

Dennis Murray **called the swearing-in ceremony to order** at 4:30 p.m. after **the Invocation**, given by Dick Brady, and the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

The clerk called **the roll** and the following Commissioners responded: Wes Poole, Dick Brady, Scott Schell, Dennis Murray, Naomi Twine, Jeff Smith and Julie Farrar. Also in attendance were Commissioners-Elect Nikki Lloyd, Greg Lockhart and Dave Waddington.

City staff present: Jim Green – Fire Captain, John Orzech – Police Chief, Aaron Klein – Public Works Director, Matt Lasko – Chief Development Officer, Angela Byington – Director of Neighborhood Development & Planning, Brad Link – Director of Public Services, Don Rumbutis – IT, Stuart Hamilton – IT Manager, Trevor Hayberger – Assistant Law Director, Hank Solowiej – Finance Director, Eric Wobser – City Manager and Kelly Kresser – Commission Clerk.

Casey Maleia Lloyd Jacobs asked Commissioner-Elect Nikki Lloyd to raise her right hand and repeat the following:

“I, Nicole L. Lloyd, do solemnly swear that I will support, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States and the State of Ohio and the Charter and Ordinances of the City of Sandusky; that I will honestly, faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of my office as a City Commissioner and not be influenced by any consideration except that of merit and fitness in the appointment or discharge of employees; that I am currently qualified to hold the office and will maintain all of the qualifications throughout my term in office in compliance with Section 4, Section 6 and Section 43 of the City Charter, so help me God.”

Geoffrey Oglesby asked Commissioner-Elect Greg Lockhart to raise his right hand and repeat the following:

“I, Greg Lockhart, do solemnly swear that I will support, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States and the State of Ohio and the Charter and Ordinances of the City of Sandusky; that I will honestly, faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of my office as a City Commissioner and not be influenced by any consideration except that of merit and fitness in the appointment or discharge of employees; that I am currently qualified to hold the office and will maintain all of the qualifications throughout my term in office in compliance with Section 4, Section 6 and Section 43 of the City Charter, so help me God.”

Trevor Hayberger asked Wes Poole to raise his right hand and repeat the following:

“I, C. Wesley Poole, do solemnly swear that I will support, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States and the State of Ohio and the Charter and Ordinances of the City of Sandusky; that I will honestly, faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of my office as a City Commissioner and not be influenced by any consideration except that of merit and fitness in the appointment or discharge of employees; that I am currently qualified to hold the office and will maintain all of the qualifications throughout my term in office in compliance with Section 4, Section 6 and Section 43 of the City Charter, so help me God.”

Trevor Hayberger asked Dave Waddington to raise his right hand and repeat the following:

“I, David L. Waddington, do solemnly swear that I will support, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States and the State of Ohio and the Charter and Ordinances of the City of Sandusky; that I will honestly, faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of my office as a City Commissioner and not be influenced by any consideration except that of merit and fitness in the appointment or discharge of employees; that I am currently qualified to hold the office and will maintain all of the qualifications throughout my term in office in compliance with Section 4, Section 6 and Section 43 of the City Charter, so help me God.”

At 4:40 p.m., the President declared a recess of the swearing-in ceremony. At 5 p.m., the President convened the regular session of the City Commission.

Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to approve the minutes of the December 14 and 21, 2015, city commission meetings and suspend the oral reading. The President declared the motion passed.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Tim Schwanger, 362 Sheffield Way, asked how many Police Officers the city had in 2014, 2015 and 2016, and what the wage increases were during those contract years (Item #11).

PUBLIC HEARINGS

The President announced the opening of a Public Hearing regarding changes to the Planning & Zoning Code pertaining to large breweries, brewpubs, microbreweries and micro distilleries, and large breweries.

Casey Sparks, Assistant Planner, said as the city is continuing to encourage economic development within the downtown area and citywide, a trend we are continuing to see nationwide is the creation of brewpubs and microbreweries. Planning staff is recommending the establishment of brewpubs, microbreweries and large brewery classification within the zoning code with proposed definitions and specific zoning districts where these uses would be permitted. As the interest for these uses continue within our community, staff would like to assure the code is prepared to handle these types of uses. Planning Commission has met and recommended this change of zoning for the establishment of brewpubs, microbreweries and large brewery as permitted within specific zoning districts. These are similar to bars or tavern uses, however, the beer is brewed on site. Staff is proposing brewpubs can be established within any zoning district, except for residential. Microbreweries would include the production and distribution of wine, beer, spirituous liquor or any other alcoholic beverage to be classified as a microbrewery and may produce up to 15,000 barrels annually. Microbrews can be permitted to locate in any zoning district, except residential and local business, and include the production of beer, wine, spirituous liquor or any other alcoholic beverage. To be classified as a large brewery, the business would need to produce more than 15,000 barrels annually. Large breweries would be permitted within a local manufacturing district, up to 15,000 barrels annually, which is an industry standard and similar to other cities.

Dennis Murray asked if there were questions or comments. There being no comments on the proposed zoning changes, the President declared the Public Hearing closed.

The President announced a second Public Hearing regarding the long-anticipated changes to Sandusky's Comprehensive Plan and Bicentennial Plan.

Dennis Murray said this has been a long and thorough process of public engagement and feedback and the city has been working with firms from Cleveland to develop. The city also held a work session and a public presentation of the plan and tonight will be the first of two opportunities for the commission to vote.

Angela Byington said we are happy to have this plan in front of the community and obtaining approval so it can be adopted for the long-term visioning process for the city. Thank you to everyone who took part in the process, especially the public who joined us and provided their input.

Alex Pesta, City Architecture, expressed his gratitude to everyone who gave time to this process and said a plan has never been as rewarding as Sandusky's based upon the outreach and public input. The full Comprehensive Plan includes all of the meeting summaries and public engagement sessions held to date and is on file in the City Commission office. In the Comprehensive Plan, the five tenants outlined throughout are meant to guide and shape a future plan for a vibrant and connected community. These five tenants will also be outlined in the Strategic Plan and each tie back to the other.

Kat Keller, City Architecture, presented strategies for the neighborhood and citywide districts in residential areas, corridors, rural roads and trails and pathways, and "specialty areas" including sidewalks, bicycle lanes or basic street improvements to be made. There are opportunities in the central neighborhoods for trails connecting Jaycee Park to Huron and Shoreline Parks, completing and expanding the Pier track trail, making intersection improvements, and ideas for expanding and connecting quadrants of Huron Park. In the west neighborhoods, the completion of the Lions Park Master Plan, similar improvements to Amvets Park and adding biking and walking paths were identified. In the east neighborhoods, Cleveland Road is the priority issue and the entrance to Cedar Point and its connection to downtown, along with the reuse of the Big Island area through residential redevelopment. In the south neighborhoods, walkability and safe routes to school including the Hayes Avenue corridor, Churchwell Park and the addition of bicycle lanes on Columbus Avenue and the redevelopment of homes and park space in this area were all identified

Alex Pesta said the fifth neighborhood became the downtown area and this was not anticipated, but they heard the importance of this through many of the conversations with residents and staff. It is being recommended four separate districts be created in the downtown area to provide opportunities for redevelopment of vacant and underutilized lands. These districts include Battery Park, the Iron District, the Compass District and the Paper District. Roadways are proposed to be linked to different park and public areas and design guidelines and zoning standards will have to be reviewed. The implementation of this plan would have immediate, short, medium, and long term priorities for the region, the city as a whole, and the downtown district. Zoning and policy recommendations will have to be made in conjunction with the strategic plan.

Dennis Murray said the consultants have done a remarkable job of articulating what the city needs as a framework to move forward. It was fascinating to see all of the parts put together in a way which make sense and to compliment and support each other. This has been reviewed and recommended by the Planning Commission. Scott Schell said he was fortunate to attend all of the neighborhood meetings and hear the community's input and said this is the community's plan, not the city's plan. We listened and asked questions and this is the result. This is exciting and he looks forward to implementing this plan where it makes sense. Dick Brady said the city owes a debt of gratitude to City Architecture and said the plan is site specific for our community. For those who support this in some fashion, this goes a long way with the commissioners and it will be interesting to look back and see drafting the plan was the easy part; implementing it will be the tough part. The commission will be judged by what is done from this point forward and they have been given a chance. Julie Farrar said this plan is the reason she got involved with city politics and eight years ago, watched former City Manager Mike Will try to do things like this starting with the Chesapeake redevelopment. The first several years were a roller coaster, but in the last two years, the city has done nothing but look to the future and is happy to vote yes on this plan. Wes Poole said this is an excellent document and hopes people in the community will read it in detail and absorb what they feel is good and which parts they think less of so the city will know what the priorities should be; this should be something the entire community supports. Jeff Smith said Mike Will influenced a lot of citizens and was also very motivated by him (Mike) and it is very exciting to see at his last commission meeting.

Tim Schwanger, 362 Sheffield Way, representing Save Our Shoreline Parks and Sandusky Waterfront Watchdogs, said this is a great plan and the only problem they see in the future is with the Battery Park plan. Last year at this time, Tim Schwanger said he was told private development north of the tennis courts were under a different plan with the National Trust for Public Lands and hopefully the majority of the plan comes to fruition. Dennis Murray said the public access will hopefully be maintained as it has been in the past and these groups have been great advocates for it.

Mike Zuilhof, 243 East Market Street, said he is excited about this plan and appreciates the tone set for this entire process. We are looking at different points of view, getting input and finding

things we can all get behind and support. This is not an absolute detailed plan, but each of the components will be looked at and recommendations made.

Greg Franks, 424 Cove Street, said he was born and raised in Sandusky and spent a lot of time downtown when the streets were full of people to shop and attend events. Sandusky has an attractive natural resource and this is a well thought out and cohesive plan; it is refreshing to have something everyone can get behind.

Jerry Garrett, city consultant to Human Relations Commission, said he is thrilled about this plan and recalls prior urban development in Columbus. The older buildings on the east side of Columbus were leveled and initially this was a wasteland, but today, the elements of this plan were implemented and there is affordable housing, bicycle paths and walking paths. Sometimes people do not understand when things like this happen, but the city has an opportunity to lessen this pain with the Human Relations Commission and hopes they can assist.

There being no further comment, the President declared the Public Hearing closed.

CURRENT BUSINESS

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

ITEM #1 – Submitted by Casey Sparks, Assistant Planner

AMENDMENT OF PLANNING & ZONING CODE RE: BREWPUBS, MICROBREWERIES & LARGE BREWERIES

Budgetary Information: There is no impact to the general fund.

ORDINANCE NO. 15-201: It is requested an ordinance be passed **amending Part Eleven (Planning and Zoning Code), Title One (Zoning Administration), Chapter 1107 (Definitions) and Title Three (Zoning Districts and Regulations), Chapters 1133 (Business Districts) and 1139 (Manufacturing Districts), of the codified ordinances, in the manner and way specifically set forth hereinbelow;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take effect under suspension of the rules as contained in and in accordance with Section 13 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Wes Poole second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to approve this ordinance under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 13 of the city charter.

Discussion: Dennis Murray said this is an exciting part of Sandusky's future and people in Sandusky like their beer.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Wes Poole, Dick Brady, Scott Schell, Dennis Murray, Naomi Twine, Jeff Smith and Julie Farrar, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Wes Poole, Dick Brady, Scott Schell, Dennis Murray, Naomi Twine, Jeff Smith and Julie Farrar, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 13 of the city charter.

ITEM #2 – Submitted by Casey Sparks, Assistant Planner

APPROVAL OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN/BICENTENNIAL PLAN

Budgetary Information: There is no budgetary impact to the general fund.

PASSED AT FIRST READING: It is requested an ordinance be passed **approving and adopting the Bicentennial Vision/Comprehensive Plan for the City of Sandusky.**

Upon motion of Naomi Twine second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to approve this ordinance at first reading.

Discussion: Dennis Murray said the community has been waiting a long time for this and have also been through a lot of disappointments and heartache. We finally have something a lot of people who have fought for waterfront access and historic preservation, as well as people who

have invested money in businesses and homes, have been waiting for an it finally feels like the future is here and he is excited to cast his vote tonight.

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

ITEM #3 – Submitted by Matt Lasko, Chief Development Officer

AMENDMENT TO LOAN AGREEMENT WITH 101 WATER, LLC

Budgetary Information: There is no budgetary impact with the proposed amendment to the loan agreement. The interest only payments are current and the borrower is in good financial standing.

ORDINANCE NO. 15-192: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into an amendment to the loan agreement with Sandusky 101 Water, LLC, in relation to the property located at 101 East Water Street;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Scott Schell second of Dick Brady, 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 the city entered into a loan agreement with Sandusky Water Street in May, 2015, for a two-year, \$100,000 loan at 3½% interest. This was meant to be an acquisition loan for Rick Semersky to purchase the former Water Street Bar & Grille site; however, in the original loan agreement, there was a performance measure requiring the restaurant open by December 31, 2015. This is a slight amendment to the performance section moving this date forward to June 30, 2016; this project is on track and plans are in place to start exterior and interior improvements. Rick Semersky has shared he knew this was his chance to make a first impression and wants to re-brand as well as re-open this restaurant correctly. The interest-only payments have been made and the company is in good standing with the city. No other terms of the loan are being proposed for amendment. Dennis Murray said this seems like a reasonable adjustment and noted Mr. Semersky has also been dealing with the state government and their licensing requirements.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Wes Poole, Dick Brady, Scott Schell, Dennis Murray, Naomi Twine, Jeff Smith and Julie Farrar, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Wes Poole, Dick Brady, Scott Schell, Dennis Murray, Naomi Twine, Jeff Smith and Julie Farrar, 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 Matt Lasko, Chief Development Officer

CONSULTING CONTRACT WITH JOHN FEICK & SCOTT MULARONI FOR CY 2016

Budgetary Information: Mr. Mularoni and Mr. Feick will be paid at the rate of \$55 per hour for work performed up to a maximum of \$12,500 for Mr. Feick and up to a maximum of \$7,500 for Mr. Mularoni. Funds to cover the cost of the contracts are included in the Building Division's operating budget. The plan review expense will be paid by the collection of plan review fees by the Division of Building Inspection.

A. ORDINANCE NO. 15-193: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a consulting contract with John A. Feick for CY 2016;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Jeff Smith 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: Matt Lasko said this is for backup Building Inspector services when the city's Building Inspector, George Poulos, is unable to provide these services. According to State Code, backup services must be in place if for any reason the city's inspector has a conflict. The caps on the contracts under this proposal are being elevated from last year so as to not have to return for commission approval later in the calendar year. The hourly rate remains at \$55 per

hour. Dick Brady said he recently learned the selection of Mr. Feick or Mr. Mularoni is made by a staff person and takes away any issue of favoritism. George Poulos has an architectural business and it stands to reason there will be some conflicts, and these gentleman are excellent architects who can serve.

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

B. [ORDINANCE NO. 15-194](#): It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a consulting contract with Scott J. Mularoni for CY 2016;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Wes Poole 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. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Wes Poole, Dick Brady, Scott Schell, Dennis Murray, Naomi Twine, Jeff Smith and Julie Farrar, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Wes Poole, Dick Brady, Scott Schell, Dennis Murray, Naomi Twine, Jeff Smith and Julie Farrar, 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 Matt Lasko, Chief Development Officer

GRANT AGREEMENT WITH LEADERSHIP ERIE COUNTY, INC. FOR USE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS

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

[ORDINANCE NO. 15-195](#): It is requested an ordinance be **passed authorizing and approving a grant in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 to Leadership Erie County, Inc. in relation to the Showers for Victory Kitchen project;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Jeff Smith 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 said she will abstain from this vote as she was a member of the Leadership Erie County class who helped with this project. Dennis Murray said this is essentially the same contract passed by the City Commission with one change regarding the payment being made with CDBG funds.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Wes Poole, Dick Brady, Scott Schell, Dennis Murray, Jeff Smith and Julie Farrar, 6. Abstain: Naomi Twine, 1. Roll call on the ordinance: Wes Poole, Dick Brady, Scott Schell, Dennis Murray, Jeff Smith and Julie Farrar, 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 #6 – Submitted by Hank Solowiej, Finance Director

APPROVAL OF ERIE COUNTY BUDGET COMMISSION'S ALTERNATIVE FORMULA FOR LGF DISTRIBUTION

Budgetary Information: This formula provides a level percentage share of local government distribution funding for the 2016 and 2017 calendar years. This will provide for the same share of this funding as it did for the 2015 year.

[RESOLUTION NO. 056-15R](#): It is requested a resolution be passed **approving the alternative distribution formula for local government funding for Erie County for the calendar years 2016 and 2017 as proposed by the Erie County Budget Commission;** and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Naomi Twine second of Wes Poole, the commission voted to approve this resolution under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Dennis Murray said he had asked if there would be a more favorable formula for local government funds, but understands it is too late either as a practical or legal matter to make this change and it would not result in additional dollars for local governments. In order to be able to participate in the distribution of local government funding, it is necessary to pass this resolution at this time.

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

ITEM #7 – Submitted by Hank Solowiej, Finance Director

AMENDMENT #1 TO 2015 GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS

Budgetary Information: This action will cover anticipated expenditures through December 31, 2015. The last payroll occurs on December 23, 2015, with the final city commission meeting on December 28, 2015. The agenda deadline occurs before the final payroll costs can be determined. The amendment needs to cover final payroll and other projected costs through December 31, 2015.

ORDINANCE NO. 15-196: It is requested an ordinance be passed **adopting Amendment #1 to Ordinance No. 15-027 passed by this City Commission on February 23, 2015, making general appropriations for the fiscal 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 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: Hank Solowiej said this is one of several communications which provides the final amendment to appropriations and is a clean-up as things do come up which were not initially budgeted for and adjustments need to be made. There are different capital items which will be re-appropriated next year as well and is a net reduction of \$295,000.

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

ITEM #8 – Submitted by Hank Solowiej, Finance Director

TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO THE PAYROLL STABILIZATION FUND

Budgetary Information: The agenda deadline occurs before the amount can be determined. The Resolution, along with the amount, will be available at the meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 057-15R: It is requested a resolution be passed **authorizing the transfer of funds from the general fund to the payroll stabilization fund;** and declaring that this Resolution 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 resolution under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Hank Solowiej said this will close out the year and the amount to be transferred to this account is \$125,000. The account started with \$112,000 at the beginning of CY 2015 and

\$92,000 was used leaving a balance of approximately \$20,000. Dennis Murray said this fund was adopted and is a good thing to have for upcoming retirements.

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

ITEM #9 – Submitted by Hank Solowiej, Finance Director

TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR JANUARY, FEBRUARY & MARCH, 2016

Budgetary Information: This action will establish a budget for operations until the annual appropriations can be approved after the second Monday in January, 2016. The city charter prohibits the city from enacting the 2016 budget before January 11, 2016.

ORDINANCE NO. 15-197: It is requested an ordinance be passed to **make temporary appropriations for the months of January, February and March, 2016;** 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: Hank Solowiej said this is the last routine, year-end ordinance and is to establish temporary appropriations allowing the city to pay its invoices during the first three months of the year and prior to the budget being adopted.

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

ITEM #10 – Submitted by John Orzech, Police Chief

RETIREMENT OF K9 OFFICER JUSTICE AND SALE TO DETECTIVE ADAM WEST

Budgetary Information: The city will receive one dollar (\$1) for the sale of K9 Justice to his handler, Detective Adam West.

ORDINANCE NO. 15-198: It is requested an ordinance be passed **allowing for the sale of Sandusky Police Department K9 Officer Justice pursuant to Section 25 of the city charter; approving the retirement of K9 Officer Justice and authorizing the sale of K9 Officer Justice to his handler, Detective Adam West;** 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: John Orzech said K9 Justice has been an integral part of the Police Department and the program was started in 2008 when he was 2½ years old. He has been a great asset and particularly recalled one incident when a suspect was known to have a gun and said he was going to “take out Police Officers”; Justice was in an unmarked vehicle and the subject took off running. K9 Justice took him down to the ground and the subject did have a firearm. This incident was the exact reason for having a K9 Officer and saved a lot of people the opportunity for bad things to have happened this particular day. The K9 Officer goes through rigorous training each week and Detective Adam West has done a great job with him and feels it is appropriate to give Justice a couple of years for a good life. Detective West will not have a partner, but this is best for K9 Officer Justice to live out the remainder of his years with his family. Dennis Murray congratulated Detective West and said he is happy to see Justice retire with his family.

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

ITEM #11

APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

ORDINANCE NO. 15-199: It is requested an ordinance be passed **ratifying, accepting and approving a collective bargaining agreement between the City of Sandusky, an Ohio charter municipal corporation, and the Fraternal Order of Police, Ohio Labor Council, Inc., the collective bargaining unit for certain employees of the Sandusky Police Department, for the period January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2018, a copy of which is attached to this ordinance**; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Naomi Twine 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: Hank Solowiej said he is very pleased with this agreement and the net cost to the city is \$36,000, in total, for all three years (previous contract impact was approximately \$100,000). There are four main focus points:

1. Wages: updated, modified wage scale is not specific to percentage increases (there are new pay rates for different classifications);
2. Insurance:
 - a) the plan design for city health insurance is now out of the contract with a new committee approach involving all three bargaining units and city administration to manage our plan;
 - b) employee contributions will increase for family coverage from \$50/pay to \$90/pay in 2016, to \$100/pay in 2017 and to \$110/pay in 2018; for single coverage: from \$25/pay to \$36/pay in 2016, to \$50/pay in 2017 and \$60/pay in 2018. This is a huge win for both sides and helps to get better control over health insurance in the long term;
3. Physicals: Requirement for physicals has been removed from the contract and will now be taken care of through the normal health insurance program; this is a savings of about \$35,000 per year.
4. Physical Fitness Incentive: This is comprised of two \$600 incentives. One is based on successfully passing the physical fitness test and the other is based on sick leave usage. The sick leave usage incentive has been removed and this is a savings of about \$24,000 per year.

John Orzech said there were 46 full-time officers in 2014 and 47 full-time officers in 2015 along with the addition of one Administrative Assistant. Negotiations went very smoothly and members of the police union understand the importance of Issue 8 and the long-term vitality of the city. We all hope to gain some fiscal responsibility over the next few years and get some things done. Dick Brady said in his experience, following the lead of Hank Solowiej rarely is a mistake and he is inclined to agree with this analysis. The Police Department is responsible for approximately \$5 million of our general fund and to have a \$36,000 increase in labor costs during the next three years is a terrific attribute to those who negotiated this agreement.

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

**ITEM #12 – Submitted by Aaron Klein, Director of Public Works
CONTRACT WITH NEOPOST FOR POSTAGE MACHINE SERVICES**

Budgetary Information: The cost shall be set at a 48 month lease at \$394.08 per month, invoiced quarterly, not to exceed amount of \$18,915.84. The proportionate cost will be allocated to the respective departments. The new machine will be delivered within two weeks of passage of the legislation. The cost for January, 2016 will be prorated until the date it is operational.

ORDINANCE NO. 15-200: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a four year agreement with Neopost of Brecksville, Ohio, for postage machine services;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Naomi Twine 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: Julie Farrar commented this is the cheapest thing Aaron Klein has ever asked for.

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

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

Eric Wobser thanked all who attend the meeting tonight and those who participated in the **2018 visioning process**, including the City Commissioners, and said it has been an inspirational process. Eric Wobser said he was reminded of the conversation when interviewing for the position last May about what was possible for the City of Sandusky. This has been a magical year and it started with the group assemble for the passage of Issue 8. This coalition has continued and residents have been asked to provide their voice and participate in an unprecedented way. Eric Wobser thanked those commissioners who will be leaving and said it has been a pleasure to work with them and other champions of the plan and welcomed the new commissioners. The hardest work is ahead and we have a fantastic team in place to put our best foot forward and implement it.

Upon motion of Dick Brady and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to accept \$50 for the Police Department Trust Fund from the Solowiej family. 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 \$1,000 for the K9 Fund from the Russell Classic. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Scott Schell and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$20 for the Friends of the Greenhouse from Nancy Hibbard. The President declared the motion passed.

Eric Wobser said **he has accepted a position to be appointed to the Board of Trustees at Lake Erie Shores & Islands** and will always maintain his fiduciary obligation to the city while serving on this Board.

Upon motion of Jeff Smith and second of Dick Brady, the commission voted to prepare a bid for public transportation services for the Erie County Job & Family Service agency.

Discussion: Eric Wobser asked for approval to bid public transportation services to Job & Family Services which will be ratified by the City Commission at a later date. Angela Byington said a

request was submitted in November by Job & Family Services to fulfill their transportation needs and we would like to put in a proposal to do this.

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

Eric Wobser said there is an agreement in place for **Don Icsman who will be transitioning away from the city** and thanked Don for his incredible length of service. Eric Wobser said he has heard a lot about what he (Don) has done in assisting the city and holding things together during difficult times. In order to prepare the city for this transition, Trevor Hayberger will be appointed as the active Law Director starting January 4. Don Icsman will work side by side with Trevor to transfer his vast amount of institutional knowledge and help to train him during these two months. Eric Wobser said he will be putting together a search committee for a new Law Director and will include two city commissioners and Lynne Gast-King who currently serves as Prosecutor as she has no interest in applying for this position. This will also give Trevor Hayberger the opportunity to work with Don Icsman and transition through this time while seeking a long-term Law Director.

Eric Wobser said he will be out of the office after tonight's meeting until Monday, January 4 to spend some time with his family.

Eric Wobser said **Police Officer Kallin St. John began attending the Owens Community College Basic Police Academy on August 17, 2015 and graduated on December 16, 2015.** Officer St. John will begin the Field Training Officer program and is scheduled to take the State certification test on January 7, 2016.

Eric Wobser said **water and sewer rates will increase with the January, 2016 bills, and information regarding the annual rate increases through 2021 are available on the city's website.** It is recommended **property owners contact the Customer Accounting office at 419.627.5893 if their dwelling is expected to remain vacant and unoccupied during the winter months** to have their water turned off. This will help prevent water lines from freezing and breaking which would lead to costly repairs.

Eric Wobser said no work will be performed on the **East end sewer project** during the week of December 28, but construction zones will be set up to protect the public.

Eric Wobser said the **traffic signal at Columbus Avenue and Parish Street will be operational on Tuesday, January 5, 2016,** and urged motorists to use caution as they may have become conditioned to the current pattern.

Eric Wobser said the **OWDA loan has been received for East end sewer project, and provided an update on Ohio Public Works Commission applications** submitted in September, 2015:

- **Fifth Street Resurfacing** from Sycamore Line to McKinley Street: awarded \$175,000 grant (50/50 split) available on July 1, 2016;
- **Caldwell Street Reconstruction Phase II:** Perkins Avenue to Parish Street and from Follett Street to North end, awarded \$175,000 grant (50/50 split) available on July 1, 2016 (Parish Street to Follett Street, Phase I, to be completed with CDBG funds in the spring).

Eric Wobser said the city conducted a **pre-demolition walk-through at the former American Crayon property** on December 22 and numerous contractors were on site. Bids are due December 30 by the end of the business day for this project.

Eric Wobser said the city has provided a notice to commence to Mannik & Smith Group to undertake a **Phase II environmental assessment at the former G & C Foundry facility.** Activities have commenced at the site and the city should have the report no later than January 15, 2016.

Eric Wobser said environmental **Phase II assessment activities have been completed at the former Wisteria Farms/Esmond Dairy site** on Campbell Street and the city is currently waiting on the final report from JP, Inc. Environmental Consulting.

Eric Wobser said the city is in various stages of **asbestos testing and accepting bids for demolitions on fifteen additional properties** throughout the city.

Eric Wobser said the **tennis courts at Wightman-Weiber Park have been sealed and are holding water**. Once frozen, this area can be used as a **community ice skating rink**.

Eric Wobser said a **Request for Proposals for two M2-106 Freightliner Cab and Chassis for the salt trucks starts** on December 31 and ends January 21. Information can be picked up at the Service Center located at 1024 Cement Avenue.

Eric Wobser said a **Request for Proposals for a new Columbarium at Oakland Cemetery** runs through January 7 and information can be picked up at the Service Center or at Oakland Cemetery.

Wes Poole asked to look into putting an **insulated drape** behind the City Commission table to keep it warmer in the meeting room.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Naomi Twine thanked Eric Wobser and his staff for all of the hard work done throughout the year and for stepping up to the plate. This was evidenced by the community participation and the comprehensive planning completed as a result. Naomi Twine thanked the outgoing commissioners for a great couple of years working together and said it has been a great experience and looks forward to working with the Commissioners-elect.

Naomi Twine said she has worked with John Orzech since being elected to the City Commission and it has been a great pleasure. John Orzech is a consummate professional and genuinely cares about what he does and for all of his officers and said she would like to bring up a few accomplishments. Naomi Twine said at her request at the beginning of 2015, she tasked the Police Department to accomplish three goals including use of body-worn cameras, training for diversity and increased recruitment. The department accomplished all of these goals, and many more, and said this is a broad view of what happened within the agency in 2015:

Training/Recruitment

- Cultural competency training and “What to do when stopped by the police” public forum & SMCC student school program by the Buffalo Soldiers
- Body worn cameras were implemented in June, 2015
- Recruitment video distributed through social media, city website and job fairs
- National Testing Network – more than doubled applicant pool for full-time openings since 2013
- Verbal Judo – Tactical Communications
- Safe Neighborhood Initiative – In collaboration with the Attorney General’s Office: educating those prone to commit violence or be a victim of violence on probation and/or parole and impacts these choices of violence have on family, friends and the community with police officers and Sheriff Deputies, Erie County Prosecutor’s office, AG’s office, federal prosecutor, victims of violence, witnesses to include clergy and members of the community
- First Aid/CPR training of all personnel
- Legal updates – Erie County Prosecutor’s Office all personnel

- Hosted legal updates training by AG's office 20 personnel attended
- Lt. Graybill - 10 weeks Public Safety Leadership Academy
- Sgt. Susana - 3 weeks Police Executive Leadership College

Other

- National Night Out/Touch a Truck event – second annual event was another success
- Community events & giveaways – passed out red/white/blue fiber optic lights to 500 kids for Fourth of July, 500 finger flashlights, 500 glow bands, 1,500 reflective Halloween bags and 4,000 pieces of candy for Halloween, held Coffee with a Cop monthly and Toft's Ice Cream Subzero with a Hero, staffed the Red Popcorn Wagon for three days, Wightman-Wieber event, Senior Triad at Erie County Fairgrounds, city parks summer programs, and many other events that officers stopped in or gave presentations.

New Hires

- Eva Olcott (Administrative Assistant) – Issue 8 funds
- Eric Costante (Community Impact Officer) - Issue 8 funds
- Kallin St. John
- Carissa Cruz
- Jacob Icsman
- Bronson Lillo

Retirements

- Lt. Bob Vanscoy
- Officer Jim Ommert

Promotions

- Lt. Graybill
- Sgt. Wilson

Awards

- Eric Costante – 2014 Officer of the Year
- Det. Gary Wichman – 2015 Peace Officer of the Year for the State of Ohio (awarded by the Prosecuting Attorney's Association)

Many other training sessions were attended by personnel throughout the year, along with many acts of commendation and recognition to be given at the annual Awards Banquet in February or March. In 2016, the department will focus on what areas can be impacted for the Bicentennial Strategic Plan and develop objectives to help the city to continue to move forward and strive.

Julie Farrar said it has been her pleasure to work with such professional people during the past two years and feels like so much has been accomplished. Everyone is looking to the future and not looking back and loves that part of this commission. Julie Farrar wishes the new commission the best of luck and hopes they are excited about Sandusky's future. Eric Wobser is awesome and she feels his energy and he is just what the doctor ordered for the City of Sandusky. The team put together are rock stars and the people who have been here see it and it is so refreshing. There is a difference in how the city operates and a fresh outlook and has to do with Eric's leadership. Julie Farrar said she looks forward to seeing what is done next. Julie Farrar thanked the citizens for electing her not once, but twice, and letting her serve as it has been her pleasure to serve the city she was born in and loves.

Jeff Smith said it has been an honor to serve on the City Commission. There may have been disagreements, but they were always small and never public. It has been a pleasure to meet and work with each of the commissioners, Eric Wobser and the city staff members and said it is

amazing how things have seemed to flow so smoothly since Eric arrived. The city is in good hands.

Scott Schell said it has been an honor to work with this group of commissioners and he has learned a lot from each. The City Manager and the staff is amazing and it has been an honor working with the team in place and they will move this city forward. It is exciting and although he is disappointed to not be sitting at this table, he will continue to be involved in the community and cannot wait to see the city's next moves. Scott Schell said the new commissioners want to see the community move forward and will carry the ball without too much difficulty and the best is yet to come.

Dennis Murray said there is an Administrative Benefits Committee made up of the City Manager, Law Director, Commission Clerk and Commission President who are required to meet annually to review non-bargaining unit salaries. Over the last six years, these employees have seen wages increase by 5.5%, or an average of less than one percent. Huron and Erie County recently raised salaries of their administrative employees and would appreciate a motion for 2% increases for non-bargaining unit employees.

Upon motion of Dick Brady and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to increase the compensation of non-bargaining unit employees by two percent effective with the first payroll of 2016.

Discussion: Dick Brady said the value of this additional compensation is approximately \$38,000, with \$23,000 coming from the General Fund.

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

Dennis Murray said thanked Commissioners Schell, Smith and Farrar for their service to the citizens of the city and wished them well; he hopes they remain active and engaged and provide advice and suggestions. The new commission will likely move as hard and fast as the current commission and this advice will always be welcome. Dennis Murray thanked the commissioners for letting him hold the gavel for the past two years and said it has been an adventure. Year-end is an opportunity reflect and together, this commission, the staff, community partners and neighbors have been a part of accomplishing many things including:

- passing a balanced budget by making difficult and responsible cuts after explaining to our residents why these cuts were necessary and how they came about over the years;
- creating and setting the Bicentennial Commission into motion in anticipation of 2018;
- launching a successful search for a City Manager who helped navigate the path for a three percent increase in admissions tax and a .25% increase in income tax which was approved by the voters with a historic margin after three prior attempts which failed;
- adopting improvements to our housing code and strengthening our housing code enforcement and increasing fees to allow inspection of rental properties;
- successfully launching a vacant building registry and began demolishing blighted homes at an unprecedented pace;
- repaired more roadways than in the previous decade;
- removing more dead trees than ever before and added capacity to continue tree trimming efforts and begin new planting;
- took painful but economically essential and fiscally responsible steps to increase water and sewer rates for the first time in thirteen years;
- tore down the Keller Building and found ways to fund demolition of properties along with funding environmental studies;

- launched a process to develop a Strategic Plan and Master Plan with an unprecedented level of public engagement;
- resolving litigation with Erie County and paving the way to enter into a new 40-year contract to stabilize rates for citizens of Sandusky and set rates with Erie County for the future.

Dennis Murray said there have been many other successes, along with mistakes, but all with a level of transparency which is a new high water mark for local government. We operate out of necessity 24-hours per day, seven days per week and are constantly making both large and small decisions. As we look to the next commission, we will have different challenges, particularly deciding precisely how and when to implement the plan which was first considered tonight. There are important issues about public safety, housing, economic development to be constantly addressed as Sandusky's continued revitalization means we need to do all of these things all at the same time. Dennis Murray said he feels confident the city has the right staff and the right commission to carry this forward, and Sandusky is well positioned to wisely capitalize on the additional resources provided by the voters and sustain the progress made.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

Upon motion of Dick Brady and second of Scott Schell, the commission voted to adjourn at 7:25 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