

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

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

**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 Naomi Twine and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2015, city commission meeting and suspend the oral reading. The President declared the motion passed.**

#### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street, said the wayfinding signs were removed from the CDBG budget and the money has been redistributed for Lions Park and another project. The Victory Kitchen project calls for \$25,000 of CDBG money for the installation of showers but vendors were not listed for three or four of the in-kind services and there was no disclosure at the public meeting the city manager and one of the city commissioners are serving on a committee to make this project happen. There was no budget and a need was not shown; there was no business plan nor was anything put in writing as to how the clients would be protected from sexual predators. Sharon Johnson said she is concerned about the sewer and water usage and asked if the city is dedicating any in-kind services.

#### **PRESENTATION**

Dennis Murray said the city is extremely fortunate to have a young gentleman here tonight who has made extraordinary accomplishments and worked extremely hard to achieve a national championship and is happy he calls Sandusky his home. Eric Wobser said **Davion Caston, is a graduate of Sandusky High School and is an NIAI Champion for Campbellsville University**. Eric Wobser said he is very proud of Davion Caston and said Coach Robert Sartor reached out to the city about erecting signage as motorists enter our corporate limits recognizing his accomplishment. Coach Robert Sartor said he is the head wrestling coach and the defensive coordinator for the SHS football team. The kids who are coached are asked every day who they want to be and how they are going to contribute in the future because life is a lot longer after graduation. Robert Sartor said Davion is a success, a role model and a kid people would want to call their own. The way he has represented the school and the city makes him proud and there will be a coaching job available to him after graduation if he wants it.

#### **PROCLAMATION**

Naomi Twine read a **Proclamation on behalf of the Sandusky Police Department regarding their participation in the National Click It or Ticket Mobilization Weeks** taking place May 18 – 31, 2015.

#### **CURRENT BUSINESS**

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

#### **ITEM #1 – Submitted by Angela Byington, Director of Neighborhood Development & Planning PROGRAM YEAR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ONE-YEAR ACTION PLAN**

**Budgetary Information:** There is no impact on the city's general fund. All projects in the program will be paid for with CDBG funds.

**ORDINANCE NO. 15-065:** It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the City Manager to accept an entitlement grant in the amount of \$697,761 total Community Development Block Grant funds for the program year of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, and to submit to the United States Department of Housing & Urban Development a Program**

**Year 2015 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 Julie Farrar the commission voted to approve this ordinance under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

*Discussion:* Naomi Twine thanked Angela Byington, Eric Wobser and other staff members for working together with local social service agencies to ensure CDBG funds are properly distributed and utilized in the community. Reference was made to a commissioner who assisted on the committee for Victory Kitchen improvements and said she assisted through a Leadership Erie County project and worked with a team to put this information together and present it. These are federal funds and Victory Kitchen provides a great service to the community and the showers will be a great asset to what they already provide. Naomi Twine said she will abstain from voting on this legislation. Dennis Murray said he does not think this is necessary and thanked Naomi Twine for her leadership. Dennis Murray said Victory Kitchen is a private entity and we can ask for information, but they are not required to provide us with all of the information requested. This is a great initiative and there is a great need as this is a way to provide members of our community with some personal dignity. This is an opportunity to assist them with employment and a positive outlook for their future. The city has been assured, without specifics, they will continue as they have for many years to successfully manage their affairs and have what they need to support this in their budget. Dick Brady said he had an opportunity to hear a presentation by Janotta & Herner who prepared the building documents, at no charge. One of the reasons for this is the people who utilize these facilities are looking for entry-level jobs and do not have the benefit of taking a shower and getting cleaned up before going for a job interview; Victory Kitchen plays a vital role in our community and we would be much poorer without them. Naomi Twine said a lot of these persons are homeless and have children and need some type of facility. Wesley Poole said the positive things about this project speak to themselves and not to focus on all of the things that could possibly go wrong as there is no way of telling whether anyone in this room will be able to pay their water bill six months from now. There will be plans in place for the security issues and notwithstanding the possibility of all of the things that could go wrong, it is not enough to justify not going along with this project. Dennis Murray said this is part of a much larger plan for spending these funds and it has been thoughtfully considered. He appreciates the public input received and the reactions made based on that input.

**Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Wesley Poole, Scott Schell, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar and Jeff Smith, 6. Abstain: Naomi Twine, 1. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Wesley Poole, Scott Schell, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar and Jeff Smith, 6. Abstain: Naomi Twine, 1. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

**ITEM #2 – Submitted by Dave Degnan, Fire Chief**

**PURCHASE OF AMBULANCE FROM HORTON EMERGENCY VEHICLES**

**Budgetary Information:** The total amount for the 2016 medium duty freightliner ambulance purchase is \$215,352.29 of which \$213,562.29 is with state term pricing and \$1,790 is the cost for the necessary patient care options without state term pricing. This purchase will be paid with monies from the EMS fund.

**ORDINANCE NO. 15-066:** It is requested an ordinance be passed **declaring a 2000 International medium duty ambulance, VIN #1HTSLAAM31H330227, as unnecessary and unfit for city use pursuant to Section 25 of the City Charter; authorizing and directing the City Manager to purchase one 2016 medium duty freightliner ambulance through the State of Ohio Cooperative Purchasing program and the necessary patient care equipment option from Horton Emergency Vehicles Company of Grove City, Ohio; 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 Naomi Twine the commission voted to approve this ordinance under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

*Discussion:* Scott Schell said the purchase of this ambulance will create a shuffling of vehicles and the removal of one which has 15 years of service. Dave Degnan said this is a normal purchase for the department and a new ambulance is purchased approximately every four years based upon the amount of calls received. The ambulance being replaced is near its useful life but the city can still get some money for it on [www.Govdeals.com](http://www.Govdeals.com); updating the electrical systems alone would not be worth the time and effort. Dick Brady asked how much money is left in the EMS fund and Dave Degnan said it is at approximately \$1.9 million; Hank Solowiej said we are looking at one option to finance purchases so as not to deplete this fund. Dennis Murray asked for an update with this fund, projected expenditures, etc. at a future meeting.

**Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Wesley Poole, Scott Schell, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine and Jeff Smith, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Wesley Poole, Scott Schell, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine and Jeff Smith, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

**ITEM #3 – Submitted by Dave Degnan, Fire Chief**

**PURCHASE OF TWO LIFEPAK-15 HEART MONITORS**

**Budgetary Information:** The total amount for this purchase is \$65,202 with a discount of \$13,448.40 through the State of Ohio Purchasing program #800252 and trade-in value for two LifePak-12's of \$10,000 with a grand total of \$41,753.60. This purchase will be paid with monies from the EMS fund.

**ORDINANCE NO. 15-067:** It is requested an ordinance be passed **declaring two Lifepak-12 heart monitors, Serial #38155531 and #36205334 as unnecessary and unfit for city use pursuant to Section 25 of the city charter; authorizing and directing the City Manager to purchase two Lifepak-15 heart monitors from Physio Control of Redmond, Washington, through the State of Ohio Cooperative Purchasing program; 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 under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

*Discussion:* Scott Schell said this equipment has reached the end of its useful life and we will have problems getting replacement parts and can now fully equip ambulances with up to date equipment. Dave Degnan said these cardiac monitors are a vital piece of equipment and their normal useful life is eight years and the price includes software updates. The replacement parts will not be stocked within the next two years and there are no guarantees they will be available. We are trading in the old ones which lowers the price to about \$20,000 each. These will hopefully last another eight to ten years.

**Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Wesley Poole, Scott Schell, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine and Jeff Smith, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Wesley Poole, Scott Schell, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine and Jeff Smith, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

**ITEM #4 – Submitted by Brad Link, Director of Public Services**

**INCREASE IN FEES FOR OAKLAND CEMETERY & MEMORIAL PARK**

**Budgetary Information:** The funds will be allocated as follows: 75% to the General fund and 25% to the Cemetery Endowment fund.

**ORDINANCE NO. 15-068:** It is requested an ordinance be passed **approving the new fee schedule as recommended by the Cemetery Board to the Oakland Cemetery & Memorial Park Rules and Regulations; 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 under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

*Discussion:* Brad Link said there has not been an increase in fees at Oakland Cemetery since 2004 other than an interment and entombment increase in 2008. The ten percent increase amounts to a one percent increase each year for the past ten years. Dennis Murray said he gathers this has been talked about for some time by the members of the Oakland Cemetery Board and Brad Link said he understands they have been talking about it for a couple of months. The members were all onboard with the increase and the city is eleventh in line with costs out of thirteen area cemeteries. Scott Schell said he is the commission liaison to the board and they did speak about this at two quarterly meetings and Dan Hedberg supplied the members with an extensive list of prices for other cemeteries in the area. We are offering good value and the board came to a unanimous conclusion to make this recommendation.

**Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Wesley Poole, Scott Schell, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine and Jeff Smith, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Wesley Poole, Scott Schell, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine and Jeff Smith, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

**ITEM #5 – Submitted by Brad Link, Director of Public Services**

**PURCHASE OF 2015 FORD TRANSIT CARGO VAN FOR TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT**

**Budgetary Information:** The funds for this purchase were budgeted for and are available. \$4,592.77 (20%) will be paid by the water fund, \$4,592.77 (20%) will be paid for by the sewer fund and the remaining \$13,778.30 (60%) will be paid from the capital projects fund. Funding for this purchase was made possible through Issue 8.

**ORDINANCE NO. 15-069:** It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the City Manager to purchase one 2015 Ford transit cargo van from Middletown Ford of Middletown, Ohio, through the State of Ohio Department of Administrative Services cooperative purchasing program for the Traffic Department;** 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 under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

*Discussion:* Dick Brady said it is important to note this purchase is one of the many things made possible through Issue 8 money and we are very appreciative of this. The van being replaced has over 160,000 miles.

**Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Wesley Poole, Scott Schell, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine and Jeff Smith, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Wesley Poole, Scott Schell, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Julie Farrar, Naomi Twine and Jeff Smith, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

**ITEM #6 – Submitted by Matthew Lasko, Chief Development Officer**

**ASSIGNMENT AGREEMENT WITH MARK OWEN ENTERPRISES, INC. DBA SAN BAY**

**Budgetary Information:** The city will be responsible for incurring approximately \$70,000 in expenses to be paid from the Community Development Capital Projects fund.

**ORDINANCE NO. 15-070:** It is requested an ordinance be passed **approving an assignment from Mark Owen Enterprises, Inc. of an agreement for purchase of 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 under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

*Discussion:* Dick Brady asked Matt Lasko to provide information about this item. Matt Lasko said this transaction is for SanBay, a longstanding tenant in the downtown, which was purchased in 2011 by Gergely's Maintenance King of Lorain. Gergely's currently are leasing space and have a retail presence in one building and a storage presence in the other. They are

coming to the end of their lease and wanted to relocate as this is a very large space for their needs and there are some capital improvements needed at the facility. When the city became aware of this, we worked internally and with the Erie County Economic Development Corporation to be able to find space for San Bay to remain in the city on Cleveland Road. SanBay was able to retain nine employees and are investing \$300,000 - \$350,000 into this project. The city was aware this would create a potentially long vacancy on a very prominent street in downtown Sandusky and there is fear about an out-of-state owner with a vacant building. This runs the risk of being sold to the very first person who has the cash available to purchase the building, but without the means of stabilizing and rehabilitating it. Once the city became aware, site control became paramount for the city. The vehicle to assure site control was for Mike Gergely to sign a purchase agreement with the out-of-state trust for \$55,000; the commission is considering an assignment and assumption agreement which allows the city to assume the purchase agreement on his behalf for a very large site downtown. There are two buildings and three parcels (includes loading docks and parking lots). It is being proposed these be paid for with Issue 8 monies with the ultimate goal for the city to provide immediate stabilization and marketing for development purposes. It is a very unique space, but critical for the downtown. Julie Farrar applauded the staff for this and said it is great for the city to start controlling its own destiny. Sandusky is on its way up and the downtown will continue to build up even more. Dick Brady said the big piece of this puzzle is retention of nine jobs. We have done this through the cooperation of Matt Lasko and the ECEDC; this is a win for this relationship. The reality is being in control of this space downtown is important to this community and if we allow someone to come in and flip the property, we do not know what the end use will be. Dennis Murray said this is really smart work and is government working at its best. This is what he believes the public wanted a portion of Issue 8 dollars to be used for - as a springboard for further development and retention of an existing company. Those who live near the neighborhood of the former A-1 Rental business are happy to see this business be active once again. Dennis Murray said he was hopeful this was the kind of work which Matt Lasko could perform given his track record and he has delivered.

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

**A request has been received from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control for a D5 (*sspirituous 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.*) and D6 (*sale of intoxicating liquor on Sunday between the hours 10 a.m. or 11 a.m. and midnight*) liquor permit transfer from Nancy M. Sharpe dba East Side Café, 1319 First Street to Evenbreaks LLC dba Evenbreaks Billiards and Food, 1319 Tiffin Avenue. It is requested the Commission Clerk be authorized to notify the Ohio Division of Liquor Control the city has no objection to this request.**

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

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$400 from Platinum Restoration Contractors, Inc., for the Fire Department's Open House/5K race on August 29, 2015. The President declared the motion passed.

**Upon motion of Scott Schell and second of Wesley Poole, the commission voted to accept an anonymous donation in the amount of \$20 for the Fire Department. The President declared the motion passed.**

**Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$50 from Firelands Regional Medical Center School of Nursing for the Fire Department.**

**Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$807.50 from the Friends of the Greenhouse to aid in the purchase of a pressure washer at the Greenhouse (\$1,650 total). Through the Friends of the Greenhouse 501-C-3, and fundraising efforts, this entire purchase will be made with no effect to the budget. The President declared the motion passed.**

**Upon motion of Scott Schell and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to accept a donation of 55 fishing poles from Luther Stacey of Castalia to our Recreation Program for kids fishing events. The President declared the motion passed.**

Eric Wobser said the **city is currently hiring and/or interviewing for the following positions: Assistant Planner (Kasey Sparks has been offered the position), Information Technology Manager, Assistant City Engineer, one entry level and one superintendent position at BIWW and one entry level position at the WWTP.**

Eric Wobser said a meeting was held on May 1 with Senator Gardner, representatives from the Ohio EPA and staff from CT Consultants and the City of Sandusky to discuss the **water quality study for disinfection byproducts and algae toxins**. On April 30, Erie County, the City of Sandusky and local stakeholders attended a work session to discuss emergency response plans in regards to detecting algae toxins in our water. On May 6, staff from the Ohio EPA visited the WWTP train employees on how to run algae toxin testing on site. Dennis Murray said the City of Sandusky is way ahead of others and there are some very intelligent persons leading this effort including Aaron Klein and Doug Keller.

Eric Wobser said the **timing of the lights at Perkins Avenue and U.S. Route 250 have been adjusted** to improve traffic patterns and thanked the staff members who worked closely with officials from ODOT and Cedar Point to make this happen.

Eric Wobser said the **Curran Street paving project** started on May 7, 2015 and issues will be corrected on this paving.

Eric Wobser said **Eva Olcott has been selected as the Administrative Assistant for the Police Department** and will begin working for the department on May 28. John Orzech said there were 65 applicants for the position and several very good candidates were interviewed. Eric Wobser said there is a great deal of interest in working for the city and the momentum being created and the collaboration is making people excited about the direction the city is heading. Dennis Murray said the community has said it believes in itself.

Eric Wobser said the next **Coffee With A Cop** will take place on May 15 from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. at The Lunch Box.

Eric Wobser said the **body cameras have arrived for the Sandusky Police Department** and the setup date for the server is May 19 – 20 after which time we will go live. Eric Wobser thanked the Sandusky-Erie County Community Foundation for their donation toward these cameras.

Eric Wobser said the next meeting for the **Bicentennial Visioning process** is scheduled for May 28 with the Sandusky Rotary Club as the kickoff to our public engagement process. Several public meetings are being scheduled for residents to provide perspectives including a boat tour on the Goodtime, a downtown event and meetings in different neighborhoods and areas of the city.

Eric Wobser said the **land bank policy and procedures** were recently updated and adopted unanimously by the Land Bank Committee. Among the most notable changes were documentation to be submitted to the city from interested buyers of property who will now be required to show detailed information, commitments and plans on how to fund the rehabilitation of the property once occupied. A more extensively detailed decision-making process was also adopted for times when there may be more than one interested party in a property. The committee will be made up of one commission representative, city manager or his designee, the community development director or his designee, a representative of the police department and the law director or his designee. Eric Wobser said Julie Farrar sits on this committee currently; Julie Farrar said if anyone has questions about the land bank program to direct them to Matt Lasko.

Eric Wobser said **Angela Kostopoulos will join the Code Enforcement Division** after prior stints with the Department of Public Works and the Sandusky Police Department. She will begin her new position May 21, 2015. Matt Lasko is excited to add this position with an internal candidate and is looking forward to working with her.

Eric Wobser said it is that time of year again when **high grass and weeds will become a nuisance** at select properties. Residents are encouraged to contact the Division of Code Enforcement at 419.627.5913 to report properties with high grass and weeds in excess of eight inches in height.

Eric Wobser said the **Sandusky Transit System and our partners at Clean Zone Marketing recently installed a full bus wrap** on Bus 9901. Bus 9901 is one of our three 40' buses acquired from Cincinnati last year. Parschauer Eye Clinic signed a 2-year agreement for the bus wrap and will be used exclusively on our SPARC 2 route. This agreement will bring in an additional \$17,000 over the next two years.

Eric Wobser thanked Tim Schwanger for his volunteerism to paint the building at the Sandusky Bay Pavilion building and said in preparation for the **KidsFest event, it has been discovered there are several hazardous conditions at the Sandusky Bay Pavilion property** and it has been heavily vandalized. There is a lot of maintenance and upkeep at this property, but there are concerns about its condition, recent vandalism and the fence around the area which formerly was a swimming pool. There are shrubs which make visibility an issue for those near the former pool. Eric Wobser said Brad Link has made some recommendations to make this area safer and more secure and would like to ask the commission for direction. The city applied for a grant through ODNR's Access for Planning for both this property and adjacent property to create a Master Plan as this is both a health and safety issue. Police officers regularly check this property due to these challenges and staff in the Public Services Department is spending a lot of time and energy fixing these problems. Eric Wobser asked for feedback from the commissioners about securing the property in the short-term. Dennis Murray said it seems we are chasing our tail with this property; we are maintaining the restrooms for a couple of events each year but are spending more in repairs, time and materials than the cost to rent port-a-potties for these events. Dennis Murray said he would like to see cost options to demolish part, or all, of the building and said the property will be reused as something other than a pool and does not see the point in demolishing it but would like to see the numbers. Eric Wobser said at the very least, Brad Link is recommending to fill in the deep end of the pool by the use of fill or soil as the 14' drop is a serious issue. There are some hedges which would need to be removed as well as some minor demolition and one step up would be looking at the two existing locker and restroom/shower facilities to determine if they could be cleared out to increase visibility. We cannot also look at the cost of removing the pool facility and demolishing existing structures that cannot be reused. The first option is to make the most minor repairs necessary while doing long-term planning; a secondary option is to do slightly more physical demolition including the two structures which front Water and Meigs Street; a third option is to remediate by removing the pool structure itself and potentially all or large portions of the existing buildings. Staff can begin looking at numbers for these items and bring them back for the commission to consider.

**Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Scott Schell the commission voted to authorize the City Manager to get these costs together for the commission to make a decision at a later date.**

*Discussion:* Wesley Poole said the city went through a lot of options and does not want to spend money to do things we might have to remove later. The city will eventually tear down the existing buildings; filling in a portion of the pool with dirt to remove later does not make sense. Wesley Poole said the fence around the pool is plastic and wind will blow it down and he does not understand the issue about vandalism. The restrooms are locked so he does not know what damage they could have. Essentially, the city should get prices but not spend money on unnecessary items and to be diligent about making decisions. Naomi Twine said we need to get some numbers on different options and every year just before KidsFest we have this conversation and he would like to see some long-term plans made to wrap this up. Scott Schell said he agrees with this proposal and said long-term, we have to get a hard number for what it will take to remove the pool building and the mounds and plant trees to shelter persons from the winds for a pool which should not have been here in the first place. Scott Schell said it is imperative the city take steps in the short-term as quickly as possible to open the site lines of the park. This is the biggest issue and he agrees that filling in the deep end of the former pool with fill to only remove it again in one year seems counter-productive but it only takes one person to be badly injured for a disaster.

**The President declared the motion passed.**

Eric Wobser said **Great Lakes Grinders is now open on the weekends at Shoreline Park.**

Eric Wobser said the **Paper District Marina** will open on May 15.

Eric Wobser said the 11<sup>th</sup> annual **Wightman-Wieber Kidsfest Safety Celebration** will take place on May 16 at the Sandusky Bay Pavilion from 12 p.m. – 5 p.m.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Dennis Murray asked those in attendance to recognize and honor **Dr. Anthony Linz** in a moment of silence. Dr. Linz died recently and was a charter member of the ADA Advisory Board (since July, 2001).

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Dick Brady said the City Commission appropriated dollars to replace the **traffic light at Parish Street and Columbus Avenue** last year; unfortunately, this is not a “shelf” item. The structure it takes to put the traffic system together has an approximate six-month lead time and the city hopes to have it replaced late this year or early next year. This will be unacceptable to some citizens but he suggested pursuing a solar-driven illumination for the stop signs at both East and West Parish Street until the light can be replaced. There was an injury accident at this intersection last weekend and the city has a responsibility to expend money to abate this situation and does not see this as spending good money good to after bad. This is a portable system that could be moved to another location and this is a prudent solution to make.

#### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

John Hartman, 533 East Perkins Avenue, thanked Dora Grant from the Center for Cultural Awareness for putting on a two-day violence prevention workshop at Sawmill Creek. John Hartman said the city is looking for volunteers to serve on the Sandusky Crime Prevention Council and to contact him if interested in serving. The third annual drug summit will take place in October and persons interested in sponsoring this event can also contact him.

Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street, asked if the city is doing any in-kind work for Victory Kitchen and Dennis Murray said they are not. Sharon Johnson asked if the city is expected to inspect the vacant commercial properties in the city so we do not have another collapsed roof. Dave Degnan said initially, fire department staff inspects these buildings and document their condition. If there is a safety concern, contact is made by the responsible person to inspect.

There is nothing written for random safety inspections. Sharon Johnson said she asked for an inspection of one of the downtown commercial storefronts and there has not been one done for years. Sharon Johnson asked what kind of shape the San Bay buildings are in. Matt Lasko said some capital improvements are necessary and there will be a 60-day due diligence period for the city to inspect for environmental issues or capital needs and we will have a right to back out of the purchase agreement; the current tenant will also have the ability to back out of his purchase agreement for the buildings. The city will be able to properly understand the liabilities it is assuming; if they are too great we can back out of the agreement at no cost. Dick Brady said these buildings are being bought for the outside, not the inside, and no one will be surprised about the conditions. The city is purchasing a large piece of property in the heart of our city to control its eventual destiny and turn it into a winner. Matt Lasko said one option is to leave this property to the current owner and go after them from a code standpoint, but this ultimately will tie this site up for development for many years. We are making this site available for development now, as opposed to five to ten years down the road. Sharon Johnson said the city purchased the Keller Building and ended up demolishing it; the city took on way too much and she does not want to see this happen again. Sharon Johnson asked about the damage done to the restrooms at the SBP property and Dennis Murray asked Brad Link to follow up. Sharon Johnson asked about the lights in the downtown area and if all have been replaced or are working. Dick Brady said staff is doing a wonderful job and everything he knows about this city he learns from them. If we count lights tonight, we will find them at least ninety percent operational and this is perfectly acceptable; there are over 400 lights in the downtown and if 360 of them are working this is acceptable.

**Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to adjourn at 6:16 p.m. The President announced the motion passed.**

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Kelly L. Kresser, CMC  
Clerk of the City Commission

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