

Dennis Murray called the meeting to order at 5 p.m. after the Invocation, given by Julie Farrar, and the Pledge of Allegiance.

The clerk called **the roll** and the following Commissioners responded: Julie Farrar, Scott Schell, Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Wesley Poole, Jeff Smith and Dick Brady, 7.

City staff present: John Orzech - Police Chief, Dave Degnan – Fire Captain, Aaron Klein – Engineer, Rebecca Corrigan – Chief Planner, Arielle Blanca – Assistant Planner, Don Rumbutis - IT, Don Icsman - Law Director, Sally Poggiali – Senior Accountant/Auditor, Eric Wobser – City Manager and Kelly Kresser - Commission Clerk.

Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to approve the minutes of the June 23 city commission meeting and suspend the oral reading. The President declared the motion passed.

Dennis Murray introduced the new City Manager, Eric Wobser, and said he appreciates Eric bringing his experience back to his hometown, and for his faith in Sandusky.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (agenda items only)

Mark Norman, 1016 Third Street, said he would like to see some type of moratorium on the use of the land reutilization program once structures are demolished. There are examples where these have simply not been used appropriately and there a parcel in his neighborhood with dog kennels and unused trailers and he would like to know how these will be used and/or enforced. Dennis Murray said this is a mow-to-own program and not a program to use these lots for storage of junk as this would be a violation of city code.

Patrick Joreski, representing Habitat for Humanity, said he is here to answer any questions the commission may have relating to Item #4.

Dave Waddington, McKinley Street, said he hopes the commission supports Item #4 as this neighborhood has been experiencing issues with high grass issues and other neighbors are supportive of Habitat for Humanity building a home on this parcel and would welcome them.

Tim Schwanger, representing Save Our Shoreline Parks, asked the reason for the increase with the Water Street rehabilitation project as he was told the original estimate did not include decorative pavers (Item #14).

PRESENTATIONS

Dennis Murray asked **Captain Dave Degnan of the Sandusky Fire Department to raise his right hand and repeat the Oath of Office for the position of Sandusky Fire Chief:**

"I, David J. Degnan, recognizing my fundamental duty as an Officer of the Sandusky Fire Department, do solemnly swear to uphold the standards of my profession by safeguarding the lives and property of our citizens against the threat of fire and disaster. I promise to support the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, the State of Ohio, and the City of Sandusky and to accept the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith and trust to be honored for as long as I remain an officer of the Sandusky Fire Department. I will continually strive to serve our community and to be an influence for good before my fellow officers and firefighters to the best of my ability, so help me God."

Devin Pollick, Public Health Educator for the Erie County Health Department (ECHD), said he started at the end of March and previously worked as the Recreation Coordinator for the City of Fremont. In his position with the ECHD, Devin Pollick said he administers the Community Safety grant which is in place to combat traffic safety deaths in crashes. He also works on the Child

and Family Health Services grant, the CDBG wellness and community garden programs and the playground program with the city's recreation department. Devil Pollick said Willie McCarty has been taking care of the newest community garden on Hancock Street and the Churchwell Park garden has been redone and there are site plans for the area. Devin Pollick said he has a copy of the Erie County Community Health Assessment if anyone would like a copy.

PUBLIC HEARING

Dennis Murray opened a **Public Hearing regarding the draft 2014-2018 Five Year Consolidated Plan and the draft 2014-2015 Annual Action Plan.**

Rebecca Corrigan said Jason Smith, the city's consultant from Wade Trim Associates, is present to answer questions. The five-year consolidated action plan and one-year action plan is being presented and the city's estimated annual distribution from HUD is approximately \$702,000. There have been a series of citizen communication processes including three public meetings, one public presentation and an online summary to reach out to different groups to obtain public feedback. The draft budget and plan has been made available to our subrecipients and consultants to fit the needs for the City of Sandusky. In addition to the consultant who wrote the plan, several subrecipients are in attendance to support the needs they provide (Erie County Health Department, Center for Cultural Awareness/Citizens Circle, WSOS and Volunteers of America). A new youth program, Successful Relationships, will hopefully begin this year to provide youth programs for the community. The city is trying to utilize the feedback received to change the programming and legislation is included with the agenda for adoption. Dennis Murray said he appreciates the length of the plan and said it made for an interesting read. Naomi Twine thanked Rebecca Corrigan and Jason Smith for the extensive research they provided. Dennis Murray thanked the people and organizations which provide support services for the City of Sandusky and noted this is done by civic-minded persons. Dennis Murray asked if there were comments from the public.

Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street, said she understands the downtown buildings will be remodeled on the front end and it looks like these business owners will need to come before the Revolving Loan Fund Committee. The public should not be putting their money toward this. Rebecca Corrigan said this reference is about the downtown façade program which will be taken from the city's Revolving Loan Fund funding and is separate from CDBG entitlement. This is an eligible activity under HUD rules and all will go through the RLF Committee. Sharon Johnson said she asked the engineer for the scope of work for the \$45,000 alley project but has not heard anything back and it appears this business is using the alley for their carryout window and this should be a fifty-fifty deal. Dennis Murray said he understood the owner improved the alleyway in question, but the drive-thru is on private property. Aaron Klein said the contractor who did the work overlaid the existing stone alley which was not done properly for the city is to maintain. Aaron Klein said he is worried about drainage to adjacent residential properties as current drainage goes toward their property and the scope of the project is to resurface the alley and address these issues. Dennis Murray said we will not negotiate with the developer in public and there are some outstanding issues which need to be addressed.

Tim Schwanger, representing Save Our Shoreline Parks, 362 Sheffield Way, said the draft plan includes a long list for a very limited amount of revenue and noted the city needs to get back into a program of applying for grants, particularly for waterfront projects. There are other funding mechanisms the city could use and some money could be freed up and asked if the city could get back to grant writing. Rebecca Corrigan said a special funding matrix is being prepared with governmental agencies to line up infrastructure, parks and Brownfield projects and something will be presented soon to the City Manager to write more grants for the city.

Nick Pasqualini, 527 Gartland Avenue, said his street has been patched but he hopes one day it will look like First Street. He is totally against spending money for the alleyway and the owners should have known this work needed to be complete prior to putting in a business and he is against using taxpayer money for this project. Wesley Poole said the alley improvements (off Tyler Street) will benefit the persons who live along the alley and the small amount of blacktop

which was placed by the business owner improved the property. This was not done to current code specifications and this will be addressed by the city. The public should not think the city is repairing this alley for a specific business and this is an improvement for all – customers to the business and residents who utilize the alley. The drainage has not created significant issues and it is too bad the city does not have the money to improve all of its alleys.

Rebecca Corrigan said during the data review process, a memorandum was received stating the city should use the new 2010 census data from HUD rather than 2000 Census information as previously instructed. Rebecca Corrigan said our consultant caught this and fixed the documents previously submitted.

The President declared the Public Hearing closed.

CURRENT BUSINESS

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

ITEM #1 – Submitted by Amanda Meyers, Paralegal

APPROVING AND ACCEPTING PARCELS INTO THE LAND REUTILIZATION PROGRAM

Budgetary Information: The cost of these acquisitions will be approximately \$706.50 which includes title exams, title fees, recording fees and transfer fees, but upon sale, the purchaser(s) shall be required to pay these costs and the city will recoup them. The taxing districts will not collect the delinquent taxes, assessments, penalties and interest currently due and owing in the amount of \$63,306.97 of which \$22,541.79 is owed to the city for assessments. It is anticipated that demolition of the structures will be paid for with either Neighborhood Initiative Grant funds or Community Development Block Grant funds, which will probably not be recouped. By returning this nonproductive land to tax producing status, the taxing districts will begin collecting approximately \$3,206.09 yearly in real estate taxes and assessments.

RESOLUTION NO. 028-14R: 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 Jeff Smith and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to approve this resolution.

Discussion: Dennis Murray said there are four items on the agenda related to the land bank program and the commissioners are all on line with these items and unless there are particular questions, the commission will roll through them rather quickly.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Scott Schell, Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Wesley Poole, Jeff Smith and Dick Brady, 7. Roll call on the resolution: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Scott Schell, Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Wesley Poole, Jeff Smith and Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the resolution passed.

ITEM #2 – Submitted by Amanda Meyers, Paralegal

SALE OF PARCEL AT 312 TYLER STREET THROUGH LAND REUTILIZATION PROGRAM

Budgetary Information: The cost associated with these purchase agreements is the total amount of the title examination, survey and deed preparation. Any such costs shall be recouped by the city from the nonrefundable earnest money deposits required to be paid by purchasers upon sale. By returning this nonproductive land to tax producing status, the taxing districts will begin collecting real property taxes once again.

ORDINANCE NO. 14-076: 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 #57-04719.000 located at 312 Tyler Street, Sandusky, is no longer needed for any municipal purpose and authorizing the execution of purchase and sale agreements 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. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Scott Schell, Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Wesley Poole, Jeff Smith and Dick Brady, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Scott Schell, Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Wesley Poole, Jeff Smith and Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.

ITEM #3 – Submitted by Amanda Meyers, Paralegal

SALE OF PARCEL AT 821 POLK STREET THROUGH LAND REUTILIZATION PROGRAM

Budgetary Information: The cost associated with this purchase and sale agreement is the total amount of the title search, deed preparation, recording and transfer 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 the cost of the expenses from the nonrefundable earnest money deposit of \$198 required to be paid by the purchaser. The taxing districts will begin collecting approximately \$119.04 per year in real estate taxes.

ORDINANCE NO. 14-077: 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 #58-02516.000 located at 821 Polk Street, Sandusky is 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 Julie Farrar and second of Scott Schell, the commission voted to approve this ordinance. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Scott Schell, Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Wesley Poole, Jeff Smith and Dick Brady, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Scott Schell, Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Wesley Poole, Jeff Smith and Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.

ITEM #4 – Submitted by Amanda Meyers, Paralegal

ACCEPTING 2123 EAST FOREST DRIVE AND SALE OF 1312 MCKINLEY STREET THROUGH LAND REUTILIZATION PROGRAM

Budgetary Information: The cost associated with this purchase and sale agreement is the total amount of the title search, deed preparation, 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 the cost of the expenses from the sale. The taxing districts will begin collecting approximately \$289.34 per year in real estate taxes which will increase once construction of the residence is completed.

ORDINANCE NO. 14-078: It is requested an ordinance be passed **approving and accepting certain real property for acquisition into the land reutilization program identified as Parcel #58-00061.000 located at 2123 East Forest Drive; and declaring that certain real property owned by the city as part of the land reutilization program identified as Parcel #57-03178.000 located at 1312 McKinley Street, Sandusky is 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 Scott Schell and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to approve this ordinance.

Discussion: Julie Farrar said she is pleased the city is partnering with Habitat for Humanity and it seems to make sense to make improvements with something already existing. This will improve our neighborhoods. Dennis Murray thanked those who have participated in the Mow to Own program for accepting responsibility for the community.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Scott Schell, Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Wesley Poole, Jeff Smith and Dick Brady, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Scott Schell,

Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Wesley Poole, Jeff Smith and Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.

ITEM #5 – Submitted by Debbie S. Leslie, Human Resource Manager

ENROLLMENT FEE FOR WORKERS' COMPENSATION GROUP RETROSPECTIVE RATING PROGRAM FOR 2015

Budgetary Information: The contribution will be distributed to all departments.

ORDINANCE NO. 14-079: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager and/or finance director to make payment to CompManagement, Inc. for the enrollment fee for the 2015 Workers' Compensation group retrospective rating program;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Wesley Poole, the commission voted to approve this ordinance.

Discussion: Dennis Murray asked the city's contribution for workers' compensation and Sally Poggiali stated the city recently paid a premium of \$372,536.90 which covers all of the employees of the city including those in sewer and water.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Scott Schell, Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Wesley Poole, Jeff Smith and Dick Brady, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Scott Schell, Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Wesley Poole, Jeff Smith and Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.

ITEM #6 – Submitted by Rebecca Corrigan, Chief Planner

APPROVING AND ACCEPTING THE CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN FOR USE OF CDBG FUNDS

Budgetary Information: There will be no impact to the general fund. Proposed activities will be paid for through the CDBG grant funds.

RESOLUTION NO. 029-14R: It is requested a resolution be passed **approving and adopting a Citizen Participation Plan for the Community Development Block Grant program;** and declaring that this resolution 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 resolution. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Scott Schell, Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Wesley Poole, Jeff Smith and Dick Brady, 7. Roll call on the resolution: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Scott Schell, Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Wesley Poole, Jeff Smith and Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the resolution passed.

ITEM #7 – Submitted by Rebecca Corrigan, Chief Planner

ACCEPTANCE OF CONSOLIDATED ENTITLEMENT GRANT

Budgetary Information: There will be no impact to the general fund. Proposed activities will be paid for through the CDBG grant funds and other grant funding sources.

ORDINANCE NO. 14-080: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to accept a Consolidated Entitlement grant in the amount of \$702,461 total Community Development Block Grant funds for the program year of July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 and to submit to the United States Department of Housing & Urban Development a five-year Consolidated Plan containing a one-year Action Plan;** 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 Naomi Twine, the commission voted to approve this ordinance. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Scott Schell, Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Wesley Poole, Jeff Smith and Dick Brady, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Scott Schell, Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Wesley Poole, Jeff Smith and Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.

**ITEM #8 – Submitted by Troy Vaccaro, Fleet Maintenance Chief Foreman
DISPOSAL OF TWO UNNEEDED VEHICLES**

Budgetary Information: Proceeds from the sale of the items will be placed into the city's appropriate funds.

ORDINANCE NO. 14-081: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to dispose of personal property as having become unnecessary and unfit for city use pursuant to Section 25 of the city charter;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Scott Schell and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to approve this ordinance. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Scott Schell, Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Wesley Poole, Jeff Smith and Dick Brady, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Scott Schell, Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Wesley Poole, Jeff Smith and Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.

ITEM #9 – Submitted by Aaron Klein, P.E.

**AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 935 – COMPREHENSIVE STORM WATER MANAGEMENT
AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 937 – EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL**

Budgetary Information: There is no budgetary impact.

A. **ORDINANCE NO. 14-082:** It is requested an ordinance be passed **amending Part 9 (Streets, utilities and public services code), Title 3 (Utilities), Chapter 935 – Comprehensive Storm Water Management of the Codified Ordinances, in the manner and way specifically set forth hereinbelow;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take 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.

Discussion: Wesley Poole said this legislation is in direct result of requirements from the EPA and asked Aaron to explain what was changed. Aaron Klein said revisions include increased inspection and reporting requirements as well as the frequency of inspections. These ordinances pertain to storm water management during property pre- and post-construction. Dennis Murray asked if these changes have been adopted by other communities and Aaron Klein stated they are. Dennis Murray asked if future changes of this nature can be noted with a red-lined document. Wesley Poole said the changes will have an impact on the consumers (people who do construction) and these regulations place the city in compliance with the EPA requirements.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Scott Schell, Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Wesley Poole, Jeff Smith and Dick Brady, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Scott Schell, Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Wesley Poole, Jeff Smith and Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.

B. **ORDINANCE NO. 14-083:** It is requested an ordinance be passed **amending Part 9 (Streets, utilities and public services code), Title 3 (Utilities), Chapter 937 – Erosion and Sediment Control of the Codified Ordinances, in the manner and way specifically set forth hereinbelow;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Scott Schell and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to approve this ordinance. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Scott Schell, Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Wesley Poole, Jeff Smith and Dick Brady, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Scott Schell, Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Wesley Poole, Jeff Smith and Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.

ITEM #10 – Submitted by Aaron Klein, P.E.**CHANGE ORDER #1 – FINAL – FOR THE KELLER BUILDING DEMOLITION PROJECT**

Budgetary Information: The contract with Independence Excavating, Inc. is \$498,500. The final project amount is \$446,750 for a net savings of \$51,750. Per Ordinance 13-106, the first \$400,000 would be paid with taxable urban renewal revenue bonds and \$150,000 was budgeted from capital funds. This is a net savings to the capital fund.

ORDINANCE NO. 14-084: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to approve the first and final change order for work performed by Independence Excavating, Inc., of Independence, Ohio, for the Keller Building demolition project and to deduct the contract amount by \$51,750 in relation thereto;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Dick Brady and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to approve this ordinance.

Discussion: Julie Farrar said it is a delight to get money back rather than spending money and Dennis Murray said this is the last time the words “Keller Building” will be uttered at a City Commission meeting.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Scott Schell, Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Wesley Poole, Jeff Smith and Dick Brady, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Scott Schell, Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Wesley Poole, Jeff Smith and Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.

ITEM #11 – Submitted by Jane E. Cullen, P.E.**AGREEMENT WITH K.E. MCCARTNEY & ASSOCIATES, INC. FOR THE PERKINS AVENUE SIGNALIZATION PROJECT**

Budgetary Information: The estimated amount of the consultant fee for contract administration and inspection services is not to exceed \$85,000. The Local Public Authority project will be funded with Federal Highway Administration funds through the Ohio Department of Transportation and the Erie County Metropolitan Planning Organization in the amount of eighty percent (80%) of the eligible costs in the amount of \$68,000 with the remaining cost of \$17,000 being split between the City of Sandusky and Erie County. The city's portion of \$8,500 will be paid out of street funds.

ORDINANCE NO. 14-085: It is requested an ordinance be **passed authorizing and directing the city manager to enter into an agreement for professional contract administration and inspection services with KE. McCartney & Associates, Inc., of Mansfield, Ohio, for the Perkins Avenue signalization project;** 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 Wesley Poole, the commission voted to approve this ordinance. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Scott Schell, Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Wesley Poole, Jeff Smith and Dick Brady, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Scott Schell, Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Wesley Poole, Jeff Smith and Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.

ITEM #12 – Submitted by Jane E. Cullen, P.E.**AGREEMENT WITH K.E. MCCARTNEY & ASSOCIATES, INC. FOR CAMP STREET UNDERPASS REHABILITATION PROJECT**

Budgetary Information: The estimated amount of the consultant fee for contract administration and inspection services is not to exceed \$170,000. The Local Public Authority project will be funded with Federal Highway Administration funds through the Ohio Department of Transportation and the Erie County Metropolitan Planning Organization in the amount of eighty percent (80%), of the eligible costs in the amount of \$136,000. The city's portion will be \$34,000 of which \$31,348 will be paid out of sewer funds and \$2,652 will be paid out of capital funds.

ORDINANCE NO. 14-086: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to enter into an agreement for professional contract administration and**

inspection services with K.E. McCartney & Associates Inc., of Mansfield, Ohio, for the Camp Street underpass rehabilitation 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 Scott Schell, the commission voted to approve this ordinance.

Discussion: Dennis Murray said this company had their pencils sharpened and they bid competitively; Aaron Klein said this was a Request for Qualification process and these items (#11 and #12) were done separately.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Scott Schell, Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Wesley Poole, Jeff Smith and Dick Brady, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Scott Schell, Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Wesley Poole, Jeff Smith and Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.

ITEM #13 – Submitted by Jane E. Cullen, P.E.

ADOPTING PRELIMINARY LEGISLATION FOR PERKINS AVENUE AND MILAN ROAD INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Budgetary Information: The city's share of the cost of the project is now estimated at \$260,900 and will be paid with water funds. The funds will be due to ODOT in October, 2014.

RESOLUTION NO. 030-14R: It is requested a resolution be passed **repealing Resolution #017-14R and adopting the preliminary legislation submitted by the Director of the Ohio Department of Transportation for the Perkins Avenue and Milan Road intersection improvement project, PID #84556, ERI US 025001.14; authorizing and directing the city manager to sign the preliminary legislation and to execute any necessary contracts with the Director of Transportation to complete the project;** 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.

Discussion: Dennis Murray asked Aaron Klein to discuss this item for the benefit of the public. Aaron Klein said there were no bids for this project and ODOT agreed to allow the city to include this as part of their project rather than the city running and managing it. ODOT will perform the construction oversight and the city must pay up front based upon their estimate to perform the necessary work at the intersection of Perkins Avenue and Route 250.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Scott Schell, Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Wesley Poole, Jeff Smith and Dick Brady, 7. Roll call on the resolution: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Scott Schell, Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Wesley Poole, Jeff Smith and Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the resolution passed.

ITEM #14 – Submitted by Jane E. Cullen, P.E.

AMENDMENT TO PROFESSIONAL DESIGN SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH MANNIK & SMITH ROUP FOR DESIGN OF WATER STREET REHABILITATION AND PAVING PROJECT

Budgetary Information: The cost for services in the original signed agreement was \$174,783.48 and the additional work required will cost an additional \$23,154.93 and will be paid with capital funds. This would bring the total contract amount to perform the work to \$197,938.41.

ORDINANCE NO. 14-087: 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 Mannik & Smith Group, Inc. for the Water Street rehabilitation and paving project;** 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 Scott Schell, the commission voted to approve this ordinance.

Discussion: Aaron Klein said federal highway dollars are being utilized through ODOT and an encroachment agreement must be drawn up for items found after the survey is performed. These buildings have awnings, fire escapes and steps in the right-of-way.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Scott Schell, Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Wesley Poole, Jeff Smith and Dick Brady, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Scott Schell, Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Wesley Poole, Jeff Smith and Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.

ITEM #15 - Submitted by Kelly L. Kresser, CMC & Commission Clerk

LIQUOR LICENSE STOCK TRANSFER REQUEST

A request has been received from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control for the **transfer (Stock only) of C1, C2 and D6 liquor permits for NRYN Corp dba Sandusky Food Mart, 1038 Cleveland Road. It is requested the clerk be authorized to notify the Division of Liquor Control the city has no objection to this request.**

Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to request the Commission Clerk to notify the Ohio Division of Liquor Control the city has no objection to this request. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Scott Schell, Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Wesley Poole, Jeff Smith and Dick Brady, 7.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Eric Wobser thanked the commission for taking a chance on him and said he is excited to be home and serve alongside of an amazing staff. Eric Wobser said it is an incredible honor to be here and thanked Don Icsman for serving as the Interim City Manager; thanked Kelly Kresser for being so helpful prior to his start date and said she was amazing and has been invaluable. Things have been coming at him very fast and he is excited to dive in and get moving. Eric Wobser congratulated Dave Degnan for being sworn in as the new Fire Chief and said he is excited to work with him and John Orzech and could not be more excited about the future of our safety services in the city because of the amazing leadership in both departments.

Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$75 from the Sandusky Memorial Day Parade Association for the Fire Department. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Wesley Poole and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to accept a \$15 in-kind donation of a new American flag and new flag brace for the Pipe Creek Pathway from Dave Waddington. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to accept the following donations for the new K-9 Officer for the Police Department: Walleye Mama's (\$200), Pam Brumbaugh (\$50), Sandusky Memorial Day Association (\$75), Advantage Entertainment/Ohio Bike Week (\$1,500), Sandusky Elks Lodge 285 (\$2,000), Erie County Community Foundation/ Sandusky Eagles (\$2,500), Tami A. Beatty (\$25), Robert and Cynthia Hare (\$100) and Marjory Rody (\$50).

Discussion: Dennis Murray thanked the **generous contributors and congratulated John Orzech for his leadership as these donations and the sales of popcorn at The Red Wagon have a lot to do with his leadership.**

The President declared the motion passed.

Eric Wobser said he has spent his first week meeting with the Department Heads, Charter Officers and commissioners, and thanked staff members for their assistance. Eric Wobser said he will continue to meet with persons both internally and externally and thanked Kelly Kresser for set up several meetings with the employees.

Eric Wobser said the **Fire Chief Selection Committee** did an amazing job during the process and thanked Naomi Twine, Dave Waddington, Dan Kaman, Chris Sims and John May for providing two amazing candidates to choose from.

Eric Wobser said last year **the police department submitted a grant application to the National Rifle Association** to assist in building a firearms structure at the site of the firing range. The city was notified recently it did not receive this grant and will be seeking future permission to resubmit an application for an award to be given in 2015.

Eric Wobser said the **Police Department's records can now be obtained online on the city's website: www.ci.sandusky.oh.us by clicking on "Records"**. All incident and accident reports are posted to this page in a downloadable PDF format. Reports from January – June, 2014 will be accessible in the near future on this page. John Orzech said these reports have been updated from July 1 forward, and the company is working on putting these all on at one time versus individually. Eric Wobser said this is an important step to providing information online and is impressed how accessible the Finance Department's information is online and the city will continue to provide up to date information on our website.

Eric Wobser said effective July 11, 2014, **NARCAN will be carried in a shift kit bag by patrol officers**. NARCAN reverses the effects of Opioid overdoses and all members of the Police Department received the necessary training for its use, along with the Policy and Procedures. This is another tool to help with the rise in the use of heroin and heroin overdoses. John Orzech said legislators approved NARCAN to be carried by law enforcement officers and the ECHD provided training for our officers. Members of the Fire Department also have equipment and medication which is provided intravenously.

Eric Wobser said **the Police Department applied for a Justice Assistance Grant** in March, 2013 through the Office of Criminal Justice Services and was recently notified they were not awarded these monies. Eric Wobser asked the commission for approval to reapply for this grant which would provide up to \$25,000 for a police cruiser as the money must be obligated by September.

Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to allow the city to reapply to the Office of Criminal Justice Services for this grant. The President declared the motion passed.

Eric Wobser **congratulated John Orzech and his staff on an amazing week at the Red Wagon** and for raising money for United Way of Erie County. Eric Wobser said this is a wonderful example of community policing and also thanked Kelly Kresser for volunteering with he and his wife this past weekend at The Red Wagon. John Orzech said his officers were very excited about this competition and stated it cost him more money in pizza. John Orzech said a great time was had by all and the officers are already talking about next year. John Orzech offered a challenge for members of the Fire Department to participate.

Eric Wobser said the following **projects have been completed by the Engineering Department:** First Street resurfacing and water main project, the Keller Building demolition, the Sandusky Transit System parking lot, the Ferndale Drive project and the relining of the ferrous tank.

Eric Wobser said staff at Big Island Water Works are working on investigating **options to reduce algae problems** in the distribution system that may cause elevated THM's while not increasing toxins.

Eric Wobser said **Megan Stookey has been appointed to fill the position of Secretary in the Engineering Services Department upon the Mary Grendow** who will be retiring on July 30 after 28 years of service with the City of Sandusky. Staff is working quickly to fill Megan's position in the Building Department.

Scott Schell said as the liaison to the fire department, he is excited for **Dave Degnan to fill the role of Fire Chief and recognized Captain Jim Green for serving as Acting Fire Chief** after the

retirement of Paul Ricci. Scott Schell said Jim Green is an extremely dedicated officer and appreciates his service and thanked him for keeping the ship on course. Dennis Murray thanked Naomi Twine for chairing the **Fire Chief Selection Board** and said she did a great job.

Dennis Murray thanked **Don Icsman for his service during the interim period and for filling in as the Interim City Manager.**

OLD BUSINESS

Wesley Poole said the city received a **petition regarding the closure of the fire station on the west end of town** and asked Dave Degnan for an explanation about why this has been done the way it has. Dave Degnan said currently Station #7 is closed approximately three times each week and he would like to keep it open as much as possible. The possibility of alternating station closures was mentioned at the last commission meeting and the statistics were distributed about the responses during the month of June which indicated Station #7 had 90 responses; there were 173 calls from Station #3. Citizens in the west end are important but if we start alternating station closures, it may be the start of detrimental things. Dave Degnan said he looks at what station has historically had the greater number of calls and this is in Station #7's district. If crews are alternated, it is bad on morale of the staff who perform this type of work and they would not be as alert as they may be more worried about where they will be working from. The other issue is if there are more calls from Station #3, this is where personnel should be. Response time has increased to about six minutes and twenty-five seconds, but there was nothing significant going on and there are assisted living homes with trained staff (for CPR) in the west end. Dennis Murray said it is better to keep Station #3 open and close Station #7 when necessary. Jeff Smith said there has been discussion about turning one of the fire stations into an EMS station and he is not a fire fighter so he cannot answer this question, but asked Dave Degnan if he could. Dave Degnan said seventy-five percent of calls are for EMS and he wants everyone to understand if two persons are at a station and responding to a fire call, they will go to the call but may be standing outside of someone's home without water backup and that waiting for a fire engine would be performing an unsafe act. Dave Degnan said this is not the right time to make this move and he would like to get together with Eric Wobser to get this station open as soon as possible. Wesley Poole said the gross number of calls to the entire city in one area is the justification for closing Station #7 and asked if anything else was considered. Dave Degnan said the decision was made predominantly due to the amount of calls from each station. Wesley Poole said fire calls are a small portion of responses for the fire department compared to EMS calls. EMS calls are measured in time as it is an important factor, but this does not take into consideration the actual needs. Persons who need an ambulance need it quickly and asked for justification in regards to the number of calls which is arbitrary as the mix changes and he does not know if this decision is right all of the time. This is about the fire fighters, their training and discipline, and asked how often this scenario has occurred. Wesley Poole said overall, since 2010, a response time of six minutes represented two percent of the calls and this degrades the service by 98% ; we need to be looking very seriously at reopening this station. Wesley Poole said none of these answers have to do with providing service to residents, they have more to do with the morale of the troops. If they are alternating work location between two stations, he would expect them to provide the same level of service. Dave Degnan said they will continue to provide the same level of service and to realize fires grow large within a short amount of time and the average home can burn down in nine minutes. Someone could be having a heart attack, but if they had a small fire, within five minutes it is burning down the structure and there would be no way of saving it. Dave Degnan said he will look at ways to open Station #7 and serve the citizens as best possible.

NEW BUSINESS

Dennis Murray said Sandusky finds itself at a crossroad. For forty years, we have watched our city decline. Our decline has many causes – urban sprawl, the national loss of manufacturing jobs, population loss, to name a just a few. But today we face the results of something new – namely neglect from our state legislature which has cut our funding without regard to our obligations to our citizens. Although Columbus has eliminated the estate tax and cut the local government fund in half, we must still protect our citizens and business. We must still care for

streets and neighborhoods and parks and trees, but with increasingly inadequate resources. How does this end?

This year's budget will burn through a part of the reserves that we need to properly and responsibly run the city. Next year's budget will be worse. Columbus is about to enact so-called reforms to municipal taxes that will take away yet more revenues. And 2016 looks even worse. We have cut far beyond the bone. We can no longer continuously operate three fire stations, and are currently browning out Number 7. What next? Do we close station 7? Do we brown out station 3 as well with its dramatically higher call volume? Do we cut the police force? Do we sell off the parks because we can no longer maintain them? How will we address the hundreds of dead and dying trees in tree lawns? Some mistakenly argue that Sandusky needs to trim down. But we have cut nearly a third of our workforce in the last ten years. Spending is down 25% in constant dollars, even on a per person basis. On our current path, at some point in the future we will be unable to effectively patch potholes, let alone undertake the long-term task of rebuilding streets. Where does this end? At some point, we will see our infrastructure crumble to the point that we are unable to repair it. We have virtually eliminated code and zoning enforcement over many years in an attempt to maintain safety forces. We can plainly see what that neglect is doing to our city's homes. They are crumbling before our eyes as a result of owner neglect but usually the result bad landlords who know that we do not currently have the personnel necessary to attack this blight, usually absentee landlords who are only too happy to collect the rent and stick us with the blight when they eventually abandon the building. Where will this process end? I have been unable to completely address the revenue issue facing our city because I was representing Cedar Fair before I took office. No more. I have resigned that position because we as a commission must address this question before it is too late.

Dennis Murray said he had hoped that we might have a little more time, but a group of civic-minded citizens has been working to place an important issue on the ballot, to raise the admissions tax from three percent to six percent. But with all due respect, it is too much and places the entire burden of replacing lost revenue on our largest corporate citizen, at the risk of alienating them and even causing them to relocate their headquarters. They would not put it that way, but it is no secret either. Nor will Cedar Fair say this, but it is also reasonable to expect that they will actively oppose a three percent increase. There are no winners in that fight. And however it turns out, we will have soured the atmosphere necessary to attract new investment in our community, without which we cannot grow our way out of the present situation. Dennis Murray said he has learned from Eric Wobser that Cedar Fair representatives approached him about a cooperative effort to raise city revenues. Cedar Fair understands our predicament, and wants to be a responsible partner. But it also wants a fair solution that spreads the burden to all beneficiaries of city services. I do not know what such a resolution looks like – one that replaces lost revenues and stabilizes the city's finances so that we can invest in safety forces, firefighters in particular, in streets, in critical code enforcement, in parks and trees and in economic development – but I would like to see this commission authorize our city manager to continue those discussions with our support. And so I request a motion to do just this so that we can offer our citizens a solution in time for the August 6 deadline by which we must take action or risk one of two very bad outcomes – alienation of our largest corporation and largest city funder – or a proposed increase so large that it cannot pass, leaving our budget hole larger still with each passing year.

Upon motion of Scott Schell and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to allow the City Manager to continue discussions with Cedar Point and support bringing something back to the table (at the next commission meeting) for discussion.

Discussion: Julie Farrar said she has gotten on her soapbox about all of the cuts from the state level, but the city cannot cut any more. She gets calls about code enforcement and trees and this needs to be taken care of, but the city does not have the money to do something about this. Julie Farrar looks forward to Eric Wobser bringing something back the commission can work with.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Julie Farrar, Scott Schell, Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Wesley Poole, Jeff Smith and Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the motion passed.

Jeff Smith thanked **Jason Feliciano for donating four bicycles to the police department**

Wesley Poole said he received a communication from a citizen regarding **quiet zones for trains** and asked the city to consider passing an ordinance to alleviate trains from blowing horns as they approach crossings in the city. Dennis Murray said his recollection is that in order to do this, the city would have to come up with a second crossing as an alternative. Don Icsman said the cost is high and quiet zones have been in effect for a number of years, but last time the city looked at this there was not a sufficient amount of grant money to help us.

Julie Farrar said she had **a complaint from residents of Pipe Street regarding tour buses using this street as a cut through**, especially around 10:30 a.m. John Orzech said this may be occurring because of the traffic light at Remington Avenue and a temporary lane closure for the left turn lane, but he will check it out.

Dick Brady said over the weekend, he, Dave Waddington and Tim Schwanger sponsored the first of many **city-wide cleanups** and to validate how meaningful this was, a \$20 bill was found by Gary Guendelsberger. Thirteen bags of garbage were retrieved and this was a good experience. Eric Wobser said this \$20 found its way to the Red Wagon and was donated to the city and United Way.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Mark Norman said he had a conversation with Eric Wobser about stewardship and the commissioners, staff and residents are all stewards and he likes this philosophy. This is a chance to provide positive thinking and get citizens excited to meet our potential and encouraged residents contemplating cleanup and home improvements to build momentum and move ahead with these projects. Mark Norman said it sounds as if Dennis Murray provided some sacrifices and leadership and admires him for this. Mark Norman said he has been working on revitalization concepts for the neighborhoods and there are many obstacles driving property values down. There is conflict between rental properties and home owners who are working to realize the value of their home. Rentals are transient and one never knows what the next issue will be based upon who is moving in next. Property owners are making a pact with the city there will be some stability to protect their investment. With a high percentage of rental homes, each day the blight is revealed more and more and this is affecting our neighborhoods. Code enforcement is an expense we need to provide and if landlords are helping to create blight, they need to share a bigger percentage of the cost. While this is controversial and contentious, it is something we need to start thinking about it.

Jennifer Brindley, 547 50th Street, read a recent letter to the editor which stated: "Admissions tax could help rebuild Sandusky. Having worked and retired from here, I still follow with interest the activities, the politics and economy of the area. I must say that each time I visit, I find it disheartening to see the general condition of the city. It is, however, nice to see some of the old abandoned buildings being torn down. With the question of raising amusement taxes in the future I find it absolutely necessary. Using Cedar Point as an example, other parks throughout the country are taxed at a much higher rate than the present three percent that is imposed on Cedar Point. Not only are the taxes higher, but the admission prices are much higher. Bush Gardens, Magic Kingdom in Florida charge a one-day admission of \$95 to \$99 respectively. Locally, past practices, 2013 generated approximately \$2.8 million from Cedar Point. It was the tax we were doubled with I favor. Even as a season tax holder, the tax could generate \$6 million yearly, doubling which would add a whole \$1.50 on your ticket. Hardly an amount that would keep people away. A percentage of this could be directed to safety forces, but a larger portion should be dedicated to the infrastructure of our city: the roads and streets are in horrible condition only to get worse without proper care and future harsh winters. If the city is to be rejuvenated it will have to start with well-conditioned streets. Outsiders judge our city by its looks and the streets are not only seen but used. Street improvement will freshen up the look of the city. With these necessary additional funds, along with private investments, the city would be on the road to recovery, hopefully closed signs at our fire stations would not be needed." Jennifer Brindley said this was written by James Martin, retired fire fighter now living

in Port Charlotte, Florida. At the last meeting, the commissioners voted to put an issue on the ballot to reduce the number of commissioners from seven to five and no citizen requested this. If it offers no solution to the city's current budget problems, Jennifer Brindley asked the commission to place another issue on the ballot to increase the admissions tax from three percent to six percent. Residents are asking for this because they want Fire Station #7 kept open, they want roads fixed and they want dead trees removed. An increase in the admissions tax would generate the revenue for the city to provide these essential services. Jennifer Brindley said she has been waiting since January for the commission to explain to her how it is going to maintain its safety services, fix roads and remove dead street trees. It is six months later and the commission has not offered a single idea and her idea is to increase the admissions tax to six percent. It is not her decision, nor is it the commissions' decision, it is up to the citizens. Jennifer Brindley said Dennis Murray hired the last city manager and then left to go to Columbus; the bars are struggling to stay open; she called and begged Dennis Murray to show up and speak as a State Representative but he never showed up. All of a sudden, he asked for support from the Sail In, but she does not believe we need another lawsuit. Jennifer Brindley thanked Naomi Twine for doing a wonderful job picking the new city manager and fire chief and said she is glad she had the opportunity to lead the committee. Jennifer Brindley asked if this includes a raise in the income tax and Dennis Murray said this is not a question session. The citizens of Sandusky need this and wishes someone would pick up the trash in her yard left by Cedar Point tourists. There was a one percent raise in parking tax previously and Cedar Point raised their parking fee.

Vicki Byrd, 2114 Wilbert Street, said she rents her home and is in the minority, has improved the home she lives in and does the best she can to be a good neighbor. Evidently this is a fight between renters and home owners and this comment cuts. People who rent should pack up and leave the city and the city can figure out what to do with all of these homes and she resents this comment. Vicki Byrd said a petition has been initiated to raise admissions taxes and all of the commissioners were invited to their fundraiser. She is standing up to a big corporation who is threatening to take their offices out of this town but people need to understand Cedar Point does not pay this admissions tax, the people who walk into the park pay it. Vicki Byrd personally has no problem with this but she has a problem with her income tax being raised and perhaps there will be two initiatives on the ballot, one for three percent, another for one percent. Vicki Byrd said she will not vote to increase the income tax and said residents should not pay their water bills and everyone knows what this all about. She has no problem turning her money over to the city so long as it is used the way it should and the Hopper's incident turns her stomach as there are too many of these things that have been going on for too long.

Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street, asked if the Firelands Vending project is closed out as the city put in a street for them with the idea this company would pave their parking lot, but there is only a little strip of pavement and it is still stone. Dennis Murray asked Aaron Klein to follow up with Sharon Johnson after the meeting about this. Sharon Johnson asked where the city stands with hiring another fire fighter. Dennis Murray said this position has been posted and he does not know how long it will take to fill (the 49th position). Sharon Johnson said the problem with Station #7 will be solved and Dennis Murray said it will still be closed part of the time because of vacation schedules and illnesses, but it should be closed about half of the amount of time it was previously.

Matt Morgan, 1003 West Osborne Street, said last summer he noted there are a lot of people who come here from out of town and offered a list of various license plates he has seen because decisions made here go so much further than beyond our city borders. There are dire needs in the city and budget crises, but we also have an influx of different persons and we are showcasing ourselves to others and to be optimistic.

Upon motion of Dick Brady and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 p.m. The President declared the motion passed.

Kelly L. Kresser, CMC
Clerk of the City Commission

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