

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

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

City staff present: John Orzech - Police Chief, Dave Degnan – Fire Chief, Aaron Klein – Engineer, Angie Byington – Chief Planner, Matt Lasko – Chief Development Officer, Don Rumbutis – IT Manager, Don Icsman - Law Director, Hank Solowiej – Finance Director, Kelly Kresser – Commission Clerk and Eric Wobser – City Manager.

Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to approve the minutes of the November 24, 2014, city commission meeting and suspend the oral reading. The President declared the motion passed.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (*agenda items only*)

None.

PRESENTATIONS

Abbey Bemis, Interim Executive Director of the Erie County Economic Development Corporation (ECEDC) provided an update regarding work done by ECEDC on the city's behalf. The ECEDC does not administer loans or tax abatements, but tries to have different economic development programs and activities to increase the capacity and competitiveness of the entire region through workforce development, advocacy and area marketing. ECEDC is the state-marketed economic development group and the point of contact for Team NEO and Ohio Resources. ECEDC works regionally as fifty percent of those working in Erie County or the city are from outside of the area. These numbers increase as you look at smaller communities and it is important to work cohesively with Northwest Ohio. The best example of why these relationships are important is the closure of Janesville in Norwalk as ECEDC worked with Erie County employers who were looking for a connection to this workforce and keeping people in this area. There are common industries and natural resources and consumers. The Lead Referral Initiative is meant to share investment opportunities and program initiatives in the community and be the most informed possible about availabilities to best capture these opportunities. Over the past four years, a total of 143 leads have been distributed to the community and 26 properties were submitted for opportunities; half of these were from the City of Sandusky. Abbey Bemis said they have been taking a closer look at the sites and demand of buildings in Erie County and said from 2011 to 2014, requests for new business activity were in bio health, consumer and manufacturing. Automotive and advanced manufacturing are a good opportunity for Erie County because we already have a lot of industry operating in these clusters. The challenge for new location projects is only eighteen percent of companies which are interested construct new buildings and there is a need to understand what is already available and whether they can meet the needs of the companies since most are looking to lease or purchase an existing space. They also look at square footage and acreage requirements and there is anecdotal evidence most companies are looking for clean, like-new facilities and it becomes more and more difficult to meet these needs. ECEDC will work with each of the member communities to determine what is best for the supply we have here in Erie County and will best align with these opportunities. RISE is another program established in 2011 to provide free business development for start-up and for existing businesses including viability analysis for a new product or for a new business entirely, employee management advice or providing a connection to different capital and finance resources. They partner with GLIDE from Lorain Community College to utilize avenues and resources available to entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurs tend to employ local persons and utilize local resources in the community. They also create a unique sense of place but only thirty percent of these businesses make it past ten years; ECEDC looks to increase this number and help keep these businesses sustainable through the RISE program. Ninety clients came into the incubator for the RISE program the first year it was established (2012); the number of existing clients has remained consistent from year to year with twenty to thirty new clients, so they see a value in

this service as they develop their business and encounter new challenges. Over fifty percent of the clients are from the Sandusky area and the majority operate in retail services or food and beverage. There are not many state programs available for those who operate in the service sector and it is nice to have a support system for them. This year a networking and speaker series was introduced through the RISE program meant to bring small business representatives in the community together to have conversations about challenges they each experience to increase innovation and collaboration. The most recent meeting was at EHOVE and an entrepreneur from the Cleveland Area, Jason Nemitz, spoke and toured EHOVE's fabrication lab. ECEDC launched a "client of the month" feature to promote the idea of entrepreneurship in Erie County and offer advice and support for existing small businesses. It is much less expensive to launch a new business here rather than in New York City and these features offer different advice and support. Information sharing development has been increased regarding different resources including monthly newsletters, bi-weekly Facebook posts and a website events calendar. The Business Expansion & Retention (BEAR) program is an outreach effort for existing businesses. New job growth comes from existing businesses and it is important to understand their challenges, know they are operating at capacity and are happy with the business climate and know to connect with different available resources. Most referrals made are workforce related through educational institutions, financing resources, tax abatements or the business incubator. Over the past three years, ECEDC has made 177 business visits and have reached out to 115 businesses to participate in this program and met with 57 businesses; fifty percent of these businesses are in the City of Sandusky. The annual business appreciation event held in November thanked those who do business in the area and supports them. Most of the feedback has been about the workforce which is a primary concern and this year, BGSU was involved. ECEDC reaches out to businesses and most of them are with manufacturing and industrial occupations and this targeted industry cluster tends to bring new money into the community. Erie County is a bit unique because of the visitors who come to the area and our business sector generates new money as well. The BEAR program is meant to be a platform for the business community and provide direction to ECEDC about the types of programs these businesses would like to see implemented. Because of the limited staff capacity in small businesses, they may not have the time to seek out this information themselves and ECEDC works to share information with them. The availability and quality of the workforce is our most commonly cited barrier with all industries and ECEDC is working to establish a Workforce Development Council to look at the long-term workforce needs of the community, how it is growing, how many people will be retiring from different industries and how to better align our education and other resources to fill these needs. The first outcome was the manufacturing career showcase which was a result of conversations with manufacturing companies in the area. They have a particular challenge to find the skill sets needed and manufacturing has undergone a dramatic shift in the type of work and workforce needed. Our economy lost close to 200,000 jobs in northeast Ohio from 1980 – 2014. While jobs were lost, manufacturing global production actually increased during this time period and the workforce which is left behind needs a higher skill set and technical knowledge in able to operate in this innovative environment. The idea behind the showcase was to spread awareness about career opportunities and the necessary skill sets for this career. ECEDC partnered with a variety of organizations to put this event on and 35 professionals from local school districts attended and toured four local manufacturers to give them idea of what modern manufacturing is and what it demands of its workforce. Most people think manufacturing has died in the area, but it is still our largest source of employment at seventeen percent. The challenge for this industry is in the next five to ten years, 50,000 persons will retire from the Northeast Ohio manufacturing sector and up to 100,000 from our region. This will require finding new persons to fill these positions and the idea was to expose this to our local school community so they are sharing it with their students. Abbey Bemis said the economy continues to pick up in our area and MSA unemployment rates continue to fall. Last years' September figures regarding unemployment were two percent higher than this year and Sandusky was rated 16th amongst all U.S. small cities for recession-busting factors. It is not just our tourism and retail industries which are growing and local government has lost 600 jobs; manufacturing added 1,200 jobs so there is a lot of activity in this area. Abbey Bemis said she would answer any questions and congratulated the city for the passage of Issue 8. Dennis Murray thanked Abbey Bemis for bringing the city up to speed with progress being made by ECEDC. Dick Brady said Abbey came to ECEDC as the

BEAR Specialist and her first task involved job retention and this is very important (retaining jobs as opposed to creating new ones). The difficulty is it is a hard thing to quantify and employers are unwilling most of the time to share information about layoffs and the numbers shared tonight show Sandusky is getting a big piece of the business ECEDC is doing for its money. Abbey Bemis said the BEAR program is really about relationship-building and having companies comfortable with sharing information and contacting ECEDC when they run into a challenge or opportunity. The program may not capture every retention project. Julie Farrar said she recently attended a RISE event at Hot Dog Tony's and asked if another is planned in the future. Abbey Bemis said she would like to get to the point where meetings are held quarterly as this has been a nice way for RISE clients to partner with others. Eric Wobser said most of the commissioners are aware Abbey Bemis has elevated her role and as the city creates its own staff, there has been a great increase in communication between the two entities; he commended Abbey and Susan for the great work they are doing with ECEDC as an organization. Abbey Bemis said everyone she has worked with at the city has been great and she is glad to be a part of it.

Dennis Murray introduced **Matt Lasko, the new Chief Development Officer for the City of Sandusky**. Matt Lasko said today is his first day of employment and he spent the past seven years in the City of Cleveland with the Detroit Shoreway Community Development organization, was born and raised in Vermilion and is a long-term Erie County resident. Matt Lasko said he is thrilled to be here and his rules and responsibilities are to put forward a lot of physical development for the city, particularly in economic development, mixed-use development and housing, along with overseeing building, housing and code enforcement. He also will work with Angela Byington regarding planning, parks and transportation. Sandusky has great staff in place and a great history which is a good combination for success. Eric Wobser said he is excited to see an amazing group of directors for the city including the addition of Matt Lasko. He has worked with Matt in community development and he has the best reputation and will make a great team with Angela Byington.

CURRENT BUSINESS

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

ITEM #1 – ACCEPTED 7.22.14; APPROVED BY BALLOT 11.4.14

INCREASE IN INCOME TAX RATE FROM ONE PERCENT (1%) TO ONE AND ONE QUARTER PERCENT (1¼%)

ORDINANCE NO. 14-089: It is requested an ordinance be passed amending Sections 191.01 and 191.07 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Sandusky, Ohio, in order to provide for an additional one-quarter percent income tax, by increasing the income tax rate from one percent to one and one-quarter percent beginning January 1, 2015, specifying that the net proceeds of such additional income tax shall be used to pay costs related to maintaining and improving streets, sidewalks and parks, providing public safety services and eliminating blight and public nuisances, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Wesley Poole the commission voted to approve this ordinance.

Discussion: Dennis Murray said this is the income tax increase which was subject to voter approval and asked what the procedure is. Kelly Kresser said this ordinance was accepted and numbered in July, 2014, and is now before the Commission since receiving the Certificate of Elections from the Erie County Board of Elections.

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

ITEM #2 - Submitted by Aaron M. Klein, P.E.**PASSED AT FIRST READING 11.24.14****AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL DESIGN SERVICES FOR 2014 TTHM REDUCTION ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS**

Budgetary Information: The estimated amount of the Consultant fee for professional design services is \$78,451.00 to be paid with Water Funds.

ORDINANCE NO. 14-136: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to enter into an agreement for professional design services with CT Consultants of Toledo, Ohio, for the 2014 TTHM reduction alternatives analysis project.**

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

ITEM #3 – Submitted by Amanda Meyers, Paralegal**SALE OF PARCEL LOCATED AT 1442 CAMP STREET THROUGH LAND REUTILIZATION PROGRAM**

Budgetary Information: The cost associated with these purchase and sale agreements is the total amount of the title search, deed preparation, surveyor 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 deposits equaling nine hundred and forty six dollars (\$946) required to be paid by the purchasers. The taxing districts will begin collecting approximately ninety seven dollars and eighty two cents (\$97.82) per year in real estate taxes.

ORDINANCE NO. 14-137: It is requested an ordinance be passed **declaring that certain property owned by the city as part of the land reutilization program identified as Parcel #59-02665.000 located at 1442 Camp 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 Julie Farrar and second of Scott Schell the commission voted to approve this ordinance.

Discussion: Dennis Murray said there are four related items on the agenda for properties coming out of the land bank and asked for an overview. Dennis Murray said he understands three are from the mow-to-own program and one is a direct sale. Amanda Meyers said both adjoining property owners on either side, according to policy, receive a letter asking if they would like to acquire half of each respective lot. In the case of the one on Tiffin Avenue, it was an elderly person who did not want to take over the maintenance. Dennis Murray thanked Amanda Meyers for all of the hard work she does, members of the Land Bank Committee and said collectively these people are all making a big difference for the city.

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

ITEM #4 – Submitted by Amanda Meyers, Paralegal**SALE OF PARCEL LOCATED ON TIFFIN AVENUE 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 nonrefundable earnest money deposit of one hundred ninety seven dollars and fifty cents (\$197.50) required to be paid by the purchasers. The taxing districts will begin collecting approximately one hundred twenty nine dollars and seventy four cents (\$129.74) per year in real estate taxes.

ORDINANCE NO. 14-138: 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 #59-00379.000 located on Tiffin Avenue, 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. Roll call on the motion: Dick Brady, Wesley Poole, Julie Farrar, Dennis Murray, Scott Schell, Jeff Smith and Naomi Twine, 7. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Dick Brady, Wesley Poole, Julie Farrar, Dennis Murray, Scott Schell, Jeff Smith and Naomi Twine, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.

ITEM #5 – Submitted by Amanda Meyers, Paralegal

SALE OF PARCEL LOCATED ON THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE INTERSECTION OF CENTRAL AVENUE AND FILMORE STREET THROUGH THE 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 nonrefundable earnest money deposit of one hundred and ninety eight dollars (\$198) required to be paid by the purchaser. The taxing districts will begin collection approximately sixty four dollars and two cents (\$64.02) per year in real estate taxes.

ORDINANCE NO. 14-139: 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 #58-01220.000 located on the northeast corner of the intersection of Central Avenue and Filmore 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 Naomi Twine and second of Julie Farrar the commission voted to approve this ordinance. Roll call on the motion: Dick Brady, Wesley Poole, Julie Farrar, Dennis Murray, Scott Schell, Jeff Smith and Naomi Twine, 7. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Dick Brady, Wesley Poole, Julie Farrar, Dennis Murray, Scott Schell, Jeff Smith and Naomi Twine, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.

ITEM #6 – Submitted by Amanda Meyers, Paralegal

SALE OF PARCEL LOCATED AT 901 FOURTH STREET THROUGH THE LAND REUTILIZATION PROGRAM

Budgetary Information: The cost associated with this purchase and sale agreement is the total amount of the title examination, deed preparation and recording and transfer fees. Any such costs shall be recouped by the city upon sale of the parcel at the fair market value of three thousand four hundred dollars (\$3,400). Once construction is completed, the taxing districts will begin collecting approximately one thousand and sixty five dollars (\$1,065) per year in real estate taxes.

ORDINANCE NO. 14-140: 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 #57-05038.000, located at 901 Fourth 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 Jeff Smith and second of Naomi Twine the commission voted to approve this ordinance. Roll call on the motion: Dick Brady, Wesley Poole, Julie Farrar, Dennis Murray, Scott Schell, Jeff Smith and Naomi Twine, 7. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Dick Brady, Wesley Poole, Julie Farrar, Dennis Murray, Scott Schell, Jeff Smith and Naomi Twine, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.

ITEM #7 – Submitted by Aaron M. Klein, P.E.**PURCHASE OF CHEMICALS FOR BIWW AND WWTP FOR CY 2014**

Budgetary Information: Funds for the purchase of these items are routinely included in the operating budgets of the water and sewer plants.

- A. ORDINANCE NO. 14-141:** It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to purchase 12,000 gallons, more or less, of liquid sodium permanganate from Shannon Chemicals of Malvern, Pennsylvania, for use at the Big Island Water Works Plant during the calendar year 2015;** 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 Julie Farrar the commission voted to approve this ordinance.

Discussion: Dennis Murray said he and Don Icsman wrestle about whether or not these chemicals can be voted on together, but it is a law they cannot. There are different contracts with different companies and Dennis Murray asked for an overview of the process. Aaron Klein said this process is similar to the salt bids which are performed by Erie County. Sandusky, along with other treatment plants in Erie County, bid these chemicals together to maximize buying ability and minimize prices. There are eight chemicals used and included in this document and each entity is required to enter into their own agreements.

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

- B. ORDINANCE NO. 14-142:** It is requested an ordinance **be passed authorizing and directing the city manager to purchase 18,000 gallons, more or less, of hydrofluosilicic acid from Shannon Chemicals of Malvern, Pennsylvania, for use at the Big Island Water Works Plant during calendar year 2015;** 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 Julie Farrar the commission voted to approve this ordinance. Roll call on the motion: Dick Brady, Wesley Poole, Julie Farrar, Dennis Murray, Scott Schell, Jeff Smith and Naomi Twine, 7. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Dick Brady, Wesley Poole, Julie Farrar, Dennis Murray, Scott Schell, Jeff Smith and Naomi Twine, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.

- C. ORDINANCE NO. 14-143:** It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to purchase 63,000 gallons, more or less, of sodium hydroxide liquid from JCI Jones Chemicals of Barberton, Ohio, for use at the Big Island Water Works Plant during the calendar year 2015;** 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. Roll call on the motion: Dick Brady, Wesley Poole, Julie Farrar, Dennis Murray, Scott Schell, Jeff Smith and Naomi Twine, 7. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Dick Brady, Wesley Poole, Julie Farrar, Dennis Murray, Scott Schell, Jeff Smith and Naomi Twine, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.

- D. ORDINANCE NO. 14-144:** It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to purchase 667 tons, more or less, of aluminum sulfate polymer blend liquid from Applied Specialties of Avon Lake, Ohio, for use at the Big Island Water Works Plant during the calendar year 2015;** 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: Dick Brady, Wesley Poole, Julie Farrar, Dennis Murray, Scott Schell, Jeff Smith and Naomi Twine, 7. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Dick Brady, Wesley Poole, Julie Farrar, Dennis Murray, Scott Schell, Jeff Smith and Naomi Twine, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.

- E. ORDINANCE NO. 14-145:** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the city manager to purchase 90,000 gallons, more or less, of sodium hypochlorite from JCI Jones Chemicals of Barberton, Ohio, for use at the Big Island Water Works Plant during the calendar year 2015; 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. Roll call on the motion: Dick Brady, Wesley Poole, Julie Farrar, Dennis Murray, Scott Schell, Jeff Smith and Naomi Twine, 7. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Dick Brady, Wesley Poole, Julie Farrar, Dennis Murray, Scott Schell, Jeff Smith and Naomi Twine, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.

- F. ORDINANCE NO. 14-146:** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the city manager to purchase 63,750 pounds, more or less, of powdered activated carbon from Bonded Chemicals of Columbus, Ohio, for use at the Big Island Water Works Plant during the calendar year 2015; 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: Dick Brady, Wesley Poole, Julie Farrar, Dennis Murray, Scott Schell, Jeff Smith and Naomi Twine, 7. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Dick Brady, Wesley Poole, Julie Farrar, Dennis Murray, Scott Schell, Jeff Smith and Naomi Twine, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.

- G. ORDINANCE NO. 14-147:** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the city manager to purchase 240,000 pounds, more or less, of ferrous chloride solution from Kemira Water Solution of Lawrence, Kansas, for use at the Waste Water Treatment Plant during the calendar year 2015; 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. Roll call on the motion: Dick Brady, Wesley Poole, Julie Farrar, Dennis Murray, Scott Schell, Jeff Smith and Naomi Twine, 7. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Dick Brady, Wesley Poole, Julie Farrar, Dennis Murray, Scott Schell, Jeff Smith and Naomi Twine, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.

- H. ORDINANCE NO. 14-148:** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the city manager to purchase 70,000 pounds, more or less, of polymer liquid from Polydyne, Inc., of Riceboro, Georgia, for use at the Waste Water Treatment Plant during the calendar year 2015; 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.

Discussion: Dick Brady said we are on the verge of spending a little over \$800,000 on a batch of chemicals and most of the names he cannot pronounce. This indicates the high cost of being in the water and sewer business and each time he takes a drink or flushes a toilet, he will be thinking about this \$800,000. Dick Brady thanked Aaron Klein for getting competitive prices on these and said we are constantly trying to drive this number down. Dennis Murray said what is done at the treatment plants is very complicated, is done very well and is critically important for the health of the consumers in Erie County and along Sandusky Bay and Lake Erie. Wesley

Poole said with the kind of money invested in our water, people probably do not need to buy bottled water.

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

ITEM #8 – Submitted by Jane E. Cullen, P.E.

WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT BAR SCREEN REHABILITATION PROJECT

Budgetary Information: The engineer's estimate for the total project cost including engineering, inspection, advertising and miscellaneous expenses is \$499,455 and will be funded by the sewer fund with partial reimbursement from Erie County per the sewer services agreement.

PASSED AT FIRST READING: It is requested a Resolution declaring the necessity **to proceed with the proposed Waste Water Treatment Plant bar screen rehabilitation 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.

Upon motion of Dick Brady and second of Wesley Poole the commission voted to approve this resolution at first reading.

Discussion: Dick Brady asked for a brief description of this project and why it is necessary. Aaron Klein said the bar screens at the Waste Water Treatment Plant are at the beginning of the process and take out bricks, logs, branches and rags that float through the system. Because we have a larger treatment plant, these bar screens are very critical. One of the reasons to do this project at this time is the screens are twelve years old and have a ten- to twenty-year life. They were inspected and it was recommended the city do maintenance on them. It is critical all three are well functioning, especially during times with high flow and the city needs to be proactive as opposed to reactive as the plant will have problems if one of them goes out.

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

ITEM #9 – Submitted by Jane E. Cullen, P.E.

AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL DESIGN SERVICES RELATED TO WATER INTAKE AT BIWW

Budgetary Information: The estimated amount of the consultant fee for professional design services is \$54,389 to be paid with water funds.

ORDINANCE NO. 14-149: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to enter into an agreement for professional design services with Thrasher Group, Inc., of Canton, Ohio for the 2014 emergency intake evaluation and improvements 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 Naomi Twine the commission voted to approve this ordinance.

Discussion: Aaron Klein said this is the emergency intake at the water plant and there is also a main intake in the plant. The emergency intake is in Sandusky Bay and can be used when there are problems with the main. Currently, it is in significant disrepair, the crib around it is falling apart and the wood is deteriorating significantly. We need to maintain this to ensure we have an adequate supply of water coming into the plant. Dennis Murray said this agreement will provide the design services which are anticipated later on when a contract is done for the actual work. Aaron Klein said every five years, according to the contract, we have to dive to our intake piping and this contract includes it. This is also needed for the design work.

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

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

ITEM #10 – Submitted by Douglas A. Keller, Water Services Superintendent

PAYMENT TO OHIO EPA FOR ANNUAL LICENSING FEE FOR PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM FOR CY 2015

Budgetary Information: Funds for this licensing fee are routinely included in the Big Island Water Works operating budget each year.

ORDINANCE NO. 14-150: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the finance director to make payment to the State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for the renewal of the license to operate a public water system for the CY 2015;** 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 Scott Schell the commission voted to approve this ordinance. Roll call on the motion: Dick Brady, Wesley Poole, Julie Farrar, Dennis Murray, Scott Schell, Jeff Smith and Naomi Twine, 7. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Dick Brady, Wesley Poole, Julie Farrar, Dennis Murray, Scott Schell, Jeff Smith and Naomi Twine, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.

ITEM #11 – Submitted by Jeff Meinert, Waste Water Treatment Plant Superintendent

PAYMENT TO STATE OF OHIO FOR ANNUAL DISCHARGE FEE FOR 2014 FOR WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Budgetary Information: Funds for this discharge fee are routinely included in the Waste Water Treatment Plant operating budget each year.

ORDINANCE NO. 14-151: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the finance director to make payment to the State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for the annual discharge fee for NPDES Permit Number 2PF00001 for the Waste Water Treatment Plant for the CY 2014;** 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: Dick Brady, Wesley Poole, Julie Farrar, Dennis Murray, Scott Schell, Jeff Smith and Naomi Twine, 7. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Dick Brady, Wesley Poole, Julie Farrar, Dennis Murray, Scott Schell, Jeff Smith and Naomi Twine, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.

ITEM #12 – Submitted by Angela Byington, AICP, Director of Neighborhood Development & Planning

CONTRACT WITH WADE TRIM ASSOCIATES, INC. FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR ANALYSIS RE FAIR HOUSING CHOICE

Budgetary Information: The proposal for services is a lump sum fee of \$13,900. This fee will be paid from Community Development Block Grant funds.

ORDINANCE NO. 14-152: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to enter into a contract with Wade Trim Associates, Inc., of Detroit, Michigan, for professional services for the completion of an analysis of impediments to fair housing choice;** 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 Wesley Poole the commission voted to approve this ordinance.

Discussion: Julie Farrar asked why this company was selected over another. Angela Byington said we received two quotes: one from Wade Trim (\$13,900), and another from Donald Eager (\$3,500). We have worked with both of these companies and the Wade Trim group completed the five-year consolidated plan; normally during this process the analysis of impediments is done as well, but this was not done and is one of the reasons we chose them. The expected turnaround is four months after the contract is let for Wade Trim, while Donald Eager provided a completion date of August, 2015. The proposal from Wade Trim requested little to no

assistance from city staff while a lot of work was put back onto city staff by Eager & Associates. Angela Byington said Wade Trim is offering to put a lot of data into the GIS mapping system which will be beneficial for the Planning and Engineering departments. Julie Farrar said it is important for the public to know why this decision was made. Angela said these normally come in around \$10,000 and the bid by Eager & Associates was a very low bid and a lot of work would have come back onto city staff. Dick Brady said he appreciates this analysis and these things are often difficult to ferret out and the value of not burdening staff with an enormous amount of work will more than make up these dollars. Angela Byington said it is not so much the burden of doing the work, but the need to expedite this as it should have been done by July 1.

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

**ITEM #13 – Submitted by John Orzech, Police Chief & Dave Degnan, Fire Chief
AGREEMENT WITH ERIE COUNTY SHERIFF FOR DISPATCHING SERVICES**

Budgetary Information: The city agrees to reimburse the Erie County Sheriff's Department for the actual cost of wages and benefits for the employment of five (5) dispatchers at a cost not to exceed \$283,152.31 for 2015; \$317,855.33 for 2016 and \$338,643.98 for 2017, for a grand total not to exceed \$939,651.62.

ORDINANCE NO. 14-153: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to enter into a three (3) year agreement with the Erie County Sheriff for the provision of public safety dispatching services for the City of Sandusky police, fire and service departments commencing on January 1, 2015, through December 31, 2017;** 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 Jeff Smith the commission voted to approve this ordinance.

Discussion: John Orzech said the dispatch services have been going very well for us and we are saving from the 2011 dispatch figures. As a comparison, we were spending \$425,000 in salaries and wages. John Orzech said this is a cost savings for employees and thanked Sheriff Sigsworth publicly for working with all of the agencies in Erie County to make this work and be a successful program. The costs have been driven down as low as possible and are distributed out so coordinating the dispatch center ensuring calls are being handled immediately by someone at the Erie County dispatch center. The Sheriff has been very gracious and has kept the costs down. This is a three year contract which normally would be year-to-year because they just settled their union contract and we wanted to lock these costs. This is the highest dollar figure we will be exposed to, and costs have been under this amount the past couple of years. The City of Huron and Perkins Township also have approved three-year contracts for these services. Dave Degnan said they provide a very good service and it is difficult to forecast salaries and agrees Sheriff Sigsworth has taken on a lot of burden for the cost and Sandusky needs to be a part of it.

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

ITEM #14 – Submitted by Kelly L. Kresser, CMC & Commission Clerk

A request has been received from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control for a new D5J Liquor Permit (*Spirituos liquor for on premises consumption only: beer, wine and mixed beverages for on premises, or off premises in original sealed containers, until 2:30 a.m. in a Community Entertainment District*) for Sandusky Bay Lodging LLC dba Hotel Bar, 221 – 223 West Water Street, Sandusky. It is requested the commission clerk notify the Ohio Division of Liquor Control the city has no objection to this request.

Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Scott Schell, the commission voted to authorize the commission clerk to notify the Ohio Division of Liquor Control the city has no objection to this request. The President declared the motion passed.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Scott Schell, the commission voted to accept a donation from the Remember Cruisin' Car Club for the K-9 Fund in the amount of \$700. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to accept a donation from Leo Brown for kids programs in the police department in the amount of \$100. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Scott Schell and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to accept a donation from the Mylander Foundation for the purchase of trees or plantings and/or structural improvements to the city parks, Oakland Cemetery or other recreational areas in the amount of \$6,925. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to accept donations from the Sandusky Community Celebrations Council, Stein Hospice, Barnes Nursery and the Sandusky Main Street Association for holiday decorations and services provided for Sandusky's downtown this holiday season. The President declared the motion passed.

Eric Wobser said his family attended the **Christmas Lighting Ceremony** the day after Thanksgiving and it was a wonderful welcome back to Sandusky and thanked the organizations and individuals who made it possible.

Eric Wobser **thanked Chief Degnan, his wife, Rene, and fire department staff for working at The Red Wagon during the Christmas Lighting Ceremony.** It was nice to build upon the rivalry with the police department from this summer.

Eric Wobser said Hank Solowiej had a great recommendation for a public service announcement as it relates to **water service at vacant or unoccupied properties.** We would like to send a message to property owners who are snowbirds or have vacant/unoccupied housing units in the city. The city highly recommends water service be turned off at properties expected to remain vacant/unoccupied for the next three to four months. There is no fee to turn the water off; there is a \$25 fee to turn it on in the spring, but the property owner would end up saving a few bucks: \$11.10 is the minimum bill for four months for a cost of \$44.40, versus having a \$25 turn-on fee in spring. We are attempting to lessen the chance property owners experience water line breaks or leaks which would cause damage to their property. The city's policy is a leak has to be undetectable and an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure and we hope people are monitoring their property. Hank Solowiej said customers can contact his department at 419.627.5893 with any questions.

Hank Solowiej said Eric Wobser is spending his first winter and Thanksgiving here and did graduate from "up North", and presented him with an **Ohio State Christmas ornament** to show the fairly friendly atmosphere in Sandusky. Eric Wobser said he has a lot of family members who will appreciate this; with toddlers constantly grabbing at the Christmas tree, they tend to lose and break ornaments, but said this is greatly appreciated.

Eric Wobser asked the commission to approve, by motion, **spending an additional \$28,790 from the Water Fund toward the Ohio Department of Transportation's Rt. 250 project to cover the water line replacement.** Aaron Klein said this is the water line project at Perkins Avenue and Rt. 250 and the original estimate was \$261,000 for this work. When the project was submitted to ODOT (because the city did not receive any bids) the estimate was reduced to \$235,000. We are required to make this payment to ODOT up front based on the estimate; bids came in around \$265,000 which was \$3,000 - \$4,000 over our original estimate. The city

needs to make this payment so ODOT can proceed timely with the project. Dennis Murray said normally this is approved by legislation and it seems odd to be amending it in this fashion. Don Icsman asked if this will exceed the budget. Aaron Klein said the previous ordinance was around \$235,000 and Engineering will be submitting legislation for commission approval through an ordinance at the next meeting. ODOT needed a final answer by last week, but he bought a few days to get to the meeting today to make sure they can award this on schedule and proceed. Donald Icsman said the commission will authorize the city to make payment, and will ratify this through legislation at the next meeting. Dick Brady said it is important to note the city attempted to bid this, but received no bids because there was so much work going on with this street and contractors did not want to get in the way of the state to put in a water line. ODOT then encompassed this into the larger project to obtain bids and roll it all into one project. The city will not have to tear this road out after ODOT puts in all new blacktop. There are a lot of patches currently in this street.

Upon motion of Dick Brady and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to provide approval to ODOT to spend an additional \$28,790 from the water fund toward the Ohio Department of Transportation's Rt. 250 project to cover the water line replacement. The President declared the motion passed.

Eric Wobser said **we were notified today by the Ohio Department of Transportation the city has been awarded \$982,345 for the 2015 Rural Transit Program.** These fund help make the Sandusky Transit System possible and with the transition in this department, we are lucky to have these funds awarded for next year.

It is requested the commission approve, by motion, the submission of a grant application to the **Erie County Community Foundation for the Recreation Department for their 2015 Community Links Internship program.** If received, these monies will be utilized to pay summer interns during 2015. The deadline to make application is December 15 and was moved ahead; legislation will be presented at the December 22 meeting to ratify the grant application. We participated in this program last calendar year, and as seasonally busy as the department becomes, a young woman who was a recent graduate was available to assist Victoria Kurt in performing her duties last year.

Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to allow the city to make application to the Erie County Community Foundation's 2015 Community Links Internship program. The President declared the motion passed.

Eric Wobser said the **Greenhouse Open House** is scheduled for Sunday, December 14 from 12 p.m. – 4 p.m. Please join the Friends of the Greenhouse at this community event. The greenhouse is a treasured entity within the community and there is no doubt good work is happening there and this is where the magic happens.

Eric Wobser said the **police department was notified of a grant award in the amount of \$12,796.19 for portable radio replacement through the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance grant program.** The commission authorized making application for this grant in May, 2014.

Eric Wobser said he has **reappointed Karen Balconi-Ghezzi to the Erie Metropolitan Housing Authority Board for a new five-year term which will expire December 8, 2019.** Karen Balconi-Ghezzi previously served in this role to fill another person's term, and Ralph Chamberlain, Executive Director of the Erie Metropolitan Housing Authority, recommended keeping her as she has been a great addition to their board.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Dennis Murray said a **public hearing needs to be set for a right-of-way vacation on January 12, 2015**. Angela Byington said this is for an alley which has no address.

Dennis Murray said **Care and Share and Dave Waddington will host a fundraiser on Saturday from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.** Care and Share assists persons who have non-living wage jobs and they appreciate canned goods and cash and work in conjunction with the Second Harvest Food Bank.

Scott Schell said last week, over sixty **students from Kent State University's School of Architecture made a presentation at the Sandusky State Theatre** and gave their interpretation of how different selected properties in downtown could be re-visioned. This was well attended and the students were willing to share their ideas. Great creativity can be generated when there is no dollar amount connected with ideas. Nonetheless, Scott Schell said he saw quite a few really inspiring ideas and thanked the architecture curriculum, including the Dean, for the encouragement given to the city. This is something well worth the time and he is very happy this was brought to the community. Dennis Murray said this information will be provided on the city's website so the public can take a look at this. We have lived with most of these things for our entire lives and the students had a very different perspective.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Dennis Murray apologized to Andre Stockett as he was cut short last week and he (Dennis) did not have the timing of his comments correct.

Dennis Murray has received a fair amount of **input about the rules for the public comment section at commission meetings**, and said he has been lax in following them. Audience Participation is for comment only, and we will not be taking questions; Dick Brady will help monitor the time. If there is an issue with the city, people can state whatever they wish, but cannot attack individual police officers, commissioners or other employees. Dennis Murray said he plans to be a little more diligent about this and welcomes people's questions by calling or emailing the commissioners, but comments are welcome.

Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street, said it looks like we are falling behind on the leaf pickup schedule. The second round is up Tuesday, but there are still a lot of leaves and she is concerned about leaves getting into the sewers before winter sets in. Sharon Johnson asked when did audience participation become a comment section and said Dennis Murray answered questions before he was elected. The street lights near the new Rieger Lofts are out and this area is dark. This has been going on for a long time and Sharon Johnson said she is concerned about the elderly people now living in this area. Dennis Murray said Aaron Klein and Eric Wobser will follow up with information about this. Sharon Johnson said you can tell the tax thing is over now as there is only a comment period.

Fred Farris, 1114 C Street, said Dennis Murray indicated people cannot speak their minds, but thinks this is a violation of Freedom of Speech in the U.S. Constitution and it does not make sense questions cannot be asked and answered and asked what the point is for audience participation. Fred Farris said this makes people look like fools and look stupid, and makes the commission look like the good guys. It is not fair to the public or the community and if someone is running for a position, they would be all happy. Fred Farris asked if the commissioners have discussed the race relation issue in Sandusky and stated this is not going to go away, it is only going to get worse and cannot be swept under the rug. It is bad for the black people, and the commissioners' act like there is nothing wrong here in Sandusky; this will end up like Ferguson, Missouri, and you cannot make up the rules as you go along. Dennis Murray said there is a problem in Sandusky and we need to work on it; Naomi Twine is working on this issue and will be speaking more about it at the next meeting.

Tonya Smith, 1107 North Depot Street, said she is going to be graduating with a degree in criminal justice and there is a lot of tension in the city right now and young people do talk about

it a lot. These are not easy fixes and Tonya Smith said the police department does a very good job and has not heard a lot of comments about not supporting the police. The students appreciate what they do on a job-to-job basis and she is not going into policing, but supports the department.

Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to adjourn at 6:30 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