

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

The Clerk called the roll and the following Commissioners responded: Naomi Twine, Wes Poole, Nikki Lloyd, Dennis Murray, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady and Dave Waddington.

City staff present: Aaron Klein – Public Works Director, John Orzech – Police Chief, Rick Wilcox – Fire Chief, Matt Lasko – Chief Development Officer, Angela Byington – Planning Director, Stuart Hamilton – IT Manager, Don Rumbutis – IT, Hank Solowiej – Finance Director, Trevor Hayberger - Assistant Law Director, Eric Wobser – City Manager and Kelly Kresser–Commission Clerk.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to approve the minutes of the March 12 meeting and suspend the formal reading. The President declared the motion passed.

#### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Tim Schwanger, 362 Sheffield Way, said in 2008 – 2009 when the city was going through economic difficulty, funding for the Erie County Economic Development Corporation went from \$10,000 to \$30,000 and suggests looking at reducing their funding since the city is fully staffed in this department (Item A). About one year ago, the city gave \$50,000 for a pilot program (Clean & Safe) and the Special Improvement District (SID) or Business Improvement District allowed for a sustainable funding mechanism after the proposed pilot program was over. There was no commitment from the city to involve itself in the SID moving forward and this is nothing but a strong arm to bring people with downtown businesses into the umbrella. Thirty percent of the SID is city property and a lot of places included are already being taken care of such as the Paper District Marina. There is no need for the city to involve itself in this program and it is time downtown stands alone.

#### **PRESENTATION**

**Abbey Bemis, Executive Director of the Erie County Economic Development Corporation (ECEDC)**, said their mission is to promote regional economic development. Numbers show Sandusky residents leave for work outside of Erie County every day and about fifty percent of workers come in from outside Erie County. ECEDC's goal is to promote all of Erie County and north Central Ohio as it creates opportunity for every resident and taxpayer in the City of Sandusky. ECEDC has five strategic priorities as a public/private partnership and 35% of their funding comes from local governments. Twenty-seven new investors have been added in the past three years from the private sector. Supporting existing industry is a huge priority and they make a proactive effort to connect with businesses and last year spoke with 143 of them, 50% of which are within the City of Sandusky. Focus of these conversations are understanding what opportunities lie ahead, what connections may help them be more successful or mitigating challenges. ECEDC worked with a metal company last year to understand Ohio's shale industry and opportunities for them. They worked with a small manufacturer on First Street which was trying to maximize their space and operations to continue to grow. These small connections will hopefully lead to investment. ECEDC worked with AVI last year to connect with an opportunity and relocate their business retaining 29 jobs. Through the RISE program, the goal of entrepreneurship is met by working with milestone mentoring and steps which can be taken to achieve them. Being able to look around a community and see success of others increases the likelihood of taking a risk and they work to bring clients together on a regular basis. Last year, 56 clients were served and over 200 persons were connected through their events series. The city's programs have helped lead to business success and are very much appreciated; ECEDC helps to sustain this investment. Business attraction is a big focus and they work leads in a very competitive space and supported 21 leads. A property database is maintained and 121 Sandusky properties are in this list. Last year was a record year for Erie County for business attraction with Mucci Farms (\$75 million investment plus 200 new jobs), Ohio Patient's Choice (\$20 million investment plus 75 new jobs) and Foth Engineering in Sandusky. Another focus area is quality of

place and making companies feel well supported with easy access to resources. ECEDC helps to make connections among these various entities and to create opportunities for employment, reduce inefficiencies and increase collaboration. The Future Markers showcase is a collaboration with school districts in Erie and Huron Counties which provides career exposure. The Energy Special Improvement District has been operationalized and partners with a Toledo resource to increase opportunity for Erie County businesses including Imagine Baking in the City of Sandusky. ECEDC has a partnership with the Erie County Land Bank program and carried a couple of promissory notes last year rather than through an organization in Cleveland. ECEDC promotes Erie County as a great place to live and work and does so through websites, logos, marketing and direct promotional campaigns. All of these strategic priorities are to increase opportunity for Erie County residents and our growth is far outpacing the region with employment. An additional 990 jobs have been added in this community since the recession and appreciates all of the work and momentum the city has been doing to bolster this effort. With the strategic priorities outlined by the city, ECEDC can be a huge supporter of the vision for a vibrant city. Dave Waddington said he wishes the city could give more than \$30,000 and does not want to lose any economic crumbs. Dick Brady said in 2011, he was responsible for a motion to change the city's contribution to ECEDC from \$10,000 to \$30,000 when the city was flat on its back economically. Sandusky is not in this position any longer and there is a very good reason why Sandusky and Erie County are the largest contributor to ECEDC; we are the largest beneficiaries of their work which we can see by the job retention and outreach efforts with businesses. It is a lot easier to retain a business than it is to replace one and sometimes we have to spend money to make money. Dick Brady said he appreciates the hard work being done by ECEDC and wants the city to continue to support them. Dennis Murray said when the city has been at its very best, we have focused on the region as a whole and when at our worst, we looked inward and failed to account for the fact we are partners with a much larger community. Examples of the investments in Huron provide a likelihood people in Sandusky will get more of these jobs than anyone else simply by way of population. We have built up our economic development staff, but this is a different and critical form of investment and the last three things he would give up would be police, fire or economic development. Without economic development, we cannot afford parks, streets or safety services and supports this continued investment.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

**Dennis Murray announced the opening of a Public Hearing regarding a proposed zone amendment for 301 Superior Street.**

**Casey Sparks, Chief Planner, said this proposed amendment is for the rezoning of 301 Superior Street** to public facilities and the adjoining parcels are zoned as such. The existing use for Ability Works and the proposed use is for a safe and sober living arrangement for 80 individuals to promote abstinence from alcohol and drugs through a clinical program. The applicant is not proposing to make any exterior changes to the building as they will all be interior and they will use existing parking. City staff and members of the Planning Commission recommend approving this zone change. The Bicentennial Plan references a livable city and speaks to developing and setting strategies for priority areas including drug abuse. This facility will assist in the efforts to combat the drug epidemic we have today and staff hopes we can continue conversations about public access at the rear of the property.

Pete Schade, Health Commissioner, said this opportunity will help people dealing with the perils of addiction and this building will serve as a residential model for ladies to detox by their choice. There will be three phases and the healthier they get, they will move from east to west across the building. They will receive motivational awards and a really good model has been put together including workforce development. This property will be landscaped but there are no plans for the lawn area and hopefully there will be other changes down the road. They are excited about Sandusky Bay as the north side of the building as it is nice to have for recovery efforts. People will be able to bring their children for a day visit and Lions Park will be utilized for these visits. Reunification will take place in Vermilion and this will be an important piece in our circle of care and appreciates the city's consideration.

Steve Poggiali, Director of Regional Planning, encourages the commission to move forward with this important rezoning.

Greg Lockhart said he supports this initiative to further the cause with this drug epidemic and assumes at some point it will include others who may be addicted to alcohol. As we develop Lions Park into a beautiful place for walking and to be with families, he wonders about access for the public through this property. Pete Schade said the majority of folks in recovery are out in the public now and most of them will be mothers and will have an access gate. These ladies will be busy from 7:30 a.m. – 9:30 p.m. and will have scheduled visits. They are not in a locked down facility and are looking forward to utilizing as much of the city as possible. Wes Poole asked if there will be a problem with the bicycle path down the road across the lawn in front of this facility and Pete Schade said he welcomes this. Dick Brady said there will always be more to do with this epidemic and the ECHD and the Erie County Commissioners played a huge role in bringing this to reality and commended them for this. The ECHD would not be taking this on without sustainable funds and asked how this will happen. Pete Schade said these ladies will be medically healthy and Medicaid funding will be the primary mechanism. Wes Poole said he supports this project as there is an immediate need but asked about the grass in front of this property in the long term as he believes this property would have been better with residences as opposed to this kind of a function. Hopefully this epidemic will be brought under control and perhaps at some time this property can be upgraded as he believes the west end is in need of residences. Parks need people and this will have a double benefit as those in this facility will use it and we are doing something for society. When the ECHD comes back with other plans for this area, we should be looking for this use.

**The President asked if there were any comments from the public. There being no further discussion, the President declared the Public Hearing closed.**

#### **CURRENT BUSINESS**

**Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Dave Waddington, the commission voted to accept all communications. The President declared the motion passed.**

**Dennis Murray said the Consent Agenda item for the 2018 Budget will be placed on the Regular Agenda and asked if anyone wished to remove any other Consent Agenda items. Wes Poole requested the item pertaining to the public art Master Plan moved to the Regular Agenda.**

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

##### **A. Submitted by Maria Muratori, Development Specialist**

##### **AGREEMENT & ANNUAL PAYMENT TO ERIE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (ECEDC)**

**Budgetary Information:** The city will provide ECEDC \$30,000 in 2018 for services rendered and programs offered. The \$30,000 is to be paid to ECEDC quarterly in 2018 with payments to occur on or around March 31, June 30, September 30 and December 15 of 2018.

**ORDINANCE NO. 18-060:** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the Erie County Economic Development Corporation for certain economic development marketing services for calendar year 2018; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

##### **B. Submitted by Hank Solowiej, Finance Director**

##### **ANNUAL SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE FEE PAYMENT TO SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS INCORPORATED**

**Budgetary Information:** The total cost for the annual support fee is \$28,450. Of this amount, \$14,225 will be paid by the general fund, \$7,112.50 by the water fund and \$7,112.50 by the sewer fund.

**ORDINANCE NO. 18-061:** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing payment to Software Solutions Incorporated of Lebanon, Ohio, for the annual software support

fee for the period April 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

**C. Submitted by Amanda McClain, Housing Manager**

**ACCEPTING ELEVEN PARCELS INTO THE LAND BANK PROGRAM**

**Budgetary Information:** The cost of these acquisitions will be approximately \$1,666.50 to pay for the title exams and transfer fees. The city will not collect the \$10,552.14 owed to the city in special assessments, nor will the taxing districts collect the \$25,983.65 owed in delinquent taxes. However, all of part of these costs may be recouped and reimbursed upon the sale of the parcels. As the properties are put back into tax producing status, the taxing districts will once again begin collecting real estate taxes of approximately \$13,109.80 per year.

**RESOLUTION NO. 014-18R:** It is requested a resolution be passed approving and accepting certain real property for acquisition into the land reutilization program; and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

**D. Submitted by Kelly Kresser, Commission Clerk**

**NEW LIQUOR PERMIT**

**Budgetary Information:** There is no budgetary impact for this item.

The city has received a Notice to Legislative Authority from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control for a **new C2 Liquor Permit (*sales of wine and mixed beverages in sealed containers for carryout*) from NOVA8561 LP dba Hy Miler, 3223 Venice Road**. It is requested the commission clerk be authorized to notify the Ohio Division of Liquor Control the city has no objection to this issuance.

**E. Submitted by Angela Byington, Planning Director**

**AMENDMENT TO FUNDING SOURCE FOR JACKSON STREET PIER PROJECT**

**Budgetary Information:** The proposed expenditure transfer will decrease the CDBG fund balance by \$146,043 and will increase the capital funds budget by \$146,043.

**ORDINANCE NO. 18-062:** It is requested an ordinance be passed amending Ordinance #17-010, passed on January 23, 2017, authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Osborn Engineering of Cleveland, Ohio, for professional design services for the Jackson Street Pier project; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

**F. Submitted by Matt Lasko, Chief Development Officer**

**AMENDMENT TO GRANT AGREEMENT WITH MICHAEL R. MEINZER ETAL**

**Budgetary Information:** The city has not yet disbursed the \$10,400 in grant funds to the grantee from the Community Development capital projects fund. These funds will now be disbursed from the neighborhood initiative account. No additional funds are being disbursed above the originally approved \$10,400.

**ORDINANCE NO. 18-063:** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and approving an amendment to the grant agreement with Michael R. Meinzer ETAL, in relation to the property located at 745 Sycamore Street; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

**G. Submitted by Aaron Klein, Director of Public Works**

**ENCROACHMENT FOR FENCE LOCATED AT 620 LASALLE STREET**

**Budgetary Information:** There are no budgetary impacts to the city resulting for this legislation.

**ORDINANCE NO. 18-064:** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing the City Manager to enter into a license agreement with Norris J. and Demerle A. Gessinger, to provide for the use of a certain portion of the city's property, as described in the grant of a license for encroachment, for purposes of retaining an existing fence; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

**H. Submitted by Hank Solowiej, Finance Director****SUBMERGED LANDS LEASE PAYMENT ON BEHALF OF CHESAPEAKE LOFTS**

**Budgetary Information:** This submerged lands lease is payable by the City of Sandusky as the leaseholder. The Chesapeake Lofts Condo Association will reimburse the city for the cost of the lease. ODNR does not allow a sub-leaseholder to make a submerged lands lease payment on the city's behalf. Ordinance #17-174 was passed by the City Commission on September 11, 2017, approving payment for the periods of April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017 and April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018.

**ORDINANCE NO. 18-065:** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to make payment to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Office of Coastal Management for rental payment on submerged lands lease File #SUB-21198B-ER for the period of April 1, 2018, through March 31, 2019; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

**Upon motion of Nikki Lloyd and second of Dave Waddington, the Commission voted to accept the Consent Agenda and declare all ordinances and/or resolutions as drafted and presented to the City Commission under the Consent Agenda shall take effect in full accordance with the Section reflected in the ordinances and/or resolutions, whether it be in full accordance with Section 13 or Section 14 of the City Charter. Roll call on the motion: Naomi Twine, Wes Poole, Nikki Lloyd, Dennis Murray, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady and Dave Waddington, 7. Roll call on the ordinances and resolutions: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wes Poole, Nikki Lloyd, Dennis Murray, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady and Dave Waddington, 7. The President declared the ordinances and resolutions contained in the Consent Agenda passed in full accordance with the City Charter.**

**REGULAR AGENDA****SECOND READING****ITEM #1 - Submitted by Hank Solowiej, Finance Director****FY 2018 GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS/CITY BUDGET**

**ORDINANCE NO. 18-066:** It is requested an ordinance be passed making general appropriations for the fiscal year 2018 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 Nikki Lloyd, the Commission voted to approve this ordinance under suspension of the rules and at second reading. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wes Poole, Nikki Lloyd, Dennis Murray, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady and Dave Waddington, 7. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wes Poole, Nikki Lloyd, Dennis Murray, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady and Dave Waddington, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and at second reading.**

**SECOND READING****ITEM #2 - Submitted by Greg Voltz, Assistant Planner****AGREEMENT WITH DESIGNING LOCAL FOR PUBLIC ART MASTER PLAN**

**Budgetary Information:** The proposed agreement with Designing Local for professional services is to be \$39,925 and will be paid from the Public and Cultural Art & Acquisition fund referenced in Chapter 187.

**ORDINANCE NO. 18-067:** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into an agreement for professional services with Designing Local, Ltd., of Columbus, Ohio, for the Public Art Master Plan.

**Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Nikki Lloyd, the Commission voted to approve this ordinance at second reading.**

*Discussion:* Wes Poole said he is in favor of public art but believes each of our neighborhoods are different and thinks art in the community should be driven by the community itself. Individuals in neighborhoods being told by out-of-town experts what their neighborhood should look like is

not something he supports. The idea of experts telling us where art belongs and what art looks good is not suitable. There will be three public hearings but from experience and observations made at Public Hearings, whatever the experts tell us are presented and we spend more time arguing about the parts we do not want until the opposition is worn down and ultimately we end up doing what we were told needed to be done. Wes Poole said he would like to build some sense of community and to have connection to art and members of the neighborhood should identify where they want it and should have a lot more to say. Our only experience with public art to date is what was painted on the back of the State Theatre which does not reflect art at all; it is a billboard with selected icons advertising certain things in the community. If the city had not paid for it, there would be no concern whatsoever. The community should get much more involved in deciding what our town is going to look like and how we want to represent ourselves to the public. Nikki Lloyd said having neighborhoods come together in agreement is important because each neighborhood should not be able to just pick their art and put it wherever they want; consistency and coordination is very important in creating artwork in a community. Having a Master Plan is a fantastic idea and creating the Public Arts & Culture Commission to help follow through with it is also a great idea. Dennis Murray said over the last four years, we have had a tremendous amount of public input which caused us to make major changes in direction from plans initially articulated. This is democracy at its best and the Public Arts & Culture Commission will allow us to continue to gather input on a regular basis so no one is excluded and it has not been his observation at any of the dozens of public input meetings people did not have an opportunity to be heard and these comments have been taken into consideration. This does not mean a handful of people have a veto power, it is a public engagement process and must all be considered together as a whole and looks forward to additional input from the public as this unfolds.

**Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Nikki Lloyd, Dennis Murray, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady and Dave Waddington, 6. Nays: Wes Poole, 1. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Nikki Lloyd, Dennis Murray, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady and Dave Waddington, 6. Nays: Wes Poole, 1. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and at second reading.**

## **SECOND READING**

**ITEM #3 - Submitted by Greg Voltz, Assistant Planner**

### **PETITION TO CREATE DOWNTOWN SANDUSKY SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

**Budgetary Information:** There is no budgetary impact in authorizing the City Manager to sign the Petition on behalf of the City of Sandusky.

**RESOLUTION NO. 015-18R:** It is requested a resolution be passed approving the Petition and authorizing and directing the City Manager to execute the Petition for creation of the Downtown Sandusky Special Improvement District under Ohio Revised Code, Chapter 1710.

**Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Dick Brady, the Commission voted to approve this resolution at second reading. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wes Poole, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady and Dave Waddington, 5. Abstain: Nikki Lloyd and Dennis Murray, 2. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the resolution: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wes Poole, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady and Dave Waddington, 5. Abstain: Nikki Lloyd and Dennis Murray, 2. The President declared the resolution passed at second reading.**

## **SECTION 13**

**ITEM #4 - Submitted by Casey Sparks, Chief Planner**

### **PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ZONE MAP FOR 301 SUPERIOR STREET**

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 18-068:** It is requested an ordinance be passed amending the official zone map of the City of Sandusky to rezone Parcel #59-00889.000, located at 301 Superior Street from limited manufacturing to public facility and declaring that this ordinance shall take effect under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 13 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Nikki Lloyd and second of Naomi Twine, the Commission voted to approve this ordinance under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 13 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wes Poole, Nikki Lloyd, Dennis Murray, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady and Dave Waddington, 7. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wes Poole, Nikki Lloyd, Dennis Murray, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady and Dave Waddington, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 13 of the city charter.

**ITEM #5 - Submitted by Maria Muratori, Development Specialist**

**GRANT FUNDS TO MAROUS DEVELOPMENT GROUP, LLC FOR THE FEICK BUILDING (FROM CHESAPEAKE TIF FUNDS)**

**Budgetary Information:** The city will be responsible for providing grant funds in an amount not to exceed \$1.3 million from the Chesapeake TIF, subject to the above conditions.

**RESOLUTION NO. 016-18R:** It is requested a resolution be passed approving the city's intent to invest in the redevelopment of the Feick Building located at 158 – 160 East Market Street by granting funds up to \$1.3 million to Marous Development Group, LLC, using proceeds from the Chesapeake TIF 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 Dave Waddington, the Commission voted to approve this resolution under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

*Discussion:* Maria Muratori, Economic Development Specialist, said this grant is in the amount of \$1.3 million or ten percent of the total project cost, whichever is less. Marous is an experienced developer particularly with respect to historic rehabilitation projects including the City Hall project currently under construction. The bulk of the grant funds will come from the Chesapeake TIF funds and of the remaining amount, up to \$300,000 will come from the economic development funds in the form of a three-year commitment of \$100,000 per year. A tax abatement request will be forthcoming at a later date. This project will be catalytic for the entire community; this is the largest vacant building in the business district and this block has lagged in some of the investment and development seen throughout the rest of the business district. We believe this large investment will help trigger additional investment.

Chip Marous, Managing Member of Marous Development Group, thanked the commissioners for the opportunity present this very exciting project. These projects are very difficult and the public/private relationship has to happen to ensure they move forward. They have been involved with a lot of these projects through the years in Cleveland and other cities and financially, it is tough to make these work and takes everyone's effort. Marous has done development in Cleveland with the Hyatt Hotel downtown which was a \$32 million project completed about twelve years ago; they recently redid all of the rooms and public areas a second time. The Westin Book Cadillac Hotel in Detroit, Michigan, was a 32-story building with \$130 million rehabilitation. This is a 400 room hotel with 35 condominiums. This building sat empty for about 45 years and three stories were completely removed and rebuilt. The Quay 55 on Lake Erie in Cleveland used to be an old automobile storage building and was rehabilitated into 127 apartments and was a \$22 million project. The Capitol Theatre in Cleveland is in the Gordon Arts District on the west side. This theatre sat for many years decaying and was brought back to life as a neighborhood movie theatre. This neighborhood has done a major transformation with the arts. Sandusky's City Hall project is currently under construction and is moving along quickly. Battery Park is on the near west side of Cleveland between 73<sup>rd</sup> and 76<sup>th</sup> Streets which was a 12 acre Brownfield site. In the first phase, about 75% is built out and they have started this as their first rental project with 82 units. The other side is being purchased to be sold or rented and is a \$95 million project. This project survived the economic development downturn in 2009. Willoughby, Ohio, is where Marous started in 1983 when they developed a lot, purchased and rehabbed buildings where businesses opened. The Chagrin River Walk project in Willoughby is 25 acres which was developed with over 200 apartments and a commercial area for offices and retail. The Feick

Building in Sandusky is a very exciting project. In 1908, George Feick built this with three stories including a college business school on the second and third floor and retail on the first floor. The building was designed with multiple stories and in 1922, they added five stories in the front when the college moved out and a bank moved in. The back part was never developed and Marous will be adding a story onto this building. This was called the skyscraper of Sandusky back in the day as it was the tallest commercial building in Sandusky. The building is 59,000 square feet and they are looking to do a five-story addition on the backside and adding another 18,500 SF. Residential apartments will cover 69,000 SF or 89% of the project and retail offices will be about 8,300 SF for a total of 77,500 SF. There will be 59 one- and two-bedroom apartments at about 590 SF to 650 SF ranging from \$650 - \$925 per month. The two-bedroom units will be 800 SF to 1,200 SF ranging from \$964 – \$1,200 per month. The average rent is \$1.36 per SF which can be converted to \$1.25 and is a challenge to get to. The rents in downtown Sandusky now are \$.50/\$.75 per SF because the inventory is old but these will be nice and modern apartments for young professionals and empty nesters. The first floor will include a restaurant or entertainment of some sort. The downstairs has about 1,200 SF with a nice open staircase. The main entrance will now be elevators going up to the residential upper floors and there is an area for a fitness room and a freight elevator. Typical floor plans were shown and they are looking to receive state and federal tax credits to maintain the brick and windows as historically accurate. The façade will be brought back with stone and its original look and the back area will be brought up to five stories. Parking has been secured with the purchase of the parking area behind the building which has 20 – 25 parking spaces. John Spear said the total project development cost is \$14.22 million with the senior debt portion at \$4.97 million and they are partnering with Civista Bank as the key lender. The tax credit incentives and developer dollars are \$7.95 and the city's contribution of \$1.3 million is being requested tonight. Marous is currently seeking to apply to the State of Ohio for a Historic Tax Preservation loan in the amount of \$2 million. Federal tax credits are also being requested. This project is catalytic and the economic benefits of the project are to provide 57 construction jobs. Construction will take 15+ months and this will be significant payroll dollars. Permanent jobs are estimated at 23 to 28 through managing the properties and tenants ranging from \$18 - \$20 per hour along with operations staff and directors from \$23 - \$28 per hour. The developer commitment is over \$12 million and this will bring an economic boost to the city as the goal is to utilize local workforce to build the project. With their 38 year history, Marous does a lot of community give-back and will expect to continue to do this in downtown Sandusky. They look forward to fortifying the strength of this building and bringing vibrancy back to this block and to the building. Mike Marous said when looking at the State tax credit process, they had a March deadline to apply or otherwise may have had to wait until September. They have been researching and going through the building coming up with multiple different floor plan ideas while looking at the market conditions and the schematic design will probably go through the rest of 2018 and will hopefully be notified of the State award by June 30. Financing should be closed by December, 2018, and at that time, they will be going through design/development documents and construction documents. They like to open in the spring as this is when the market is the best and when people want to move.

Nikki Lloyd thanked Marous Development for their continued interest and development in Sandusky. This project is very exciting and with the state tax credits, they have to do some apartments but not to forget about those who might be interested in long-term purchases. Greg Lockhart thanked Marous for coming back into Sandusky and making investment just when we thought this building was down and out. One of the unique things about Sandusky is we are far ahead of most small towns in Ohio with development and partnerships with developers. People are migrating from small towns to larger towns and cities are losing the younger generation. This is a tool for helping the younger generations stay here. A lot of people come in and want to find out about the community and want to rent before they decide where their home is going to be. This is centrally located and someone may start here and eventually move out further into the city. Dick Brady said Marous Development got involved in the City Hall project and they have found other opportunities. This is exactly what the commission hoped would happen and loves when a plan comes together. They have found out we are a city with the pendulum swinging upward and it is incumbent upon all of us to take advantage of this momentum, this market and



this kind of a partnership. Chip Marous said they always knew Sandusky was special and with this leadership, this public/private relationship is happening and commends the city for their vision. They are flattered to be part of this and Sandusky has great assets and they would like to be here for a long time to come. Eric Wobser said a senior from St. Mary's came to visit today as a prelude to shadowing for a week in May and was asked if there was anything specific he would be interested in seeing. The student said he would like to see examples of how Sandusky went from what it was to what it is today as he used to think of Sandusky as place people could not wait to get away from and now he and his classmates are excited about what they see happening and want to return to be part of it. Eric Wobser said he was inspired by this and this will help us to attract new generations moving back into Sandusky. Dennis Murray said some people get concerned about these investments being made by the city but this does not come from dollars which could potentially fund police, fire or street improvements. Rather, these funds are specifically set aside for these types of investments, particularly TIF and economic development dollars from Issue 8. This is one of the last untouchables of things that could never get done (i.e. getting the public to agree to increasing the income tax, getting Cedar Point to agree to increasing the admissions tax, dealing with the Keller Building or City Hall, or the Feick Building). When you begin to add up the additional income tax dollars, the savings from not tearing the Feick Building down and the increase in the local property values, this has become a pretty easy investment for us to make and is excited to have Marous Development as partners. Young folks are looking to stay in the community and parents and grandparents are pretty happy they are looking at our hometown as a place to stay.

**Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wes Poole, Nikki Lloyd, Dennis Murray, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady and Dave Waddington, 7. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the resolution: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wes Poole, Nikki Lloyd, Dennis Murray, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady and Dave Waddington, 7. The President declared the resolution passed under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

**ITEM #6 - Submitted by Maria Muratori, Development Specialist**

**GRANT FUNDS TO MAROUS DEVELOPMENT GROUP, LLC FOR THE FEICK BUILDING (SUBSTANTIAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM)**

**Budgetary Information:** The city will be responsible for providing up to \$300,000 in grants from the economic development capital projects fund over a period of three years.

**ORDINANCE NO. 18-069:** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and approving a grant in the maximum amount of \$300,000 through the substantial development grant program to Marous Development Group, LLC, in relation to the property located at 158 – 160 East Market Street; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

**Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Nikki Lloyd, the Commission voted to approve this ordinance under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wes Poole, Nikki Lloyd, Dennis Murray, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady and Dave Waddington, 7. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wes Poole, Nikki Lloyd, Dennis Murray, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady and Dave Waddington, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

**ITEM #7 - Submitted by Maria Muratori, Development Specialist**

**GRANT TO RENAISSANCE TOO FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 125 EAST WATER STREET (SUBSTANTIAL DEVELOPMENT)**

**Budgetary Information:** The city will be responsible for providing a total of \$90,000 in grant proceeds from the economic development capital projects fund on a reimbursable basis at the completion of the project.

**ORDINANCE NO. 18-070:** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and approving a grant in the amount of \$90,000 through the substantial development grant program to

Renaissance Too, LLC, in relation to the property located at 125 East Water Street; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

**Upon motion of Nikki Lloyd and second of Dave Waddington, the Commission voted to approve this ordinance under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

*Discussion:* Maria Muratori, Economic Development Specialist, said the Economic Development Incentive Committee recommended approving this grant to Renaissance Too. This project involves the total redevelopment of 125 East Water Street which has been vacant for a long time. This is a group of investors led by Bob Hare who has redeveloped several properties along East Water Street including his own personal residence, the building housing Hearth and Zinc Brasserie, Boomtown and Cross Fit. Renaissance Too has entered into a letter of intent with Lake Erie Shores and Islands who will be a tenant for a period of ten years. This project also adds two new residential units to the business district. The sale of this property triggered the repayment of the \$100,000 loan the city provided as part of the Leaking Boot project. Improvements to the exterior of the property were detailed including the cleaning, repair and painting of the upper cornices, replacement of windows, cleaning the storefront with wood and door repair and repainting, and an accessible entrance to replace the existing stairs. In the back, windows will be replaced, there will be a new rear entry stair and landing made compatible with the Shoreline Drive improvements and the basement doors will be opened up and repaired as well as the windows. The first floor will include a visitor service area open to the public, restrooms, offices and a gathering area. The second floor will include a break area, conference room, restrooms and offices. The third floor will house two residential units. The total project, including the \$262,000 acquisition price is approximately \$1 million including upgraded electric finishes, windows, exterior repairs, an elevator, sprinklers, renovations in the basement and residential units on the third floor. The recommended economic development grant is for \$90,000 and the recommended housing grant is \$15,000. Per our housing program guidelines, applicants are eligible for a grant of \$7,500 per unit when the project costs per unit are \$50,000 or more. The total grant amount including the economic development grant and the housing grant is approximately eleven percent of total project costs and will leverage project funds nine and one half times. Renaissance Too has also applied for tax abatement which will be considered at the next Sandusky City School board meeting. Additionally, Lake Erie Shores & Islands has put in an application for a small amount of funds related to signage and small business assistance. This will be reviewed by the Economic Development Incentive Committee in April. The small business portion is for interactive kiosks available to the public and the charging stations. The expected completion of the project is March 31, 2019. This grant is contingent upon Lake Erie Shores & Islands being a tenant in the building. We are very excited for the completion of this project and the continued partnership with the developers and Shores and Islands. Their relocation to the business district is symbolic of the downtown business district revival.

Dr. Ben Murcek, 300 East Water Street, member of Renaissance Too, said Bob Hare (managing partner of Renaissance Too) was unable to be here today. All of the members are excited about the progress of the past several years in bringing blighted buildings back to use in downtown Sandusky. Some members played a small part in this progress and are excited to be contributing to the progress again. They are also very excited to be part of giving Shores & Islands the opportunity to move closer to their target market and will work hard to earn continued confidence with them. Rehabilitation of the building is a significant undertaking and investment. The challenge of investment and the capital necessary to complete the rehabilitation far exceeds the expected value of the building once completed. To help overcome this cost, they are requesting financial assistance from the city in the form of economic development grants being presented today for consideration. They will appreciate approval of these grants to complete this rehabilitation of the building at 125 East Water Street so Lake Erie Shores & Islands can complete their move to downtown Sandusky.

Wes Poole asked what the upper floor will be when complete and Maria Muratori said the third floor will be two residential/rental units while the first and second floors will house Shores & Islands. The basement will be utilized as storage. Dennis Murray said he will abstain from this vote as the property is directly across from his offices. Wes Poole said these buildings downtown cost a lot of money to fix up and in order to get our downtown looking the way we want and take care of them, the taxpayers will have to shoulder significant cost which this represents. There will be folks who question whether this is a good investment for us but in the end it actually is. Leaving buildings the way they are is not good for the community and we will bite the bullet and invest and thanked Renaissance Too for taking this on. The projects we are putting forth today are very worthwhile. Greg Lockhart said we are shouldering this for every citizen in the community and we are not going to wait for a mysterious benefactor to come to town; rather, we are investing in ourselves and is why we are ahead of other small towns in Ohio. Nikki Lloyd thanked Renaissance Too for considering downtown and said they have a fantastic track record and quality of work and could not think of a better place for Shores & Islands to move to.

**Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wes Poole, Nikki Lloyd, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady and Dave Waddington, 6. Abstain: Dennis Murray, 1. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wes Poole, Nikki Lloyd, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady and Dave Waddington, 6. Abstain: Dennis Murray, 1. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

**ITEM #8 - Submitted by Maria Muratori, Development Specialist**

**GRANT TO RENAISSANCE TOO FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 125 EAST WATER STREET (HOUSING DEVELOPMENT & BEAUTIFICATION)**

**Budgetary Information:** The city will be responsible for providing \$15,000 in grant proceeds from the Community Development capital projects account on a reimbursable basis at the completion of the project.

**ORDINANCE NO. 18-071:** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and approving a grant in the amount of \$15,000 through the Housing Development & Beautification grant program to Renaissance Too, LLC, in relation to the property located at 125 East Water Street; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

**Upon motion of Nikki Lloyd and second of Naomi Twine, the Commission voted to approve this ordinance under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wes Poole, Nikki Lloyd, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady and Dave Waddington, 6. Abstain: Dennis Murray, 1. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wes Poole, Nikki Lloyd, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady and Dave Waddington, 6. Abstain: Dennis Murray, 1. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

**ITEM #9 - Submitted by Maria Muratori, Development Specialist**

**GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE ERIE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

**Budgetary Information:** The city will be responsible for providing a total of \$20,000 in grant proceeds from the economic development capital projects fund on a reimbursable basis at the completion of the project.

**ORDINANCE NO. 18-072:** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and approving a façade and signage grant in the amount of \$20,000 to the Erie County Community Foundation (ECCF), in relation to the property located at 135 East Washington Row; 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 Dave Waddington, the Commission voted to approve this ordinance under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

*Discussion:* Maria Muratori said the Economic Development Incentive Committee approved this \$20,000 façade grant for a renovation project at 135 East Washington Row. The ECCF desired a permanent location for its offices and once this building sold, they negotiated a lease with the new landlord and this space is undergoing a complete first floor renovation. This renovation and addition will provide space for other non-profits to lease and the United Way of Erie County and the Sandusky Educational Foundation have already committed to leasing space. The portion of the project directly related to the grant is the façade expansion and the awning replacement. Ten offices will be on the first floor including a space for interns, open workspace, small conference rooms and a community outreach area. There will be an expanded vestibule, new awnings and a new lobby to provide a nice place for partners of the foundation to wait. The total project, including all interior renovations is over \$737,000 and the portion of the project specific to the city's grant is the vestibule and the awnings which are over \$55,000. The proposed \$20,000 grant is three percent of the total project cost and approximately 36% of the costs for the vestibule and awning replacement which is in line with the program guidelines. The project is expected to be complete by November 30, 2018. The ECCF has distributed over \$19 million in grants and scholarships in the last 22 years to 199 distinct organizations and we appreciate their partnership and look forward to continued collaboration.

**Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wes Poole, Nikki Lloyd, Dennis Murray, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady and Dave Waddington, 7. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wes Poole, Nikki Lloyd, Dennis Murray, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady and Dave Waddington, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

**ITEM #10 - Submitted by John Orzech, Police Chief**

**SUBSCRIPTION MATERIAL AGREEMENT WITH LEXIPOL, LLC**

**Budgetary Information:** The total cost for the policy management software is \$50,874. This includes a one-time fee of \$38,000 to provide full implementation of the policies along with a project manager, and an annual subscription cost of \$12,874. The costs will be paid from the Police Department's operating budget and continuing education reimbursement fund.

**ORDINANCE NO. 18-073:** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into an agreement for use of subscription material with Lexipol, LLC, of Irvine, California, for the implementation and annual subscription for policy management software to be used by the Police Department; 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 Dave Waddington, the Commission voted to approve this ordinance under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

*Discussion:* John Orzech said this software is to implement 155 policies over the course of the next months. There will be a project manager sending policies for review with a good timeline to implement. Once implemented, the policies will be reviewed by the employees who will have to read, sign and acknowledge them so there will be documentation they understand them as well as daily training bulletins. There will be questions to answer after reading policies or case laws which will also be tracked. The company will have about 25% of the law enforcement agencies in Ohio currently using this software and they are a national company based in California. Gordon Graham is a risk manager who started the company and Ohio case law is automatically reviewed and put into our city policies to be up to date and always current. We have needed this for a long time and the subscription cost is \$12,000 per year; implementation is the bulk of the cost. Funds to be used for this purchase are in the continuing education line item and Lexipol was recognized last year as four hours of mandatory education credit for the Police Officers. They originally quoted the city \$45,000 for the one-time fee and they dropped this to \$38,000. Wes Poole said these policies are intended to provide us risk management coverage for lawsuits and asked if the city is indemnified and Trevor Hayberger said the city is

indemnified in the contract. We also hope to reduce our insurance premiums by having such a good program.

**Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wes Poole, Nikki Lloyd, Dennis Murray, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady and Dave Waddington, 7. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wes Poole, Nikki Lloyd, Dennis Murray, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady and Dave Waddington, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

**ITEM #11 - Submitted by Hank Solowiej, Finance Director**

**AMENDMENT TO INCOME TAX ORDINANCE**

**Budgetary Information:** There is no budgetary cost associated with adopting this ordinance.

**ORDINANCE NO. 18-074:** It is requested an ordinance be passed amending Part One (Administrative Code), Title Nine (Taxation), Chapter 192 (Income Tax), Section 192.03 (Imposition of Tax), 192.05 (Annual Return; Filing), and the addition of new Section 192.28 (Election to be subject to R.C. 718.80 to 718.95) of the Codified Ordinances in the manner and way specifically set forth hereinbelow; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

**Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Nikki Lloyd, the Commission voted to approve this ordinance under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

*Discussion:* Hank Solowiej said if we do not do this, we would jeopardize collecting revenues the State of Ohio will collect on the net profit tax on businesses. There is still potential litigation with appeals and we have been advised by our legal counsel and RITA's legal counsel now is the time to make some changes to be compliant. Wes Poole asked to compare and contrast current law with what we currently utilize. Hank Solowiej said this allows the state to collect the new profit income taxes which is what HB 49 had originally intended. Municipalities litigated this and the last time legislation was adopted to amend our income tax ordinance, this was not included because of the pending litigation. This has now been resolved in Franklin County Common Pleas Court and is being appealed, but RITA advises we should put this into our ordinance which allows the State to collect the revenues and distribute them back to the city according to HB 49.

**Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wes Poole, Nikki Lloyd, Dennis Murray, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady and Dave Waddington, 7. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wes Poole, Nikki Lloyd, Dennis Murray, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady and Dave Waddington, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

**ITEM #12 - Submitted by Aaron Klein, Director of Public Works**

**DISPOSAL OF MILAN ROAD PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE**

**Budgetary Information:** There is no cost to the city for this declaration and it is understood at this time that all demolition costs would be borne by Norfolk Southern.

**ORDINANCE NO. 18-075:** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to dispose of the Milan Road pedestrian bridge at the Norfolk Southern Railway tracks as having become unnecessary and unfit for city use pursuant to Section 25 of the city charter; 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 Wes Poole, the Commission voted to approve this ordinance under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

*Discussion:* Dave Waddington said about ten years ago, the city tried to get the railroad to tear this down, without luck, and asked what has changed. Dick Brady said Aaron Klein talked to ODOT

about taking this bridge down as part of the Milan Road work but they said no. Aaron Klein offered to pay them to remove it and they again said no and suspects he told ODOT the railroad was going to take it down which will not cost the city anything. Aaron Klein said this is a formality and wants to make sure the railroad's offer to take the bridge down could take place this spring.

**Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wes Poole, Nikki Lloyd, Dennis Murray, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady and Dave Waddington, 7. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wes Poole, Nikki Lloyd, Dennis Murray, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady and Dave Waddington, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

**ITEM #13 - Submitted by Maria Muratori, Development Specialist**

**ACCEPTING RECOMMENDATIONS OF TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL**

**Budgetary Information:** Some of the agreements require both or either annual monitoring fee payments and city compensation payments. For 2017 agreements, the city is to receive a combined \$4,195.58 in monitoring fee payments and \$1,161.26 in city compensation payments. All funds are to be deposited into the general fund.

**RESOLUTION NO. 017-18R:** It is requested a resolution be passed accepting and approving the City of Sandusky Tax Incentive Review Council's recommendations regarding current taxation agreements; and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

**Upon motion of Nikki Lloyd and second of Dave Waddington, the Commission voted to approve this resolution under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wes Poole, Nikki Lloyd, Dennis Murray, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady and Dave Waddington, 7. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the resolution: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Wes Poole, Nikki Lloyd, Dennis Murray, Greg Lockhart, Dick Brady and Dave Waddington, 7. The President declared the resolution passed under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

- **Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Nikki Lloyd, the commission voted to affirm the City Manager's reappointment of Judy Corso, Gary Mortus and Kevin Zeiher to the Bayfront Corridor Committee through December 31, 2020 as well as the appointment of Bridget Sanders through December 31, 2020. The President declared the motion passed.**
- **Sergeant Brad Wilson began attending the Police Executive Leadership College (PELC) during the week of March 12. PELC is a three-week course presenting key executives leadership topics. It is based on the premise leadership skills can be learned and given the opportunity for feedback and practice, executives can substantially improve their abilities to lead. PELC provides executives with one of those rare moments in their professional careers to learn how to practically apply leadership concepts. It is an intensive learning experience focused on leadership skills vital to long term personal success and change in the organization for the benefit of the community.**
- **Sergeant Dawn Allen begins an 11-week Public Safety Leadership Academy program on March 26 hosted at the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy. Courses taught by educators are accredited through The Ohio State University at the John Glenn School of Public Affairs and law enforcement professionals. The course helps develop and improve the knowledge and skills necessary to manage and direct any division within a law enforcement agency.**
- **The City of Sandusky is offering full testing services for the position of Police Officer through National Testing Network, Inc. (NTN). The testing period is April 9 through May 31. To fill out an application and schedule a written test, go to:**

[www.nationaltestingnetwork.com](http://www.nationaltestingnetwork.com), select 'Law Enforcement' and sign up for the Sandusky Police Department. Interested persons must register prior to reporting to the testing facility. The closest testing locations to Sandusky are EHOVE Career Center and Owens Community College. Wes Poole asked if there is a contract for the testing and Eric Wobser said the NTN allows us to have a broader reach for applicants to take the test. Wes Poole asked who they reach out to and how this is done. John Orzech said internally, staff goes to major local colleges including Tiffin University, Toledo University, Cleveland State University and others with criminal justice programs. This is also given out to police academies near our area including Sandusky and Ehope. We expanded our dates this year and Officer Chris Rankins oversees the local program; those who are in the Ohio Police Officer Training Academy get ten percent on their scores and want to make sure candidates can get this certification, especially for local candidates. Wes Poole said he believes additional points should be considered for those with college degrees in the future.

- **Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Dick Brady, the commission voted to approve ratifying the application for two grants on behalf of the Sandusky Fire Department including the application for a Safety Intervention grant for Fire Fighters Exposure to Environmental Element application for EMS Grant.**

*Discussion:* Eric Wobser said legislation will follow at the next commission meeting to ratify these grant applications.

**The President declared the motion passed.**

- Congratulations to **Kaye Burel, who will be retiring from the Customer Accounting Office** on March 30. We would like to publicly thank Kaye for her many years of service and dedication to the City of Sandusky.
- Staff has determined the quantity, species and locations for **33 trees to be planted this spring.**
- Crews are currently installing the **new play equipment at Foxborough Park** and completion is anticipated in April.
- **Baseball diamonds and associated parks are being prepped** throughout the city for spring sports and outdoor play. Prioritization is based on currently scheduled events.
- The city has received the **refurbished Boy with the Boot**. The Boy with the Boot is currently being stored until he can be placed on his perch in Washington Park. Until his return to Washington Park, he can be followed on social media.
- The yard waste program will run April 1 to December 31. Residents who experience issues with their waste being picked up can contact Republic Waste Services of Sandusky at 419.626.2454.
- The draft **annual Action Plan for the CDBG PY2018** will be available for public review and comment from March 23 through April 22 in the Community Development Department as well as at the Sandusky Library. A second Public Hearing will be held on Monday, April 23 during the City Commission meeting concerning the city's FY2018 CDBG program.
- The regular **Planning Commission** meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 28 at 4:30 p.m. in the first floor conference room.

- The **Landmark Commission** meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 28 immediately following the Planning Commission meeting.
- The inaugural **Spring Break Camp** kicked off today at SHS and our Recreation staff stopped by. Eric Wobser said his son is a participant in this program and met Tondra Frisby today and could not wait to see her in the office after meeting her. This is a productive, healthy and exciting thing for kids and there are many partners helping with this and we are on to something special with our Recreation Department.
- Greg Lockhart said we **should look at safety services as a whole and staffing levels** to make sure they are up to speed with what the SPD and SFD are doing as our calls for service are increasing. Dennis Murray said we need to look at staffing levels from time to time given changes with equipment and technology and options in how we staff with part-time employees or additional employees. It would be a good time to take a step back and ask the Chiefs to collect information and bring this back to the commission in the future.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Dave Waddington said there will be a meeting Monday at 6 p.m. to kick off details for a **city-wide cleanup** in the near future. Eric Wobser said Dave Waddington has been working with people in the community on how to better plan for clean-ups and eliminate blight in the neighborhoods. We are working to have designated weekends during the year when dumpsters can be placed in certain neighborhoods and we will work to get the word out into the community for residents to plan their spring cleaning. Talon Flohr will work on organizing this and on April 21, there will be a Friends of Pipe Creek cleanup at the pathway. City dump day is August 28 at the boat launch facility.

**Upon motion of Nikki Lloyd and second of Dave Waddington, the commission voted to have the Law Department bring an amendment to create an expansion of our current smoking ban legislation.**

*Discussion:* Nikki Lloyd said a couple of years ago, the commission passed legislation restricting smoking near play equipment in our parks which was well received. Parents were happy and people have been understanding about the smoking ban. The only disappointment she has heard is it has not gone far enough and it is important to follow what other communities are doing and be a leader to support a healthy, active lifestyle. Nikki Lloyd said she would like this to be expanded to include the entirety of all city parks. Greg Lockhart said he objects to this wholeheartedly as this infringes upon people's right to smoke in public. We have made corrective measures to protect the public and part of this was to protect the children in proximity to smoking rather than a total ban. We had a ban which did not allow smoking within 25' from where children were playing on equipment. To go any further is infringing upon someone's rights and it is these types of things one has to stand on when they come about. In no way would he support anyone for any reason going further plus this burdens our safety services. Our call volumes have increased by about 3,000 calls and now we are looking for a butt patrol and this is ludicrous to even suggest this. Wes Poole said the motion as made is vague and asked what this will be expanded to as this does not provide any direction. Wes Poole said currently, we have a 25' radius around the apparatus which is all of the parks, not just one, and there is nothing to expand as this applies to all parks. Nikki Lloyd said with a 25' radius, this does not include the entirety of the park. Children play in the parks, not just in the area with the play equipment and this is a protection for all of our community. It is important we protect children on all of our property. To say we are taking away a persons' rights, any human has a right to breathe fresh air and we need to protect the air we have for those who want to enjoy our parks. Greg Lockhart said this is about liberties and about what each of us want in our community and there is a thing



called avoidance for situations you do not like. When talking about liberties, there is a pesky little thing called the Constitution about where you can or cannot go or what you can or cannot do. In considering this, there is no evidence of how the actual program has gone. There is no data or statistics and we are just espousing things. Before we do anything, we should have this data or statistic and most of all, we should have feedback from the public and this calls for a public hearing. This is major and affects all citizens of Sandusky. Dennis Murray said if this motion passes, this would go on the agenda on the normal procedure to allow for public comment and participation.

**Upon motion of Greg Lockhart and second of Wes Poole, the commission voted to table this motion. Roll call on the motion to table: Yeas: Wes Poole and Greg Lockhart, 2. Nays: Naomi Twine, Nikki Lloyd, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady and Dave Waddington, 5. The President declared the motion fails.**

**Roll call on the original motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Nikki Lloyd, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady and Dave Waddington, 5. Nays: Wes Poole and Greg Lockhart, 2. The President declared the motion passed.**

#### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Anthony Harris, 1329 Avondale Street, Chairman of the Community Relations Commission (CRC) said this smoking ban just got railroaded through without having a Public Hearing. If someone is a non-smoker, it is their right to participate in a public hearing espousing why the whole of our parks should be designated as non-smoking areas. When listening to some of the things which get pushed through at the commission meeting, a lot of times the public and the community needs to participate in decision-making. This was pushed through unfairly and should have been tabled until a Public Hearing could be scheduled and does not understand how the commission, representing the community, can push something like this through without looking at what the community feels. They should ask what the community wants before making a blanket situation. Senior citizens may run the risk of getting hit by a Frisbee or a football or by a kid running through the park and could make a park edict with “no active sports” and these people have a right to go the park and not worry about this. He will be taking this to the CRC to find out how they feel and let them reach out to people. Dennis Murray clarified the only step taken tonight was to ask for this legislation to be placed on the agenda and it will be debated as all legislation is during a public meeting with public input. Naomi Twine said this does not prevent the CRC from holding meetings about smoking in public areas. The vote was to research and bring this issue back to the commission, but the CRC can also have public meetings about it. Greg Lockhart said we make laws based upon reason and not arbitrarily make them based upon espousing comments and personal feelings. There is a bit of public work to do before legislation is presented.

Larry Fletcher, 13 Twin Oaks Drive, Milan, Ohio, President of Lake Erie Shores & Islands, said for all the reasons mentioned tonight about economic development, he thanked the commission for continuing to invest in downtown Sandusky and the region, especially for the legislation passed tonight. Shores & Islands has had a great run at their existing location and it has served them well over the years. This is the right time to be part of Sandusky’s continued growth and looks forward to being neighbors as soon as the respective projects are completed.

**At 7:01 p.m., upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Dick Brady, the commission voted to adjourn. The President declared the motion passed.**

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Kelly L. Kresser, CMC  
Commission Clerk

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