assessments.

RESOLUTION NO. 006-14R: 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 Dick Brady and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to approve this resolution in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole and Julie Farrar, 6. Roll call on the resolution: Yeas: Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole and Julie Farrar, 6. The President declared the resolution passed.

ITEM #3 – Submitted by Amanda Meyers, Paralegal

AUTHORIZING PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT FOR TWO PARCELS LOCATED ON FOURTH STREET

Budgetary Information: The cost associated with this purchase and sale agreement is the selling real estate agent's commission fee of 5% of the sales price and the total amount of the title examination, deed preparation escrow fees and any other customary fees that may be due and payable in the ordinary course of the sale and purchase transaction. The city will recoup these expenses from the proceeds of the sale. Although Porters Memorial Christian Methodist Episcopal Church is exempt from paying real estate taxes, their provision of maintenance has saved the city approximately seven thousand dollars (\$7,000) per lot in maintenance fees since 2006 and will continue to save the city from expending taxpayer dollars to otherwise mow and maintain the parcels. The future expansion of the church will enhance the surrounding neighborhood.

ORDINANCE NO. 14-009: It is requested an ordinance be passed **declaring that certain real property owned by the city as part of the land reutilization program identified as Parcel No's. 57-01944.000 and 57-02247.000, located on Fourth Street, are no longer needed for any municipal purpose and authorizing the execution of a purchase and sale agreement with respect to that real property;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to approve this ordinance in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Dennis Murray asked the amount of acres included in these parcels and Amanda Meyers said each parcel is approximately 40' x 130' (or 80' x 130' for both). Dennis Murray asked the value of the parcels and Amanda Meyers said the market analysis was approximately \$3,500 in this area. Dennis Murray said Item #3 proposes for the city to sell both parcels for \$700 and this seems too low. Julie Farrar said certain things must be taken into consideration with the land bank program and the church has maintained these properties for many years and has saved the city a lot of money by not having to mow or maintain them. The city is helping 'pay it forward' for this small congregation. Wesley Poole said this program makes sense and people from the church have been cutting these properties for 20 years and this is a win/win and the city has gotten its monies worth. Dick Brady said he would feel better if this were going on the tax rolls but it is not because it is a church, but still supports this and stated it is a well-founded idea.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole and Julie Farrar, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole and Julie Farrar, 6. The President declared the ordinance passed.

ITEM #4 – Submitted by Paul E. Ricci, Fire Chief

AGREEMENT WITH FIRELANDS REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER FOR RESTOCKING AMBULANCES WITH MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND PHARMACEUTICALS

Budgetary Information: The purchase of supplies will not negatively impact the general fund. The funding for these supplies not to exceed \$16,000 will be paid from funds generated from the ambulance transport fees in the fire department's EMS fund.

PASSED FIRST READING: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to enter into an agreement with Firelands Regional Medical Center of Sandusky, Ohio, for restocking city ambulances with supplies and pharmaceuticals.**

Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Dick Brady, the commission voted to approve this ordinance in accordance with Section 13 of the city charter.

Discussion: Dennis Murray said this program was place when he was previously on the commission and recalls these materials are provided at cost.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole and Julie Farrar, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole and Julie Farrar, 6. The President declared the ordinance passed at first reading.

ITEM #5 – Submitted by Aaron M. Klein, P.E.

AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT WITH K.E. MCCARTNEY FOR WARREN STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Budgetary Information: The current cost of the design for the Warren Street improvement project is \$30,682 to be paid with capital and sewer funds. The additional work requires an additional fee of \$4,825 which would be paid from sewer funds.

ORDINANCE NO. 14-010: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to enter into an amendment to the agreement for professional design services with K.E. McCartney & Associates, Inc. for the Warren Street improvement project;** 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 Jeff Smith, the commission voted to approve this ordinance in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Dennis Murray said two choices were outlined for this project and asked Aaron Klein to share his thoughts about these options. Aaron Klein said the green space in the center of the roadway would still have the natural rain garden and soils required, but would not be as wide; the city will meet the requirements of the Erie County Soil & Water District. Dennis Murray said there is not much demand for on-street parking in this area yet, but hopes this will change substantially through the years. Dennis Murray said this is a huge right-of-way area and there has been talk for over a decade to use this as a main entry point into the downtown and rely less on Meigs Street. Dennis Murray asked if this will provide a template for the rest of the roadway and Aaron Klein said this is for one block and hopefully it will serve as such. A nice boardwalk-feel will be provided and a bike path is intended for the west side while a sidewalk is planned on the east side. This is the block where Sandusky Cabinets is located (currently being demolished) and the monies being used are the city's match to fix up the road and perform environmentally-friendly items. Dennis Murray said this will eventually go from Monroe Street to Shoreline Drive and he believes the city should accomplish what it can when it can and asked Aaron Klein where additional money can be provided. Aaron Klein said this is something which may be identified through a future Comprehensive Plan. Dick Brady said it is important to clarify this \$4,800 is additional funding for Engineering to design a route to get to Water Street from Perry Street. Aaron Klein said it was originally planned in the scope of work to tie the rain garden into the combined sewer system, but after discussing this with the engineering firm and looking at the existing Combined Sewer Overflows, it would be better to move the rain garden one block to the east to tie into the existing sewer and eliminate additional overflows. This will help the entire sewer system.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole and Julie Farrar, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole and Julie Farrar, 6. The President declared the ordinance passed.

ITEM #6 – Submitted by Jane E. Cullen, P.E.**RESOLUTION OF NECESSITY FOR PERKINS AVENUE SIGNALIZATION PROJECT**

Budgetary Information: The engineer's estimate for the total project cost including engineering, inspection, advertising and miscellaneous expenses is \$852,500. The project costs will be funded with Federal Highway Administration funds through the Ohio Department of Transportation and the Metropolitan Planning Organization in the amount of eighty percent (80%) of the eligible costs up to a maximum of \$672,821 with the remaining cost of \$179,679 being split between the City of Sandusky and Erie County. The city's portion of \$89,839.50 will be funded with street funds.

RESOLUTION NO. 007-14R: It is requested a resolution be passed **declaring the necessity for the city to proceed with the proposed Perkins Avenue signalization project; approving the specifications and engineer's estimate of cost thereof; and directing the city manager to advertise for and receive bids in relation thereto;** and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Wesley Poole, the commission voted to approve this resolution in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Dick Brady asked for an explanation as to the necessity of passing this under Section 14 of the city charter and Aaron Klein said the start of construction is scheduled with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) for April, 2014 and the project needs to be bid on February 21; Dick Brady said this is a valid reason. Aaron Klein said this project has been on the books since 2005 and includes upgrading signals at several intersections along Perkins Avenue and is a joint project with Erie County. Eighty percent (80%) of the project will be funded by ODOT while twenty percent (20%) will be split by the City and Erie County. Safe Routes to Schools upgrades will be made, if possible, and if the bids come in relatively lower, it is hoped the city can get some preemption for fire and police services along this route. This is a lengthy project and ODOT is very ambitious and excited to have gotten to this stage.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole and Julie Farrar, 6. Roll call on the resolution: Yeas: Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole and Julie Farrar, 6. The President declared the resolution passed.

ITEM #7 – Submitted by Jane E. Cullen, P.E.**AWARDING CONTRACT TO GEDDIS PAVING & EXCAVATING FOR FERNDALE DRIVE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

Budgetary Information: The cost of the project based on bids, including engineering, inspection, advertising and miscellaneous expenses is \$251,227.85. The Jobs & Commerce Economic Development program funds through the Ohio Department of Transportation will fund 33.68% of eligible costs in the amount of \$73,081.88 up to a maximum amount of \$80,000. The sewer funds will provide \$115,465.90. The Community Development Block Grant revolving loan fund monies will cover the remaining \$62,680.07.

ORDINANCE NO. 14-011: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to enter into a contract with Geddis Paving & Excavating, Inc. of Toledo, Ohio, 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 Wesley Poole and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to approve this ordinance in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Wesley Poole said he will be glad when this project is completed and we have waited a long time for it.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole and Julie Farrar, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole and Julie Farrar, 6. The President declared the ordinance passed.

Dennis Murray said he recently attended a **funeral service for former Firefighter James Dickman and in spite of this tragedy, the city did a fantastic job supporting and participating in the service.**

Dennis Murray said this winter has been unbelievable and stated the City Engineer listens to a lot of comments about our **snow plowing efforts**, but he (Dennis) has heard nothing but good comments from residents and appreciates the job city crews have been doing.

Dennis Murray shared a **story about a gentleman who recently drove to the Seven Eleven store without cleaning the windshield on his vehicle as his snow scraper was not in his car.** A police officer pulled into Seven Eleven after his arrival and issued a warning for not cleaning his windshield. The Police Officer then proceeded to scrape the windshield for the driver as he was attempting to do this with a credit card. This is a fine story and reflects well on the Police Department.

Dennis Murray reminded the public about the upcoming **Town Hall meetings** as follows: 1) Sandusky Library, February 15 at 9 a.m.; 2) Mr. Smith's Coffee House, February 18 at 6 p.m.; and 3) Sandusky High School, February 18 at 6 p.m. Dennis Murray said the Department Heads are not required to attend although they are welcome. These will be kept to one and one half hours in duration.

Dennis Murray said there is one **vacancy (each) on the Revolving Loan Fund Committee and the Human Relations Commission**; applications are being accepted by the Commission Clerk.

Dennis Murray asked the commission to approve changing the status of **Gary Mortus from alternate member to regular member on the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Committee.** Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to change Gary Mortus to regular member status on the RLF Committee. The President declared the motion passed.

Dennis Murray said the **city building will be closed on Monday, February 17 in observance of the President's Day holiday.**

Upon motion of Wesley Poole and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to set a public hearing on March 24 at 5 p.m. regarding a proposed amendment to the zone map for 1737 Tiffin Avenue, and the proposed vacation of the former Harbor Boulevard as requested by Ara Lou Waldock. The President declared the motion passed.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Nicole Ard expressed **condolences to the family of fallen Firefighter Jamie Dickman.** Nicole Ard thanked Chief Klamar – Perkins Township, Chief John Orzech, Aaron Klein, the staff at Oakland Cemetery and the staff with the Sandusky Transit System for their assistance and coordination of the funeral service.

Nicole Ard said employees in the Divisions of Street and Water have been continuing efforts to **plow and salt the roads.** People do not always realize the importance of working in a safe environment and these employees perform work in extremely cold temperatures which can sometimes be very difficult.

Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$100 from Lyman Harbor for the Fire Department's trust fund. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to pay dues to the Erie County Chamber of Commerce for the city's 2014 – 2015 membership in the amount of \$347. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to authorize fundraising efforts for the Police Department to solicit donations for a new K-9 Officer and related equipment.

Discussion: Nicole Ard said the current K-9 Officer, Justice, has served us very well and is a seasoned Officer of the Sandusky Police Department with seven years of experience; he is expected to serve an additional two years. An estimated \$13,000 to \$15,000 is needed to purchase or implement a replacement for Justice. John Orzech said Justice will be eight years old in July and thinks it would be appropriate to get information about replacing him before moving forward. Justice will remain active as a K-9's expectancy is nine to ten years but he is getting upward in age. Since the handler for Justice, Officer Adam West, was reassigned to the narcotics unit, Justice is now working in this Division. John Orzech would like to begin raising money to obtain a new K-9 Officer and to seek donations between now and the spring of 2015 to complete fundraising and begin training with Officer West before Justice retires.

The President declared the motion passed.

Nicole Ard said members of the **Sandusky Tree Commission** are requesting the City of Sandusky host the **2015 Northeast Ohio Tree City U.S.A. Conference**. This will be an anniversary year for the city and the Tree Commission members are requesting this opportunity at no cost to the city. The city would receive complimentary registrations for staff and Tree Commission members. **Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to host this conference in Sandusky. The President declared the motion passed.**

Nicole Ard said **members of the Sandusky Tree Commission have discussed preparing a grant application to complete a tree inventory**. The Erie County Soil & Water District (ECSWD) will host this grant application and Breann Hohman (employee of ECSWD) will coordinate the grant, if successful. City staff and volunteers will complete an inventory program to help understand what trees are here and how to plan and care for them.

Nicole Ard said a **grant application was submitted on February 7 to the Sandusky Erie County Community Foundation to fund an intern for the Recreation Department**. If received, there will be no cost to the city and it will benefit us. This will be for a summer position involving local college students.

Nicole Ard said **Fire Chief Paul Ricci will be retiring in October, and she is providing this official notification to the commissioners**. Nicole Ard said this is now on the record and folks will start moving in that direction.

Nicole Ard thanked the various representatives of non-profit organizations who came to recent **public meetings regarding the city's CDBG program updates**. These discussions are underway to obtain feedback about the city's five-year plan.

Nicole Ard said the city received notice from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) about obtaining feedback from the community regarding impacts of the **S.R. 2 micro-surfacing project**. This notice was distributed to staff and concerns from people in the community can be addressed to the city or to ODOT.

Nicole Ard said she wished to follow up regarding the **recycling proposal received from FSI Disposal**. The initial proposal from FSI was for a free service offered as a pilot program to replace the existing recycle containers. FSI is willing to provide this service, once each week, and the city would be required to purchase up to six ten-yard containers as well as provide educational materials to the public about recycling. Nicole Ard said Duke Fultz with FSI provided photos of what they currently have in place in Margaretta Township, photos of their front-loading machines and an example of what the area would look like. Currently, there is one 20-yard container and one 30-yard container at each site but they may need to be retrofitted to ensure there is enough space for the extra containers at the service center. Gates

will also need to be installed. The cost of the containers is estimated at \$1,200 each or \$15,000 for twelve, and there is a three to four week turnaround time to obtain them. There would also be delivery fees in addition to this retrofit work, and fees for placement for the concrete pads. Nicole Ard said it is recommended the city purchase additional containers for less frequent service and she has spoken to Lisa Beursken about potential grant funding and asked if this is the best configuration for Sandusky at this time. The city has had discussions about saving funds, but asked if we would actually be making the best use of these County funds. Nicole Ard said she asked Aaron Klein to contact our current providers about this proposal so they can work with us on the transition and stated they may have some feedback about how to better plan this. There may be potential to do as initially indicated which is to keep two recycle centers, or to consolidate into one recycle center as there may be space configuration issues and additional costs. Nicole Ard said her recommendation is to remove one location and consolidate into one recycling center (at the City Service Center). Based on the current loads our current service providers receive, this seems to be the best use of public dollars. Nicole Ard said Aaron Klein provided information regarding the actual schedule, but if they are picking up partially full containers versus full containers, this will need to be reviewed so the city gets its monies worth. The pilot project would provide a different schedule for the city. The other alternative is to remove all of the containers but she does not know if Aaron Klein has spoken with other providers or if they had feedback about alternatives. This will help the city to plan with a three to four week window to receive new containers. Dick Brady said the cost of the recycle bins has been quantified at \$65,000 and there are two options: 1) going to one location, or 2) removing the bins. Dick Brady said he is opposed to going to one location and said it is more effective to have two locations. From a business perspective, this is an opportunity to take the \$65,000 savings and roll it into a product that continues to serve the people in this community by providing two locations. The city has been paying vendors to take our recycling materials away and this component stops entirely. There will be costs to purchase new bins but there are opportunities here to reap dollars from Erie County to offset them, although he does not have a final answer about this. Nicole Ard said Lisa Beursken from the Erie County Solid Waste District has indicated she will ask the Policy Committee to consider this funding request. This is not a set program and the one previously in place has been dismantled. Nicole Ard said after speaking with FSI Disposal, this is her comfort level to provide the commission with the best data available. Nicole Ard said her concern is compliance with state regulations on the city's behalf as well as the Erie County Solid Waste District. If the intent is to address finances and to be able to do this quickly, it will take a month or more to place the order for bins and retrofit the recycle areas. The city has already spent \$10,000 through purchase requisitions this year, to date, and we are fighting time, but the end result is doing the right thing long term. In a few years, or however long this pilot program will be in place, the city will be spending additional funds. Dick Brady said his frustration or disappointment is when he took office, there was a \$65,000 component for recycling and this year, to date, we have already spent another \$5,000 paying vendors to haul from the site and the clock is ticking.

Duke Fultz, FSI Disposal, said his proposal is for the city to purchase bins for two sites. After this, these locations will be placed into rotation by FSI which has daily routes in Sandusky since purchasing the former Canfield-Hartley business. When he stated collection once each week, this would be for the 60-yard containers currently at the sites and he understands these locations are picked up "on-call" and assumes they are picked up once each week. Duke Fultz said he will be so bold as to say he would like to have a five-year contract as it makes sense for his company to remove this material so long as the city puts in the equipment. Dick Brady asked Nicole Ard to confirm the cost is \$15,000 for two locations and Nicole Ard said up to six ten-yard containers would be necessary at each site (12 containers @ \$1,250 per container, plus delivery fees). Duke Fultz said signage would also be required and Dick Brady said the city is certainly talking about something less than \$20,000; Duke Fultz said the total was approximately \$23,000 plus delivery. Dick Brady said this cost is less than \$25,000 in order to save \$65,000 and asked who does not think this is a great deal. Wesley Poole said this can be multiplied by a four- or five-year contract and Duke Fultz said after the city pays for the equipment, it would not pay for anything else.

Dennis Murray said it sounds like FSI wants to pick up as much material as they can and asked if these sites are restricted for residential use as he understands commercial operations have backed up trucks and unloaded into the bins; Duke Fultz said he can take as much material as is placed there. If the bins are filled faster, FSI will simply pull them more frequently. Wesley Poole said perhaps commercial sites should be set up at a separate location since this will cause residents to not have the best service. Dennis Murray asked if it is presently legal or illegal for commercial operators to use these sites and if it is illegal to place trash at these sites. Don Icsman said it is not legal for commercial operators to use these sites and the city previously purchased a camera to prosecute persons who placed trash at these locations. Don Icsman said the commission has never dealt with the issue of residents from other locales placing materials at these sites and Dennis Murray said this could be considered trespassing and littering. Don Icsman said these areas are not monitored, but trash is potentially less of a problem than commercial vendors filling up the containers. Dick Brady said he issued a challenge to the haulers who attended a recent city commission meeting to help solve refuse and/or curbside recycling problems. One person has stepped up to the plate and offered a solution and this is worth taking action on. Dick Brady said about once each week he sees a person riding a bicycle with a garbage bag full of aluminum cans and is taking them to a vendor in Sandusky for money. He said the city is paying \$65,000 for someone to haul recyclables and we are not getting anything for it. FSI will not be paying us for this, but at least we will no longer be paying \$65,000/year. The containers are a one-time expense and this will become a net savings. Wesley Poole said the city will save money and it will turn out well to manage this site so couches and other garbage are not being placed here. Nicole Ard said if the city does wish to take FSI up on this offer, she recommends having a written agreement with performance standards for scheduling and for expectations to be fair to FSI and to the citizens. Dennis Murray said he agrees and said this makes a lot of sense to know what the expectations are and this will make for a much better relationship.

Don Icsman said the city received two checks (\$986.25 + \$643.25) from Greener Corners which is our revenue share for the recycle containers downtown. This is not a lot of money, but it represents about one year of revenue and there is some money coming in to be used to offset some of the costs with this program. Wesley Poole asked how long it will take to put this together and Nicole Ard said once a site visit takes place to determine what needs to be retrofitted, the work can be scheduled (concrete pads, screening) and the order can be placed for the containers. Nicole Ard stated she does not know how long this will take. Dick Brady asked if the commission needs to make a motion to move forward and Nicole Ard said she will continue with direction given and work on a written agreement. Duke Fultz said perhaps some of this savings can be used to get a new K-9 for the Police Department.

Nicole Ard said there has been discussion about an **Assistant Engineer position** and she is still reviewing this. There is an overlap in the organization in terms of this and the announcement of the Fire Chief's retirement has added a wrinkle. There has also been discussion about the land bank program although she does not know the exact concern. A **Request for Proposals (RFP) has been issued incorporating some of the services provided by the Assistant Planner**, and this job description may incorporate some of the land bank activities and CDBG services provided. Dennis Murray said these are two different things and asked if the job description is being changed for the Assistant Planner position. Nicole Ard said this job description has already been changed and in light of feedback received with on-site interview questions from potential candidates, she wants to make sure we have enough background about what is being proposed for the **land bank program**. Dennis Murray said he did not realize the Assistant Planner would have anything to do with the land bank program. Julie Farrar said when Carrie Handy and Anna Enderle worked for the city, they were on the land bank committee and now Rebecca Corrigan is a member, so the Planners have been involved. Julie Farrar said she expressed concern when she heard the city was going to turn the land bank program over to Erie County. She understands this takes a lot of time and the committee members have had this discussion and asked Rebecca Corrigan what the city can do to keep the program here. The city started the land bank program in 2007 but did not start acquiring properties until 2008. This program has been vital to revitalization of some neighborhoods in the city and the committee is able to vet persons who may want to purchase property and know what the city

will get back on the sale(s). Julie Farrar said the mow-to-own program came about because of the land bank program. Her neighbor's home burned down in 1992 and in 2008, the property was still vacant and another neighbor had been mowing it during this time; the mow-to-own program was started to make this happen. There are a lot of other programs that have been discussed by the committee members to increase home ownership. There are programs for Veterans, for owner-occupied residences, teachers and first responders, and these can be accomplished in the City of Sandusky. Julie Farrar said, in her opinion, she does not want to lose local control, even to Erie County. Julie Farrar said she has worked with Scott Schell who manages Erie County's land bank program and they are also doing great things for the City of Sandusky, but we must look to some of our success stories such as Fox Cycle Works. This is a business which has expanded and is doing great. BSL Holdings on Fifth Street expanded their business and is doing great. The city sold a home on Vine Street to ARC of Erie County. We also sold a property on Pierce Street to Habitat for Humanity. There was a property on McKelvy Street which was purchased after a home was torn down and now this person has a huge fenced-in yard which previously was an eyesore; this increased property values in the neighborhood. Julie Farrar said the city cannot keep the money generated through the land bank program, rather it is returned to the taxing districts (Erie MetroParks, Serving Our Seniors, Mental Health & Recovery, MRDD, the Erie County Health Department and the Sandusky City Schools). In one sale, the city returned \$12,224 to Sandusky City Schools and we have now returned \$131,150 to the taxing districts. The city has received \$21,303 through this program since it started and this is all money the city and other organizations were not getting previously. If Erie County were running this program, they would not be required to give the money back. The city can help a lot more people and can provide a lot more success for the community by being hands-on. The majority of the committee members do not even live in the City of Sandusky, but they are committed to home ownership and she is proud to be part of it. The city has realized 48 sales, which may not seem like a lot, but 30 of these were through the mow-to-own program. This is good because some homes are built right on top of others and she is all for more green space. Julie Farrar said the city has an incentive to sell these properties and create programs to sell more properties and help make people want to build on them. Julie Farrar asked where the money from these sales would go if this program were to be turned over to Erie County. The city performs maintenance on vacant lots and this costs money and asked if we would still do this if Erie County were to take over the program. Julie Farrar asked what the incentive is for Erie County to take over this program and market and sell these properties. The city has a realtor working with them and the realtor does not receive any money, only a commission after a property is sold. This program is working and although she understands the time it takes, the city should keep control of it because it benefits so many others. Anyone is welcome to attend a land bank committee meeting to see how things are done. It increases home ownership and ensures properties are well maintained and she is proud to be part of something that is growing. Dennis Murray said he has talked about many things over the course of the last several months and if there is a business the city should get out of, he wants us to consider it. This is an eloquent defense as to why the city should maintain this program and there are many questions he has not yet considered. Dennis Murray said the city stimulated this conversation when he was a State Representative and one thought has been to abandon this program and initially the County resisted this program. The city could possibly also contract with Erie County to do all of the things we want done and in his mind there are no questions that should not be asked. After a full discussion, we may end up keeping this program and he will continue to explore it.

Wesley Poole said he agrees with Julie Farrar and the city is managing the land program which works so very well and benefits Sandusky. He does not see it in the cards to turn these types of things over to another entity when they help and improve our neighborhoods. It is not like the FAA making general rules for all airlines; this is close up and personal for neighborhoods with specific problems. Wesley Poole said unless some very strong evidence is presented showing the city will get the same kind of hands-on interest by having someone else administer this program, he is not in favor of changing it. Dennis Murray said right now, the citizens of Sandusky are paying twice; they are paying Erie County to run this program and also paying taxes to Sandusky for its program. Perhaps it is more expensive to have a custom-made suit.

Nicole Ard said she had a conversation with Dean William Balzer of BGSU Firelands College this week regarding **the Sandusky Bay Pavilion property** and will be providing an update.

Nicole Ard requested **three executive sessions** for personnel: Police Department, Engineering Department and the City Manager's Office.

OLD BUSINESS

Wesley Poole said the issue dealing with whether **items are passed under Section 13 or Section 14 of the city charter** has gotten him thinking about whether it would be possible to get a flowchart which shows the commissioners how items go through the process in city offices. Dennis Murray said he believes there is a schedule. Don Icsman said he would like to reprise his presentation about passage of legislation under Section 13 and Section 14 which he previously made to staff and to the Charter Review Committee members. Don Icsman said the way the law says this works is the staff articulates a reason for passage under a specific Section, and the commission gets to judge whether they agree or do not agree. The courts will not intercede in the commissions' determination, and they do not want to intercede every time a vote is taken; rather, they tell the voters to take their frustration out at the next election. Absent fraud, he does not believe the courts would ever overturn the judgment of a commission about whether legislation is valid for emergency because this is the law. If the commission does not agree or does not think a reason is valid, they do not pass it. This is simply a request made by staff to please suspend the rules and the reason(s) why. Wesley Poole said this is an important question and what is being done is perfectly legal, but he is asking about the concern for passage under emergency and looking for a flow chart/timeline that shows how the process works to ultimately get items to the commissioners, how long it takes to get to this point and to understand why. It may appear things are done at the last minute, but it may simply be a matter of process. Kelly Kresser said there is a schedule with timelines/deadlines for the city staff and this shows when items are due to the City Manager, the Law Director, and ultimately to the Commission Clerk which is then forwarded to the Commissioners and should answer these questions. Dennis Murray asked Don Icsman to schedule this presentation at a future meeting and noted it will be appreciated.

Dennis Murray asked about **ownership of water lines** to individual residences and where the city's responsibility starts and stops. Dennis Murray said he understands the frost line has run down so far this winter because of unusually cold temperatures and in some instances, there have been frozen lines. He would have thought these would be the homeowners' responsibility. Aaron Klein said the city's responsibility is from the main to the meter pit; the property owners' responsibility is from the meter pit to the home. Dennis Murray said this must be happening in other Northern Ohio communities and Aaron Klein said he cannot speak to this, but the frost line is around 4' this year locally and the contractor working on First Street is using a jackhammer to get through clay. This is very hard for those working on water main breaks. It is taking a lot of extra time to get through the soils to fix freeze-ups. Dick Brady said the reason we are seeing these kinds of things is partly because blacktop without snow cover does not provide a blanket of insulation. Aaron Klein said there may be a water line on the east side of the road which services a house on the west side, and the water lines across the roadway may have other lines in the way (such as gas). The contractors then have to place a line over top of another to go over the storm sewer. It is better to have the water lines go over the sewer lines than under. This will continue for quite a while because the ground will continue to thaw and this is why there are a lot of main breaks; the ground is freezing and thawing and shifting.

Dennis Murray reminded residents about the **parking ban on emergency snow streets**. There are many cars parked right next to parking ban signage and the two are juxtaposed and asked if vehicles are being towed. John Orzech said there were many complaints from citizens about not having parked on emergency snow streets so they could be cleared, but their roads were still in need of being cleared of snow. John Orzech said he spoke with the Foreman in Traffic Services about this and there have been approximately 60 cars towed in the past few days. There have been a number of calls about 24-hour violations and these vehicles are being marked. Staff in the Police Department has been busy with these types of calls. Dennis Murray said these

streets are emergency routes for police cruisers and fire trucks and asked citizens to avoid parking on emergency snow streets so city employees can do their jobs and provide protection.

Dennis Murray asked if there is an **ordinance requiring homeowners to keep fire hydrants clear of snow**. Jim Green said the Sandusky Fire Department has an Adopt-A-Hydrant program for residents to shovel these areas. Dennis Murray said if people value their homes they will shovel around fire hydrants.

NEW BUSINESS

Upon motion of Dick Brady and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to hold an executive session regarding personnel, Water Department. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole and Julie Farrar, 6. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Dick Brady and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to hold an executive session regarding personnel, Police Department. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole and Julie Farrar, 6. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Dick Brady and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to hold an executive session regarding personnel, City Manager. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Dick Brady, Jeff Smith, Dennis Murray, Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole and Julie Farrar, 6. The President declared the motion passed.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street, thanked Dick Brady and FSI Disposal for coming up with the proposal regarding recycling and thinks this is a win/win situation as she does not want to give up her hauler. Sharon Johnson said Julie Farrar made a lot of good points about the land bank program and she has sat in on meetings for Erie County and Sandusky as an observer and can see the difference in the two. Erie County is just starting and is struggling through their program and the city's is up and running and she does not want her land being turned over to Erie County to dictate what they are going to do with our land. Dennis Murray said this is why commissioners have conversations. Sharon Johnson asked why Erie County thinks they need to control the City of Sandusky and control everything. In some cases, it is nice to regionalize, but not in every case. Dennis Murray said the commission has to ask questions to get answers. Sharon Johnson said Amanda Meyers has made a lot of strides and Sandusky's team is working very well and is finally putting some teeth into this housing situation and we should not be messing with something that is not broken.

Frankie Byrd, 1474 Dixon Drive, said **the month of February is Black History Month and a group of citizens and religious leaders of various denominations and civic organizations invite the City Commissioners to a celebration honoring the first African American City Manager, and female, Nicole Ard**, on Thursday, February 20 from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. in the Decade Room at the Sandusky Board of Education on Decatur Street.

Ed Stout, 1232 Marlboro Street, said his comments are as an advocate for the city and he knows Julie Farrar, and had a conversation yesterday with Dick Brady and they can attest to the vein in which he is making comments. Ed Stout said he is making a plea on behalf of the citizenry of Sandusky in regards to the Keller Building Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This was a legally-binding contract the city entered into with the Army Corps of Engineers and others. When the city began to realize they were having shortcomings fulfilling their responsibilities to the MOU, they chose to not have any correspondence whatsoever with the Army Corps of Engineers. To reiterate what Don Icsman said on December 23, 2013, any contract the city enters into that they do not honor and fulfill will carry repercussions, most of which are financial, and they are not limited to that. Ed Stout said other penalties are a lawsuit.

Not having had any correspondence with the U.S. Army Corps is an issue to talk about and he urged the city to handle these dialogues openly and honestly to try and resolve the situation we have with the MOU. Ed Stout suggested the city take a very proactive approach, rather than a reactive approach, and set aside any personal agendas and be ready to admit the city did have failures regarding the MOU and maybe going so far as to ask what it can do to alleviate any major penalties to our city. The Corps is aware of the fast timeline for the MOU and also the fact they control, ultimately, the final say on all of our submerged reclaimed lands, our entire northern shoreline from our eastern to our western border and the city should take the most open and honest approach in dealing with them. Ed Stout said to be as forthright as possible in these talks and not try to cover up or shield the unfavorable details the city had in failure to honor this MOU and the responsibilities which they shucked and asked this very sincerely and on behalf of the citizens.

Matt Morgan, 1003 West Osborne Street, said he is excited about the upcoming Town Hall meetings and this will be an excellent opportunity for people on both sides of the table to share their thoughts and encouraged as many as possible to join in. There may be other ways to participate and recently Peak Democracy/Virtual Voices was included as a way for people to provide thoughts through the city's website. There are a lot of commenters at the Sandusky Register website who have provided ideas. Matt Morgan asked what the expectation is as receivers of the message if he has items to bring forward and asked if the commissioners would like this information ahead of time. Matt Morgan asked what messages the commission would like to focus on: revenue estimates and/or cost increases, or if this will be for open items as he would like to make this as efficient of a process for everyone involved. Dennis Murray said there needs to be a time expectation and one and one half hours would be reasonable. It is always helpful for any public official to receive backup materials, when available, and to provide copies so he can look at them. The focal point of the meetings is the city budget - finances are first and foremost - although there may be other topics. The city needs a strategic plan and a plan of action and this may be the next series of Town Hall meetings. Matt Morgan made a plea for those listening to offer ideas in a civil manner to enhance the living experience here.

The President announced a recess of the regular session at 6:37 p.m. Three executive sessions were held beginning at 6:45 p.m. The President announced adjournment at 7:36 p.m.

Kelly L. Kresser, CMC
Clerk of the City Commission

Dennis E. Murray, Jr.
President of the City Commission