

John Hamilton called the meeting to order at 5 p.m. after the **Invocation** given by John Hamilton, and the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

The clerk called **the roll** and the following Commissioners responded: Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole and Wesley Poole.

City staff present: Jim Lang – Interim Police Chief, Paul Ricci – Fire Chief, Carrie Handy – Planner, Scott Miller – General Services Director, Don Icsman – Law Director, Nicole Ard - City Manager, Hank Solowiej – Finance Director and Kelly Kresser – Commission Clerk.

Upon motion of Pervis Brown and second of Keith Grohe, the commission voted to approve the minutes of the December 26, 2012 meeting and suspend the oral reading. The President declared the motion passed.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (*agenda items only*)

Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street, said she believes Item #4 pertaining to Lions Park should be passed by the city commission.

PRESENTATIONS

Mark Wroblewski, GIS Coordinator from the Erie County Auditor's Office, presented information about **the GIS Advisory Board and the Erie County Auditor's Office Pictometry and Accuglobe software**. Mark Wroblewski said there are various applications and the advisory board membership includes all three cities in Erie County, nine townships, two villages, nine county departmental agencies and Erie MetroParks, and has been built so as to add additional members both in the public and private sector. A cost-share distribution model is used for all participating members and a six-year agreement is in place which will expire in 2015. This guarantees the data and the projects will be funded to provide services and is based upon a per capita approach. The budget includes aerial photography which is updated every two years, the Location Based Response program, Accuglobe and WebEx to share technology and allow for remote access. Matt Wroblewski said the web application provides information about taxes and properties and answers to simple questions. Additional functionality is on the web to estimate what additional levies may cost and users can view property and sales information. In the revaluation project, oblique imagery was used so any property can be viewed from 360 degrees. In 2001, the county did not have digital or aerial photography and partnered with the larger municipalities to take both ortho (straight down) and oblique imagery. The property characteristics, improvements, utilities, ditches and trees are also shown on these maps. A statewide imagery program was done in 2006 to provide free color imagery and is updated regularly. Accurate information about street centerlines and addresses is included and funding has been obtained to help defer costs for this project. This is important for emergency response and is being done for planners, engineers and elected officials. The data is integrated for each municipality into one centralized resource and address information is being used by the State of Ohio for traffic crash studies and by ODOT for road improvements. The sewer and water mapping and information about pipe size and repair is important to the water, sewer and street departments of each municipality. Dispatchers know where law enforcement officers are and where they are going. Other information or layers can be added as needed such as tree inventories, and can be tied to data already in the system; a pilot system was done with the City of Huron to provide an inventory of assets. GIS is a popular application for mapping and/or GPS and utilizes satellites. Mark Wroblewski said pictometry online is available to everyone on the advisory board and any property can be viewed from 360 degrees; image libraries are available to show what the properties looked like in the past. City staff members are on the advisory board to put this technology to its fullest use. Julie Farrar asked the cost and Mark Wroblewski said the City of Sandusky pays approximately \$13,000 annually for this imagery, training and updates.

Judge Erich O'Brien, Sandusky Municipal Court, said out-of-town attorneys visit the court on a regular basis. He said local and non-local attorneys always congratulate him on his knowledgeable and pleasant staff which is not the case for every court. Judge O'Brien said many folks who visit the court ask him if he really understands how crappy the facility is and there is ample reason for talking about why a new court is needed and why he has been saving money for 15 years (approximately \$150,000 each year). Judge O'Brien said everything starts with money and different options have been available throughout the years including the property behind the Children's Services building on Parish Street and to him, anything would be better, but he wants something that is good enough for the next 20+ years. The facility should be well thought out for future employees of the court so they can be more efficient and secure. Judge O'Brien said he is not an engineer and does not have all of the information needed to

make a decision and there are different points of views about where the building should be. If a couple million dollars is spent to improve this facility, he would hope the court stays here for a while. Before being used as a catalyst for making a decision, Erich O'Brien would like a second opinion and proposed to spend approximately \$10,000 for a general evaluation or review of the current city building. Erich O'Brien said former city commissioners promised the court it could expand in front of the city building but now he is hearing it may cost \$1.2 million to upgrade the current facility. There is controversy about moving and he has been there and done that. Erich O'Brien said his proposal this evening is to punt until June; between now and then he would like to make sure he knows specific costs. Erich O'Brien said Judge Lux (Erie County Municipal Court) will be moving into a new building next month and will have a building that is 9,000 S.F. for \$1.7 million and he (Erich) has this much money already. He would like to know that if property is utilized which the city already owns, the court would not move for the next 50 – 60 years. If there are any components or developers, they have between now and June to do something. Erich O'Brien said it is great if there is money (potentially) for a development or contributions from a local person that might be helpful; the court is willing to put up to \$10,000 for a second evaluation to ensure there are no misunderstandings in regard to what would be necessary to add on or to build new. He would like something that is going to be here for a long time and does not know if it will be in front of the building; there are inherent issues with the current facility which he does not understand and this will limit what can be done from an organizational viewpoint as we are already locked into the basic components and structure. Security was not a really big issue when President Eisenhower was in his first generation and until a few weeks ago, no one thought anyone necessarily knew elementary schools had considerations of security. As far as panic buttons, Erich O'Brien said last February he had a situation which was getting heated and used the panic button; he is still waiting for a response. He understands this system has not been working for several years. Erich O'Brien said he was at the viewing of *Heroes Behind the Badge* yesterday at the Sandusky State Theatre - a thoroughly depressing movie - but he strongly recommends everyone see it once. Erich O'Brien said he knows what police officers do for a living and he (Erich) is like an evaluator, not the one wrestling with a guy at 2:30 a.m. in the parking lot. Erich O'Brien said if the court builds on this site, it needs to be near the police station and the new police chief will get 'stuck' here. He owes this person and those who work in the department the duty and the opportunity to have some input into their future. Erich O'Brien said the money generated by the court cannot be used for just anything, but if directly related to the court, he could make an argument to the Supreme Court. There are circumstances which will allow a decision to be made about adding on or building separately which is ultimately the best idea. The city gets involved as the court's funding authority, but has no control over the approximately \$2 million in various accounts. Eighty percent of all court cases go through the municipal court and it should be a place to be proud of and a place employees are entitled to work more efficiently; the police department facility is important and the services center on Cement Avenue. Keith Grohe asked when the second study will be complete and Judge O'Brien said it will begin this week. Judge O'Brien said he had a conversation with Wesley Poole over the weekend and understands different people have different perspectives. Judge O'Brien said he came from county government and does not know if the city building equates to the county facility known as the Taj Mahal in regards to its historical significance, and it all comes down to money.

CURRENT BUSINESS

Upon motion of Wesley Poole and second of Diedre Cole, the commission voted to accept all communications. The President declared the motion passed.

ITEM #1 – Submitted by Scott Miller, Director of General Services

Budgetary Information: Funds for the purchase of bulk rock salt are routinely included in the Traffic Services operating budget each year.

ORDINANCE NO. 13-001: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to purchase bulk highway deicing rock salt for the Division of Traffic Services to be used in the CY 2013 from Morton Salt, Inc. of Chicago, Illinois;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Pervis Brown and second of Keith Grohe, the commission voted to approve this ordinance according to Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Pervis Brown said if he is not mistaken, the city did not purchase rock salt last year. Scott Miller said the city purchased approximately 500 tons, much less than normal.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole and Wesley Poole, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar,

Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole and Wesley Poole, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.

ITEM #2 – Submitted by Victoria Kurt, Recreation Program Supervisor

Budgetary Information: There is no budgetary impact. These grants require no matching funds from the city and will be used as partial funding for the costs of the projects. If grants are denied, the Movies By the Bay project will not occur due to the recreation department's budget. The summer playground program will still occur, but will cause downsizing of activities, equipment and supplies in order to fit the department's budget.

RESOLUTION NO: 001-13R: It is requested a resolution be passed **approving the submission of grant applications to the Sandusky/Erie County Community Foundation, the Wightman-Wieber Foundation and the Ohio Eagles Charity Fund, Inc. for the recreation department and, if awarded, authorizing the city manager to execute any required agreements;** and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Diedre Cole and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to approve this resolution according to Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: John Hamilton pointed out Victoria Kurt has been quite busy with fishing tournaments and increasing the number of things for kids to do in the parks.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole and Wesley Poole, 7. Roll call on the resolution: Yeas: Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole and Wesley Poole, 7. The President declared the resolution passed.

ITEM #3 – Submitted by Jane E. Cullen, P.E.

Budgetary Information: The total project costs including construction, engineering, inspection, advertising and miscellaneous costs is \$160,397.11. The local public authority project will be funded with Federal Highway Administration funds through the Ohio Department of Transportation and the Erie County Metropolitan Planning Organization for eligible costs in the amount of \$116,652.44 with additional funding available in the amount of \$43,744.67 from community development block grant funds.

ORDINANCE NO. 13-002: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to enter into a contract with Newcomer Concrete Services, Inc. of Norwalk, Ohio for the Lions Park bicycle and pedestrian path project;** and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Keith Grohe and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to approve this ordinance according to Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Wesley Poole said he is happy to see this is coming to fruition and this project will be a good upgrade.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole and Wesley Poole, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole and Wesley Poole, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.

ITEM #4 – Submitted by Carrie R. Handy, Planner and Nicole Ard, City Manager

Budgetary Information: Staff has proposed the use of a purchasing cooperative to help obtain a competitive price for the equipment, \$56,552.02. The project is funded via CDBG funds. The City pays for items and then submits for reimbursement from the Federal Government. As noted in the staff report, purchasing the items at the January 14 meeting would maintain the current cost before the vendor's February, 2013 pricing increase. Following delivery, city staff resources would be required to install the equipment under paid supervision of the vendor.

ORDINANCE NO. 13-003: It is requested an ordinance be passed **authorizing and directing the city manager to enter into an inter-local contract for cooperative purchasing with the Huston-Galveston Area Council for the purchase of new playground equipment for Lions Park from Playworld Midstates, Inc. of New Albany, Ohio;** 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 Keith Grohe, the commission voted to approve this ordinance according to Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Julie Farrar said she does not want anyone to say she never agrees with Sharon Johnson; she is voting yes for this item.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole and Wesley Poole, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole and Wesley Poole, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Nicole Ard said for those who have not seen **the latest monthly report from the finance department**, the city has a balanced budget and is required to have one by law. The expenditures in 2012 were actually the lowest since 2003 in terms of the general fund and she wants to be certain people are aware of this. Staff has done a great job in controlling costs while revenues have also been the lowest in years. A general fund balance of 23% is projected at the end of the year and these are the funds that help pay for all operations. The city tries to help maintain a level of fund balance so that it does not have to go into a situation unprotected (at 23%). This has been as low as 16% - 19% over the years and if this balance had been spent in previous years, the city would have some serious issues now. Nicole Ard thanked Don Icsman and Hank Solowiej for their past work to keep staff on task.

Nicole Ard said every two weeks, she **provides the city commission with a written report** and it is available to the public. Everything on the list is not read aloud, but Nicole Ard said she tries to highlight things done between meetings. A presentation was made by a county entity this evening and Nicole Ard also works with different community groups. Materials and/or minutes from planning sessions held by the city commission are available online and this is not a secret. Nicole Ard said she has met with different community groups and individuals and she gets excited about performance measures; staff has been working very hard and the commission has been attentive in setting priorities for the staff with limited resources.

Nicole Ard **congratulated Steve Brown, an inspector in the engineering department, who has earned the certification of Master Code Professional from the International Code Council.** There are very few people who hold this title and it is an honor as only 700 persons have earned it.

Nicole Ard thanked **Lt. Bob VanScoy and other members of the police department who helped in presenting the premiere of Heroes Behind the Badge at the Sandusky State Theatre** this weekend. This brings home the hard work performed by staff in the police and fire departments as well as other city departments. Julie Farrar said there were so many people who attended and this was truly enlightening, especially since the murder of former Police Officer Andy Dunn. Julie Farrar said she purchased a copy of the movie and would like to take it to Dr. Eugene Sanders (Sandusky City Schools) so it can be viewed by high school students to give them an idea what police officers deal with. There was a young man in the movie who did not know how to take a particular police officer until the officer bought him cookies, but that same officer was killed ten minutes later.

Nicole Ard said she provided information about the **Apex and DC Filter projects** and they are moving along.

Nicole Ard said **community focus group meetings** have been scheduled (as mentioned late last year) and will be announced. John Hamilton said these meetings have been tentatively set for Wednesday, January 23 at 6 p.m. at The Commons of Providence, Wednesday, January 30 at 6 p.m. at the Sandusky Church of the Nazarene, Thursday, January 31 at 6 p.m. at City Hall, Tuesday, February 5 at 12 p.m. at the Erie County Senior Center and Thursday, February 7 at 7:30 a.m. at City Hall.

Nicole Ard said staff will be at some of the **upcoming events to promote the Paper District Marina** including the Cleveland Boat Show.

OLD BUSINESS

Pervis Brown said the **Police Chief Selection Committee met last Friday and Saturday and interviewed three candidates for the position.** After the background checks are performed, the committee can give the city manager names of three great candidates within three weeks. Pervis Brown said he would like

authorization to spend (the last) \$1,500 for background checks on these three candidates. The goal is to have a new police chief in place by March.

Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Wesley Poole, the commission voted to spend \$1,500 to cover expenses for background checks for the top three candidates. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole and Wesley Poole, 7. The President declared the motion passed.

John Hamilton said Lacy Davis died recently and a replacement is needed on the **Human Relations Commission**. The city commission discussed this at their last meeting and John Hamilton asked how the commission would like to handle this appointment.

Upon motion of Diedre Cole and second of Julie Farrar, the commission voted to appoint Dan Leavell, Sr. to the Human Relations Commission for the remainder of a five year term which will expire on October 10, 2014. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole and Wesley Poole, 7. The President declared the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Jeff Smith said **BGSU Firelands College will host a Public Officials Leadership Academy** and asked if the city commissioners will pay for this themselves or if the city will pay for it. Julie Farrar said it does not matter to her how this is covered, but the city commission does have a training budget and asked if there is enough money to cover the cost for all seven commissioners to attend. Keith Grohe said he has already signed up and paid for himself. Jeff Smith and Pervis Brown said they will pay for their own; Julie Farrar said the city can pay and she will then pay the city back. John Hamilton said he has class on Thursday nights and cannot attend, but anyone interested can go. Don Icsman asked the commission to clarify the payment (by individuals or the city) as a body for the budget process and who will be attending. It would be ambiguous for those that haven't volunteered to pay and he heard there is already one member who has registered and paid for this on his own. Diedre Cole said the easiest thing to do is to register those who are interested, and those who wish to reimburse the city can do so.

Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second Wesley Poole, the commission voted for Kelly Kresser to register those commissioners who are interested in attending the BGSU Firelands Public Officials Leadership Academy, and those who wish to reimburse the city can do so. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole and Wesley Poole, 7. The President declared the motion passed.

Julie Farrar said she provided information about **various fees paid for certain services** and would like to look at these again as some are very old. She would like to make sure the city is using the going rates in line with other municipalities. She asked the commission to look at the fees charged and determine whether they are in line. The vacant/commercial building fees do not need to be touched as they were passed very recently.

John Hamilton announced **city offices will be closed on Monday, January 21 in observance of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day holiday.**

Diedre Cole said the Safe **Routes to School Grant** is progressing well and the Sandusky City Schools is coordinating public hearings for the grant application which is due April 1, 2013.

Julie Farrar said she will preface her remarks as her attorney advised her (not Don Icsman), and that what she is going to say is her personal opinion and is not the opinion of this commission so as to free herself from any litigation. Julie Farrar referenced an article in today's Sandusky Register entitled "Hey Sandusky, Time to Score Ard", from the newspaper board. Julie Farrar said, in her opinion, you cannot believe everything you read in the newspaper and quoted from the article: "But current commissioners, with few exceptions, have declined to talk about or discuss Ard's job performance and she appears to have the support of the current majority coalition: Ex-officio mayor John Hamilton and commissioners Julie Farrar, Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith and Pervis Brown. They voted for a deficit budget in 2012 presented by Ard after just 10 minutes of discussion. . . ". Julie Farrar said this was at the March 26, 2012, meeting and the minutes reflect seven commissioners voted for a deficit budget, not five, but not all of the commissioners are included when voting for something that the newspaper finds they do not like. Julie Farrar said the newspaper pointed out these five commissioners like they were Nicole's best friends or something. Julie Farrar said the commission voted tonight for something Nicole Ard did not want them to pass (foregoing some of the play equipment for Lions Park) and the commission disagreed with Nicole; to say the commission does whatever Nicole Ard wants and to not use their own minds is untrue.

Julie Farrar said if someone wants to talk about evaluating or scoring Nicole Ard, none of the charter officers – who are supposed to be evaluated every year – have been evaluated since 2010. Julie Farrar asked why the newspaper is not writing a big expose on why Don Icsman, Hank Solowiej or Kelly Kresser. Julie Farrar said to get off of Nicole Ard's back; she has only been here for one year and the commission is not being given a chance to do anything. Julie Farrar said, in her opinion, the Sandusky Register constantly runs the city and the commissioners down or anyone who sits in the charter officer seats and thank God they have not found anything wrong with Kelly Kresser yet. Julie Farrar said this annoys her and she is a middle-class working woman trying to do the best she can for her city. She has raised her children here, is a proud Sandusky High School graduate, and will continue to live here and die here. A lot of things that have gone on including five murders that have put some off track - and a magic wand cannot be waved to change everything overnight, but the commission does need the community to believe in the commission and to read between the lines. Julie Farrar said she does not understand, for the life of her, why there is a constant stabbing in the back of those in charge or why there is a personal vendetta against certain commissioners or staff. Julie Farrar said, in her opinion, to be prepared because the newspaper will write some negative things about her now after opening her mouth, but the newspaper does not run the city nor does it run her; she makes her own decisions and this is what she was elected to do. Julie Farrar said she will now get off of her soapbox and she wishes the newspaper will get off of Nicole Ard.

Upon motion of Pervis Brown and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to hold an executive session regarding personnel, police department. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole and Wesley Poole, 7. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Pervis Brown and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to hold an executive session regarding personnel, fire department. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole and Wesley Poole, 7. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Pervis Brown and second of Jeff Smith, the commission voted to hold an executive session regarding personnel, engineering department. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole and Wesley Poole, 7. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Wesley Poole and second of Keith Grohe, the commission voted to hold an executive session regarding personnel, general services department. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Keith Grohe, Jeff Smith, Julie Farrar, Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Diedre Cole and Wesley Poole, 7. The President declared the motion passed.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Don Mather, 402 Cove Street, asked if there is an update regarding the Curran Street project (east end) which was approved at the August 27, 2012 meeting. The property owners in this area are planning some of their own improvements in the spring. Nicole Ard said the asphalt plants are currently closed for the season and when warmer weather arrives, these types of projects will start up.

Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street, asked if there is a licensed engineer working in the engineering department now that Todd Roth is gone and asked the timeframe for hiring a new city engineer. Nicole Ard said Jane Cullen has been on staff for many years and is a P.E.; she handles plan review, is very capable and competent and has helped with other activities. Nicole Ard said Paul Ricci has taken on supervision of code enforcement and building inspections and has capably been doing so for a couple of weeks; he is making progress improvements and providing training for staff. Carrie Handy and Anna Enderle (both planners) are both working directly with Nicole Ard as well as plan review staff. Nicole Ard said the city has engineering firms working on specific items. The position has been advertised for a couple of weeks and the deadline for application is February 15. Sharon Johnson asked when Nicole Ard hopes to hire someone and Nicole Ard said this is dependent upon the pool of applicants, but as soon as possible. Sharon Johnson said she was under the impression the city was \$353,000 in deficit and she now is hearing the city has a balanced budget but she does not understand this. Nicole Ard said there is a document available indicating the city has a fund balance between expenditures and money spent in the general fund and she cannot control what other folks print. Nicole Ard said the ratio she would aim for between expenditures and revenue is no less than 25% in an ideal world. Sharon Johnson asked if what was reported in the Sandusky Register was inaccurate and Hank Solowiej said when the March budget was passed last year, the discrepancy is what he estimated revenues were expected to be at that time versus estimated expenses and there was a gap which may have been the difference. It is not

uncommon, in March, to have this variance as revenues are usually very conservative. Hank Solowiej said this year, income taxes and tourism dollars did better and more money came in on the top part of the equation. Hank Solowiej said the term deficit budget is not his; the city comes up with a plan and estimated revenues either come in over or under and adjustments are made (reduce expenditures or create additional revenues). Hank Solowiej said adjustments were made and positions were re-evaluated after some retirements and the city did better than expected on estate and income taxes to make up this difference. Hank Solowiej said the estate taxes are going away this year.

Andy Ouriel, Sandusky Register, asked if the commission would comment if they are in favor of voting to pass a deficit budget in 2013 and why or why not. John Hamilton said he does not think there will be one in 2013 and the budgeted numbers are not actuals. Wesley Poole said he does not want to ignore the question and what he would vote for is dependent upon what is presented. Wesley Poole said he would need a very good reason to vote for a deficit budget and there are conservative predictions for revenues and expectations this will be overcome. Julie Farrar said the city came out better than it thought but next year, there will be a 25% cut in state funding and there will be no more estate tax. Hank Solowiej said there is money in the bank and one option is not to do anything and keep money in the general fund as using it has other ramifications. There will be a little bit of a gap and this is generally where the manager will exercise her control over options. Julie Farrar said she will listen to Hank and Nicole as the professionals. Hank Solowiej said the city has a great bond rating because of things done over the past several years; this is just a number and a rating, but it is important.

Joe Dunlap, 826 Maple Avenue, said he is a lifelong resident of the area and loves this town. He owns a taxi business and has for four years. Between the first and second year, his business doubled and grew that much again between the second and third year. Now it has hit a brick wall. Joe Dunlap said the Sandusky Transit System (a taxpayer-funded enterprise) is taking business away from locally, privately-owned businesses. STS busses are largely empty and they represent a large federal or state grant in the area. Joe Dunlap asked how downtown restaurant owners would feel if Uncle Sam opened an eatery and sold meals for \$1 or \$2. He cannot compete with the STS and no one is complaining because it brings in money. There was a recent article in the Sandusky Register about expanding STS to Vermilion or Rt. 58 in Lorain for \$3; these rides actually cost taxpayers \$10.50. Joe Dunlap asked why these rides are being given away when the country is facing a monumental fiscal cliff which affects each and every one of us. Joe Dunlap asked the city commission to look into this and give it some consideration; he asked if the commission is for socialism or for free market economy. Joe Dunlap asked what the city's return on investment is.

The President announced a recess of the regular session at 6:30 p.m. Four executive sessions were held beginning at 6:46 p.m. Upon motion of Pervis Brown and second of Wesley Poole, the commission voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m. The President declared the motion passed.

Kelly L. Kresser
Clerk of the City Commission

John F. Hamilton
President of the City Commission