

Dick Brady **called the meeting to order** at 5 p.m. after **the Invocation**, given by Scott Schell, and the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

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

Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Scott Schell, the commission voted to excuse Dennis Murray and Julie Farrar. The Vice President declared the motion passed.

City staff present: Dave Degnan – Fire Chief, Aaron Klein – Public Works Director, Matt Lasko – Chief Development Officer, Angela Byington – Director of Planning & Neighborhood Development, Brad Link – Public Services Director, Don Rumbutis – IT Manager, Don Icsman - Law Director, Hank Solowiej – Finance Director, Eric Wobser – City Manager and Kelly Kresser – Commission Clerk.

Upon motion of Wesley Poole and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2015, city commission meeting and suspend the oral reading. The Vice President declared the motion passed.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street, asked why the \$100,000 loan for a developer (Item #5) is being taken from the economic capital projects fund rather than the Revolving Loan Fund as there is \$475,000 in that particular fund. Sharon Johnson asked why this did not go to the members of the Revolving Loan Fund for approval.

PRESENTATION

Pete Schade, Commissioner for the Erie County Health Department (ECHD), offered copies of the annual report and said there is an eleven person Board of Health with five representatives from the City of Sandusky. The ECHD finished the year 2014 about \$160,000 to the good which is remarkable during these times; approximately 36% of revenues come from levy support and there will be a half mill levy on the November ballot. This means approximately \$14 per \$100,000 and a lot of amazing services are provided with these funds. Thirty five percent of the ECHD's budget is realized through grant funding and the Health Center now offers dental/oral health care. The ECHD serves approximately 100 persons per day through the primary care and dental care clinics and Pete Schade said he wonders where these people were going for care prior to it being offered. People are taking care of themselves, their quality of life is better and they do not have to be off work because of being in pain. Pete Schade said the ECHD has bio terrorism and emergency preparedness plans in place and a mass casualty plan was recently drafted and will soon be finalized. The harmful algal bloom situation is at the forefront right now and the ECHD is working with Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur to obtain additional funding for the water lab to do microsystem samples locally. There are five interns and part-time staff coming on board to take samples. Pete Schade said Doug Keller, the city's Water Services Manager, is on board and has been very helpful with this issue and a proponent of assisting the ECHD. Another community health assessment will be prepared this year and the data utilized to capture grant funding. Pete Schade said the ECHD and the Ohio Department of Health are working on a behavioral health clinic in Vermilion Township to fill the need for a detoxification facility and rehabilitation facility for Erie County. Addiction is a disease and we need to take care of our community. Dick Brady thanked Pete Schade for his hard work and the staff at the ECHD and said prior to the dental clinic offering services, people were not getting these services and probably are the ones who needed it more than any others. Dick Brady said Pete Schade has sat around the table and fought his way through political processes.

CURRENT BUSINESS

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

ITEM #1 – Submitted by Victoria Kurt, Recreation Program Supervisor**PRIORITY USE AGREEMENT FOR OHIO RAYOS SOCCER PROGRAM**

Budgetary Information: The agreement will not result in any additional budgetary expenses. The city will benefit from the added activities offered to youth in our community. The Ohio Rayos Soccer will provide their own equipment and transportation for such equipment, and will line and maintain their own field.

ORDINANCE NO. 15-060: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to enter into an agreement with Ohio Rayos Soccer for priority use of the grassy area located at Dorn Community Park beginning May 3, 2015 through October 25, 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 Jeff Smith the commission voted to approve this ordinance under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Brad Link said the Romero family utilized a portion of Dorn Community Park which is not normally used for soccer in 2010, 2014 and 2015. They line the field area, provide flags, and teach technical skills to local kids.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith & Scott Schell, 5. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith and Scott Schell, 5. The Vice President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

ITEM #2 – Submitted by Matthew D. Lasko, Chief Development Officer**APPROVAL OF TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL & COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA HOUSING COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS**

Budgetary Information: Some of the agreements require both or either annual monitoring fee payments and city compensation payments. For 2014, the city is to receive a combined \$2,800 in monitoring fee payments and a combined \$6,076.85 in city compensation payments. All funds are to be deposited into the general fund.

RESOLUTION NO. 016-15R: It is requested a resolution be passed **accepting and approving the City of Sandusky Tax Incentive Review Council's recommendations regarding current taxation agreements;** 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 Scott Schell the commission voted to approve this resolution under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Dick Brady said this is not a significant amount of money but every dollar counts. Matt Lasko said this is an annual item and the city is a full enterprise zone which means we do not need the County to enter into incentive or CRA agreements. The city currently has six enterprise zone agreements, six community reinvestment area agreements and two tax increment financing districts within our boundaries. Once each year, the Tax Incentive Review Council meets and reviews past performance of the entities receiving abatements because of improvements to their properties, increased job creation and payroll. The Tax Incentive Review Council votes whether to terminate or amend the existing agreements and the City Commission must meet within 60 days to accept, reject or modify these agreements. This year, the suggestion was to continue five of the enterprise zone agreements, to continue five of the CRA agreements and to continue the two Tax Incremental Finance agreements. The abatements for Castaway Bay and RFP Properties, 126 Columbus Avenue, burned off last year. There are also monitoring fees and compensation agreements with the City of Sandusky which do come into the city coffers and the city is in receipt of all of the monitoring fees and compensation payments. Matt Lasko thanked both Cedar Point and Ruth Parker for their investment.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith & Scott Schell, 5. Roll call on the resolution: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith

and Scott Schell, 5. The Vice President declared the resolution passed under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

ITEM #3 – Submitted by Hank S. Solowiej, Finance Director

AGREEMENT WITH DIRECT ENERGY SERVICE FOR CITY'S LARGEST ELECTRIC ACCOUNTS

Budgetary Information: There would be an estimated savings of up to 11% for these electric accounts each year. The savings each year is estimated to be greater than \$70,000. This savings is larger than the city residential and small commercial accounts aggregation program administered by AMP Ohio which provides a savings of three percent. Programs like these are available to larger users with usage greater than 700,000 kWh per year.

ORDINANCE NO. 15-061: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to enter into an agreement with Direct Energy Business, LLC, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for electric service for the city's largest accounts located in the City of Sandusky for the period of June, 2015 to June, 2018;** 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 Scott Schell the commission voted to approve this ordinance under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Wesley Poole thanked Hank Solowiej for his work on this and said this is a significant savings. Hank Solowiej said this is a three-year rate lock on six of our largest accounts and will save the city a significant amount of money. Dick Brady said this is an entirely different opportunity to save a couple hundred thousand dollars with a company asking the city to connect off of the grid and Hank Solowiej said this is basically fixing our price.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith & Scott Schell, 5. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith and Scott Schell, 5. The Vice President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

ITEM #4 – Submitted by Matt Lasko, Community Development Director

GRANT AGREEMENT WITH OMECA, INC. DBA CAMEO PIZZA

Budgetary Information: The City will be responsible for providing \$25,000 in grant proceeds from the Community Development Capital Projects Fund.

ORDINANCE NO. 15-062: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and approving a grant in the amount of \$25,000 to OMECA, Inc. (d.b.a. Cameo Pizza), in relation to the business located at 706 West Monroe Street;** 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 under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Wesley Poole said this money is being taken from the blight fund and will help the neighborhood and asked Matt Lasko to provide more details. Matt Lasko said this is the first of what he hopes are a couple of pilot projects using Issue 8 funding as they relate to economic development and elimination of blight in the city. Eric Wobser said there are two projects the city is dealing with tonight relating to Issue 8 funding and when this issue passed, commitments were made to the community. One of these commitments was that the city utilize half of the admissions tax increase toward economic development activities. The Commission and staff have made commitments to the community in asking for their support of Issue 8 and one quarter of the one quarter percent increase in the income tax is dedicated toward housing stock and blight elimination; this totals approximately \$650,000 annually. Approximately \$400,000 plus an additional \$250,000 is available for housing and blight elimination. The city has begun a process of creating a bicentennial vision for the City of Sandusky to determine long-term recommendations as to how we structure programs related to the expenditure of these funds. Eric Wobser said the city has partners looking for assistance in making their projects come to fruition and what was determined is the city would look at pilot projects for this year both in the housing and housing elimination funds as well as the economic

development fund to see how they can be deployed in the most effective way possible to eliminate blight and grow the city. Eric Wobser said he wanted to make sure these projects were vetted before being brought to the city commission. Use of these funds was not submitted to the Revolving Loan Fund Committee because this fund was set up specifically to monitor expenditures related to CDBG funds which are from the federal government and have different and specific restrictions tied to their use. Eric Wobser said we are looking at how to use these dollars most flexibly to accomplish specific goals and we did not want to start with the mindset that this funding would have the same restrictions as those tied to the use of CDBG dollars. We chose to look at a different option to ensure these were vetted. Recommendations were made by Matt Lasko and Wesley Poole and a group was put together including a banker from Civista, staff from the Erie County Economic Development Corporation, one member of the Audit/Finance Committee as well as two city commissioners, Matt Lasko and himself to evaluate potential projects. Eric Wobser said there is nothing formal with the persons involved in vetting these projects and we want to take this time as part of the strategic planning process to look at how we should formally be deploying these funds and he feels very comfortable with the community leaders who looked at these projects. Matt Lasko said this grant is for the purpose of eliminating blight and the Cameo will be celebrating its 80th anniversary in 2016 within the City of Sandusky. They are in the midst of making a major investment and are planning to undertake a major on-site expansion using approximately \$275,000; between \$200,000 and \$225,000 of this money is for a significant parking lot expansion at their facility along with the demolition of three residential structures – two of which are significantly blighted – and the installation of a 45-space parking lot on-site. This is a benefit for the community to eliminate blighted properties, as well as from an economic development perspective. For anyone who has been to the Cameo, parking on Monroe Street is very difficult and is made even more difficult on the North side in the wintertime when snow is piled up as there is not the benefit of sidewalks. At the same time, there is an event space on the second floor of the Cameo and when an event is taking place, the bar and restaurant are empty because the lack of on-site parking gives the perception of being full when it is really not. What is being proposed is a \$25,000 grant for the demolition and asbestos elimination for 805 and 807 Fulton Street; this is a 90-day grant deployment to ensure the demolitions are done quickly and the properties taken down. The grant funding would be dispensed within 14 days once the properties have been demolished to city standards. Eric Wobser said this is for use of blight elimination funds as opposed to economic development funds and as we deploy these funds, we want to make sure we allow use of them as they lead to economic development. The city has taken down blighted properties without an end use in mind, but this particular instance gives us an opportunity to assist in demolishing blighted properties and at the same time allow one of the most iconic businesses in the City of Sandusky take on additional property and put it back into use. Eric Wobser said the Cameo is getting ready to celebrate its 80th anniversary of doing business in the city. The Cameo is an anchor for the community and this neighborhood and they are a very important part of Sandusky's history. The Cameo is a neighborhood institution with blighted property around it and it is good timing to use these dollars upon their 80th birthday. Dick Brady said this is a two-for-one deal allowing the city to partner in a very small way with an iconic business and also eliminate blight. So many times with our land bank system we tear down buildings without an end use for the property and here we are tearing two buildings down and leveraging the area for parking spaces for a business which has been in Sandusky for 80 years. Dick Brady said with the dollars we are investing in this, it is merely ten percent of what the owners are going to invest and anytime we can leverage these types of dollars, we should. Matt Keech thanked Eric Wobser, Matt Lasko and the City Commission for listening to what they are trying to accomplish. There have been moments in the past few years he was not sure if he wanted to stay and invest in this area because of the drugs and robberies but reinvesting in the community is more about the people and the city; the customers who come to the Cameo are wonderful and they are blessed to have them. Matt Keech said he is excited to be able to wake up, is excited and proud to be able to invest in Sandusky and excited about the leadership he is seeing.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith & Scott Schell, 5. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith

and Scott Schell, 5. The Vice President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

ITEM #5 – Submitted by Matt Lasko, Community Development Director

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL PROJECTS LOAN

Budgetary Information: The City will be responsible for providing \$100,000 in loan proceeds from the Economic Development Capital Projects Fund.

ORDINANCE NO. 15-063: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and approving a loan agreement in the amount of \$100,000 to Sandusky 101 Water, LLC, in relation to the property located at 101 East Water Street;** and declaring 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 under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Matt Lasko said this is the first time we are using Issue 8 funds and we are developing new templates and agreements and said this was done rather quickly. Matt Lasko thanked Hank Solowiej and Don Icsman for their assistance. Matt Lasko said a \$100,000 loan agreement is being proposed for Rick Semersky of VIP Restoration and the owner of Sterle's Country House, both in Cleveland. Rick Semersky is also the current owner of two properties in downtown Sandusky (109 and 125 East Water Street), is under contract to purchase the former Water Street Bar & Grille property and will be closing in the next couple of days on 101 East Water Street. Matt Lasko said this is a two-phased project the first of which is the immediate reopening of the former Water Street Bar & Grille which will open in May or June. This space will immediately be marketed in the now-vacant 125 East Water Street. Ultimately, Phase II is for the upper spaces at 101 and 125 East Water Street to be developed as rental or condominium projects. There will be a brewing facility on the vacant lot and this space will be reactivated this year, people will be employed and the business will be up and running. The structure of the loan is a two-year agreement at 3½ percent interest; during the term of the loan it will be interest only and the loan would be due within two years for the city to reclaim it and recirculate it. The city will collateralize with this loan through a second mortgage on the Water Street Bar & Grille property and will also have a second mortgage on the vacant lot at 125 East Water Street. Eric Wobser said he is very excited about this project and the investment being made. Rick Semersky thanked Eric Wobser and Matt Lasko for all of their hard work and said he worked with Eric in the City of Cleveland and was asked to come to Sandusky six or seven months ago and take a look at some of the properties for development purposes. The two properties on Water Street caught his eye immediately; unfortunately, one of them fell down very soon after and he is probably the only person who has closed on two properties in the City of Sandusky in the same day one of them was being knocked to the ground. Rick Semersky thanked Eric Wobser and others at the city who helped to secure demolition of the property which was a danger to the people of Sandusky and wants to make sure it came down prior to the closing. These demolition costs have been fully reimbursed to the city. Rick Semersky said tonight he is here for consideration of a \$100,000 loan to help him secure the Water Street Bar & Grille business which closed its doors in December without any anticipation of reopening. Although not part of his original redevelopment plan, Rick Semersky said the owners came to him and said it made a lot of sense to secure this corner and make a larger development. The renderings for East Water Street and Shoreline Drive show the reopening of the Water Street Bar and Grille to "The Boy With the Leaking Boot" which he hopes to have open by Memorial Day or mid-June. There will be aesthetic changes to the interior and exterior of the building in Phase I; Phase II will include working with Ferndock Brewing Company to bring the first brewing company back to Sandusky since prohibition. Rick Semersky said he and his partners have relationships with people in Cleveland and are excited about opening up a brick and mortar Ferndock Brewing Company before the end of 2017. The first floor will be converted into residential and the two upper floors of the Water Street building will be put on the market for residential use, while two floors of 125 East Water Street property will be for his family's use when they are spending time in Sandusky. Wesley Poole thanked Rick Semersky for his faith in our community. Scott Schell thanked Rick Semersky for coming to Sandusky and investing and said this project is beyond exciting for all who have

looked at these buildings hoping they could be brought to this level of development. Dick Brady said this is a great opportunity for our city and this sends a very clear message to the business community and other investors that Sandusky is open for business. This does not mean the city is going to turn into a bank or bankroll people for profit; it does mean when we do have the funds - as we do now - we will provide bridge money to get people to the point where they can invest significant dollars. Both Rick Semersky and The Cameo are stepping up to the plate and will be leveraging ten-to-one or fifteen-to-one of the dollars which the city is giving them. This is an enormous win for our city through job creation, construction through an increase of our tax base and he thanked our team for helping to put this together. Rick Semersky said from a development standpoint, this is exactly what they are looking for and is happy to do his part.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith & Scott Schell, 5. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith and Scott Schell, 5. The Vice President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

ITEM #6 – Submitted by Matt Lasko, Community Development Director

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION FOR THIS ITEM WILL BE DISTRIBUTED ON 4.27.15

ASSIGNMENT OF INTEREST IN LICENSE WITH 101 WATER STREET LLC AND SANDUSKY 101 WATER LLC

Budgetary Information: There are no budgetary impacts resulting from this legislation.

ORDINANCE NO. 15-064: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing the city manager to enter into an assignment of interest in license with 101 Water Street LLC and Sandusky 101 Water LLC to provide for the use of a certain portion of the city's rights-of-way in relation to the property located at 101 East Water Street, a copy of which is attached to this ordinance, marked Exhibit "A", and incorporated herein;** 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 under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Wesley Poole said we should support this and it is simply an extension of what was already in existence with the former owners of this property. Aaron Klein said the ideas presented in the rendering are exciting and he has no problem with this. Eric Wobser thanked Aaron Klein for his role early on in this process with the demolition and said he worked very closely with Rick Semersky and the demolition companies to condemn this building which had partially collapsed. The removal of this building was an important foundational piece to make all of the rest of this possible.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith & Scott Schell, 5. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith and Scott Schell, 5. The Vice President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

ITEM #7 – Submitted by Kelly Kresser, City Commission Clerk

NEW COMMUNITY ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT LIQUOR PERMIT FOR DAMON'S RESTAURANT

A request has been received from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control for a new D5J Permit (*Spirituuous 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 Damon's Restaurant Group Sandusky LLC, 701 East Water Street. It is requested the Commission Clerk be authorized to notify the Ohio Division of Liquor Control the city has no objection to this request.

Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Wesley Poole, the commission voted for 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: Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith and Scott Schell, 5. The Vice President declared the motion passed.

ITEM #8 – Submitted by Kelly Kresser, City Commission Clerk**NEW LIQUOR PERMIT FOR DEMORE FISH LLC DBA DEMORE'S SHORESIDE CAFE**

A request has been received from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control for a new D5F 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., Marina restaurant only*) for Demore Fish LLC dba Demore's Shoreside Café, 101 Shelby Street). It is requested the Commission Clerk be authorized to notify the Ohio Division of Liquor Control the city has no objection to this request.

Upon motion of Wesley Poole and second of Scott Schell, the commission voted for the City Commission Clerk to notify the Ohio Division of Liquor Control the city has no objection to this request. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wesley Poole, Dick Brady, Jeff Smith and Scott Schell, 5. The Vice President declared the motion passed.

Dick Brady said the city now has **three great vendors lined up in a row downtown: Demore's at the boat launch facility, Ron Hile at Shoreline Park and the Avallone's at the Paper District Marina.** We are in great shape for lunch and perhaps even dinner downtown.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Eric Wobser thanked his fellow charter officers, including Kelly Kresser, Hank Solowiej and Don Icsman, who provided a great collaboration for Items #4 - #6; Eric Wobser also thanked Matt Lasko for doing a great amount of work and making these public/private partnerships possible.

Eric Wobser said **the city is currently hiring for the positions of: Chief Foreman to head our Property Maintenance and Horticultural Services Departments; Code Compliance Officer for the Department of Community Development to extend better enforcement across the areas of housing codes, nuisance issues and zoning violations; Assistant City Engineer; an entry level position at Big Island Water Works; and Superintendent for the Big Island Water Works plant to replace Doug Keller who will be retiring this year.**

Eric Wobser said **the following projects are underway within the City of Sandusky:** Water Street – mobilization and road closure, Stage 1 begins April 27; Warren Street – mobilization and road closure begins April 27; the Curran Street paving is to be completed week of April 27; the U.S. 250 corridor and Perkins/Milan intersection project is currently being worked on at night per ODOT; the TTHM and Algal issues project — city is working with the Ohio EPA and state legislators in May.

Eric Wobser said the **Civil Service testing process (written) is up and running through the National Testing Network.** The links are on the city website with recruitment video and can also be found at: www.nationaltestingnetwork.com.

Eric Wobser said **Cultural Competency training** was made available for Police Department personnel on April 14 and April 17. The training was provided by the Toledo Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle Club, Inc. and thanked Naomi Twine, the Police Department liaison, for attending the training. Naomi Twine said this was a very good training and thanked John Orzech and Phil Frost for putting this together and said it was very well attended by our staff.

Eric Wobser said the city continues to meet internally and with City Architecture and Strategy Design Partners on the planning process for the city's **Bicentennial Visioning.** Work includes data collection and research, creating the Executive and Steering Committees, establishing dates and locations for public meetings and delineating the desired and expected deliverables. The first Executive Committee meeting was held on April 20 and the first Steering Committee meeting was held on April 23 at Small City Tap House.

Eric Wobser said **the city will have a bid out soon for asbestos and demolition of five residential properties using CDBG funding.**

Eric Wobser said the **city will soon begin grading and seeding of the gravel city lot between the Chesapeake Lofts and the Jackson Street Pier.**

Eric Wobser said both SPARC and demand responsive ridership were up in the fourth quarter of 2014 despite the rough weather this winter. **The Sandusky Transit System (STS) is experiencing a strong demand for service** and staff is working hard to ensure we are ready for the summer. Financially, the STS is \$30,000 above where it should be for the year and minor adjustments are being made to get us back where we need to be; the STS should be back on track by the end of the second quarter in 2015.

Eric Wobser said the **public restrooms in our parks and other public areas** are being serviced and cleaned for the summer season and should all be operational by May 1.

Eric Wobser said **city crews are diligently filling potholes** and are now using hot mix asphalt instead of the winter cold patch. Hot mix will hold better and longer as we fight the potholes of 2015. Potholes can be reported by telephone at 419.627.5884 or via the city's homepage: www.ci.sandusky.oh.us.

Eric Wobser said the city will hold a **public auction on May 2 at the City Service Center** on Cement Avenue.

Eric Wobser said **limbs are down all over town due to the recent wind storm.** Persons with emergencies and/or hangers may call our Public Service Office at 419.627.5884.

Eric Wobser said **Davion Caston of Sandusky recently won the 2015 NAIA National Championship for wrestling** at 133 lbs. and will be honored in the coming weeks for his accomplishments with road signs that will be placed on streets entering the city (Hayes Avenue, Milan/250 and Cleveland Road).

Eric Wobser said a **Little Library will be installed at Lions Park** next to the sidewalk accessing the splash pad. Eric Worked thanked members of the Sandusky Lions Club for helping with placement of the Little Library and thanked the Sandusky Library for the book stand.

Eric Wobser **recognized State Representative Steve Kraus** who is in the audience tonight for the City Commission meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

John Hartman, 533 East Perkins Avenue, said he is speaking on behalf of the Sandusky Crime Prevention Council which was established a few years ago. John Hartman said they are looking for new members and anyone who might be interested in joining the Council can contact him at 330.221.3090 or via email: Sanduskyriseandshine@yahoo.com The Sandusky Crime Prevention Council meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 4 p.m.

Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street, asked the status of the former Wisteria Hill property on Campbell Street. Matt Lasko said the last he heard, there was a contractor who walked away from the private property owner and they are now involved in a lawsuit.

Mark Norman, 1016 Third Street, said solar panels will be installed at his home and he will be sharing what they hope to accomplish with this. There is a federal grant providing one third of

the funding and ECO-Link loans are available through the State of Ohio for up to \$50,000 for projects in privately-owned homes for energy efficiency.

Albert Dantzler, 2042 Rhode Street, said he has been trying to get a tree cut down for the last three or four years but has never heard from anyone. Dick Brady asked Mr. Dantzler to leave his telephone number and said he will not have to come back to another meeting with the same complaint. This does not mean the city will cut the tree down, but the city will provide a response.

Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Wesley Poole, the commission voted to adjourn at 6:05 p.m. The Vice President announced the motion passed.

Kelly L. Kresser, CMC
Clerk of the City Commission

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