

The President 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: Dave Waddington, Greg Lockhart, Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole and Dick Brady.

Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Wes Poole, the commission voted to excuse Nikki Lloyd. The President declared the motion passed.

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

Dennis Murray introduced **Nick Katsaros with Regional External Affairs for FirstEnergy Corporation**. Nick Katsaros said he is the city's new contact for FirstEnergy. Most city employees worked with Gary Mortus, who retired this spring, for a very long time. Nick said he has been with FirstEnergy for about nine years in a couple of different roles and looks forward to meeting and working with city officials and helping out with issues from street light outages, major outages or simply quick questions and to feel free to contact him.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2019, meeting and suspend the formal reading. The President declared the motion passed.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Tim Schwanger, 362 Sheffield Way, said it is good to see the city's Recreation Department is seeking different funding mechanisms and grants for use (Consent Item A). He said this grant is part of the Erie MetroParks levy from 20 years ago and from his recollection, this is the first time in recent history the city has actually tried to take advantage of this program. He asked what a gaga pit is as it is noted to be placed outside of the building. Item #2 is for \$23,000 from the capital replacement fund to purchase new vehicles for the Sandusky Transit System and said four, five or six years ago, the commission said they were trying their best to make STS a self-sustaining program and is concerned because direct funding was taken from the city's budget last year. This will tap into the 2019 city budget and asked where we stand with Erie County jumping onboard and throwing in their money. Tim Schwanger asked where the city stands with making this a self-sufficient program.

CURRENT BUSINESS

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

Dennis Murray asked if anyone wished to remove any items from the Consent Agenda. Wes Poole requested Item E be placed on the Regular Agenda (new Item #1 below).

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

A. Submitted by Jason Werling, Recreation Superintendent

AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT GRANT APPLICATION TO ERIE METROPARKS FOR RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Budgetary Information: The Sandusky Recreation Department is applying for all three levels of grant funding with priority to the highest level:

- *Category 1, up to \$1,000* – Funds to assist with the purchase of a Gaga Pit game for use outside the Recreation Department offices at 222 Meigs Street later this summer.
- *Category 2, between \$1,000 and \$3,000* – Funds to assist in the purchase of five park boxes for use with the 50th anniversary of the city's playground program. The boxes will

store playground equipment and games during the summer program between the months of June and August.

- *Category 3, over \$3,000 but not to exceed \$10,000* – Funds to assist in the purchase of a shade structure and seating as part of the Huron Park playground installation scheduled for later this year.

RESOLUTION NO. 015-19R: It is requested a resolution be passed authorizing the submission of a grant application to the Erie MetroParks Board of Park Commissioners for financial assistance through the 2019 local park capital improvement grant program for the Recreation Department; and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

B. Submitted by Rick Wilcox, Fire Chief

AGREEMENTS FOR EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING

Budgetary Information: This will not impact the budget as there is no cost involved.

1. ORDINANCE NO. 19-057: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a three year agreement with Ehope Career Center for the use of city facilities and equipment at the Sandusky Central Fire Station for the period of January 1, 2019, through December 31, 2021; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

2. ORDINANCE NO. 19-058: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a three year agreement with LifeCare EMS Training Academy for the field internship training program and use of city facilities and equipment at the Sandusky Central Fire Station for the period of January 1, 2019, through December 31, 2021; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

3. ORDINANCE NO. 19-059: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a three year agreement with Vanguard-Sentinel Adult Career Centers for the use of city facilities and equipment at the Sandusky Central Fire Station for the period of January 1, 2019, through December 31, 2021; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

C. Submitted by John Orzech, Police Chief

ANNUAL PAYMENT TO LEXIPOL, LLC FOR SUBSCRIPTION COSTS

Budgetary Information: The total cost for the annual subscription costs with Lexipol is \$13,518. The costs of the annual subscription will be paid from the Police Department's operating budget.

ORDINANCE NO. 19-060: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing payment to Lexipol, LLC of Frisco, Texas, for the annual subscription fee for policy manual updates and daily training bulletin services for the period of April 1, 2019, through March 31, 2020; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

D. Submitted by Matt Lasko, Chief Development Officer

ADDENDUM TO LEASE AGREEMENT WITH OWEN SOUND TRANSPORTATION FOR USE OF JACKSON STREET PIER FOR THE PELEE ISLANDER

Budgetary Information: The city shall receive a one-time payment of \$11,035.08 due and payable on or before July 29, 2019 for calendar year 2019. All revenues are to be deposited into the general fund.

ORDINANCE NO. 19-061: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a sixteenth addendum to the lease agreement between the city and the Owen Sound Transportation Company, Limited, for the utilization of dockage space at the Jackson Street Pier; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Dick Brady and second of Dave Waddington, the Commission voted to accept the Consent Agenda and declare all ordinances 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 or resolutions whether it be in full accordance with Section 13 or Section 14 of the City Charter.

Discussion: Dennis Murray said the grant program for Item A was rolled out fairly recently offering funds to different communities and believes last year was the first year, but does not know the particular source of funding. Jason Werling said the city applied for funding last year but does not know how many years it has been available. There is a tight window between the information session held about the grants to when they are due. We wanted to submit last year but did not get the final submission to them; this year, we are ahead of the game in submitting. A gaga pit an octagon pit with an eight-sided wooden wall where participants step inside and try to hit a ball off the wall without using their hands. The second funding request is for playground boxes celebrating the 50th year for our playground program. These boxes would be filled with basketballs or gear for the playground. The third level of funding is for a shelter structure at Huron Park to go with the new play equipment and surfacing scheduled for this year. Wes Poole said applying for this grant is one of many things we are doing to coordinate our recreation program with Erie County and the Sandusky City Schools. Overall, staff has done a good job in providing the recreation programs for our citizens.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Dave Waddington, Greg Lockhart, Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole and Dick Brady, 6. Roll call on the ordinances and resolutions: Yeas: Dave Waddington, Greg Lockhart, Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole and Dick Brady, 6. The President declared the ordinances and resolutions contained in the Consent Agenda passed in full accordance with the City Charter.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

ITEM #1 - Submitted by Aaron Klein, Director of Public Works

EASEMENT AGREEMENT WITH RICK & MEGAN HOGREFE FOR WAGNER BUILDING, LLC

Budgetary Information: There will be no impact on the city's budget to approve this easement.

ORDINANCE NO. 19-062: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to grant an access easement to Wagner Building, LLC, for the purpose of general access to 246 East Market Street, Sandusky; 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 Naomi Twine, the Commission voted to approve this ordinance under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Wes Poole said he has some reservations as he was under the impression the city sold this in January and is not comfortable with adding an encumbrance on this property while in contract with another party. Matt Lasko said this is the second of two easements (the first was passed while the property was under contract). This will allow one-way traffic coming in from Market Street to circulate through the site to Hancock Street. This will help with traffic flow and circulation through both sites and assures this second easement was vetted with the purchaser. The property is anticipated to be sold at the end of April. Marous Development Group and their counsel, Jim Peters with Reminger & Reminger, are very satisfied with the details of this easement. Wes Poole asked if this change was sent to them in writing and Matt Lasko said they have seen the change in writing and have provided red-lines to the document. Their attorney has been terribly involved with our counsel and those of Rick and Megan Hogrefe as well and assures all three attorneys representing the entities involved have signed off on this document. Wes Poole said we could have avoided this had he (Matt) included this in the information sent. Just so people understand why he asks questions, Wes Poole said when we did the first easement, it was included with the information, but it was excluded this time. We have obligations which require written notification of major changes. Dennis Murray said this is all part of our due diligence and thanked Wes Poole for his questions.

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

**ITEM #2 - Submitted by Nicole DeFreitas, Transit Administrator
PURCHASE OF TWO TRANSIT VEHICLES FROM BUS SERVICE, INC.**

Budgetary Information: The purchase of two light transit vehicles will impact the capital replacement fund in the amount of \$23,084, or twenty percent of the total vehicle cost which is \$115,418.

ORDINANCE NO. 19-063: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to purchase two light transit vehicles from Bus Service, Inc., of Canal Winchester, Ohio, through the State of Ohio Department of Transportation cooperative purchasing program for the Sandusky Transit System; 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 accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Dennis Murray said the city has long subsidized transit and will always subsidize it as well as the State and Federal government as this is simply the nature of transit. Private transportation is also subsidized by the government. We have had years where we have had to support this more than others as part of the city budget, but our subsidy has been going down continuously in recent years while STS ridership continues to increase. Recently, we hosted an opportunity for the Erie County Commissioners and Perkins Township Trustees to participate; they understand what is going on with transit and we have had some collaborative success with them. Dennis Murray asked Nicole DeFreitas for a presentation or memorandum to the commissioners to be refreshed about the full scope of the funding for transit because there are a lot of pieces which come from the county we may not be directly aware of, but the contract provides a lot of services. Nicole DeFreitas said we hosted a tour to refresh the Perkins Township Trustees, Erie County Commissioners and others about what is going on in the area with a great response. We are looking at ways to get together and create a Master Plan for the county to better serve the needs of the residents through STS to determine the best ways for everyone to put a little bit into the pie and make the system grow even more. Erie County does support us in many ways with our JFS contract and we recently contracted with the Veteran's Services organization to provide transit which was approved by Erie County. Perkins Township recently budgeted \$45,000 to install bus shelters along our blue route to help serve passenger needs and this is a step in the right direction. They have embraced what we are doing and had more discussion about how they can better support us. Dennis Murray asked for an update about the funding details and where money comes from. Nicole DeFreitas said the entire STS budget is about \$2.2 million and about half of the operating funds come from ODOT, passenger fares and the city's subsidy. Ten percent of all contracts is placed into a capital replacement fund and is where the money to purchase these vehicles will come from. Dennis Murray said these buses are expensive - similar to firefighting equipment - and we maintain a replacement schedule to keep track of both replacement and funding sources; he will pass this schedule along to the other commissioners. Nicole DeFreitas said STS follows ODOT guidelines for these vehicles which is a six-year or 150,000 mile replacement schedule. We are on schedule to replace two buses per year and for 2019, we will not dispose of vehicles because of the addition of the yellow line and the growth we have had. We need these two vehicles in addition to the current fleet to keep our spare ratio where ODOT would like it. Dennis Murray said five years ago the capital budget consisted of bailing wire and duct tape and is glad we have a real schedule today. Wes Poole told Nicole DeFreitas to continue doing what she is doing and said the service has improved significantly over the years and new vehicles are important to growing the business and providing quality service. Our contribution for these two buses is \$23,084 which is not bad considering

what we get in terms of what it adds to the service for this community. The more people who ride, the less money we have to subsidize in other areas and folks should try the system. Wes Poole said he rode the other day and it is getting better and better and hopefully more and more people will use it. Nicole DeFreitas said from March, 2018, to March, 2019, we had a 153% increase in the fixed routes which is a trend we have been seeing and are moving in the right direction. The fixed routes are where we would like to see the growth because they are cheaper for us to run.

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

ITEM #3 – Submitted by Jane Cullen, Assistant City Engineer

CONTRACT AWARD TO NORTH BAY CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO PIER TRACK AND FARWELL PUMP STATIONS

Budgetary Information: The estimated cost of the project, including inspection, advertising and miscellaneous costs is \$3,027,688.40 and be paid with sewer funds. The City Commission approved Resolution 048-18R on October 22, 2018, to file an application with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for a loan through the Ohio Water Pollution Control loan fund. The loan will be used at a zero percent interest rate for a maximum term of twenty years. In addition to this loan, the city will seek appropriate reimbursement from Erie County as per the terms of the existing sewer services agreement and associated amendments. Currently, Erie County's share is 55% for the Farwell pump station and 48% for the Pier Track pump station.

ORDINANCE NO. 19-064: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a contract with North Bay Construction, Inc. of Westlake, Ohio, for the pier track pump station and Farwell pump station improvements project; 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 Naomi Twine, the Commission voted to approve this ordinance under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Aaron Klein said the city has done an amazing job over the last forty years of piecing together and making sure routine maintenance is done on the lift stations to keep them going; however, these two lift stations were installed in the 1950's and upgraded in 1982. Only four pumps have been replaced at the Farwell lift station so this was not a major replacement project and a lot of the equipment here was way past its useful life. Over the past five or six years, we have done a really good job of replacing, improving and doing whatever we can on lift stations throughout the city. We have attacked pretty much all of them except for one and these are two of the last three needing major upgrades. The Pier Track lift station is on Cedar Point Road on the east side of the street near the fire station while Farwell is where a supplemental pump was just added to expand the capacity and sits between Second and First Streets. We will be gutting these completely and making these improvements which are required by the Ohio EPA through our NPDES permit modifications and negotiations with the city to redirect flow. These will be designed to reduce overflows, not necessarily eliminate them at this point. This will reduce the capacity being sent into the sewer and over time, if we implement all of the projects we want to over the next ten to fifteen years, we will be able to redirect even more of this flow across the city to the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Hopefully, at some point, these overflow locations will be completely obsolete. The goal is to get down to about four overflows per year. We have already reduced about 90% - 95% and now the EPA wants us to start eliminating and reducing even more to get us in the 97% to 99% range. These two lift stations have to be operational, based on our agreement, no later than December 1, 2020. With a twelve month lead time for the pumps, we want to make sure we get started right away and give ourselves flexibility in case we run into issues. This is a large project, but we were able to secure a zero percent interest loan

over 20 years which is a savings of approximately \$1.2 to \$1.3 million (Item #4). Aaron Klein said a potable water system is pressurized and does not require a “flat” installation; rather, it can be installed up and down throughout the city based on rock and other things. Combined sewers are usually gravity-fed and the system goes downhill; once it gets too deep to make the project cost effective, a lift station is installed to pump it back up and then go downhill again. There may be a series of lift stations to get the water high enough and depending on the location, a combined sewer has sanitary and storm flow. These two stations have a little bit of both and is why we are allowed to have permitted CSO’s. As far as providing extra capacity to these stations, the county ties into the city sewer system at various locations - one south of Cleveland Road east at our corporation limits, and one from the county’s Plum Brook pump station. There are two separate flows (one from Remington Avenue and one from the east corporation limit) which comes up and feeds the pier track lift station and we are providing some capacity for them. Per the agreement with Erie County, they will contribute toward this project. From the Pier Track, this pumps to the Farwell lift station where it will pump to our main interceptor sewer which goes to the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Dennis Murray said this is a large project and wanted to make sure everyone understands a lot of this is service for the county, but the county also pays for their share of this project.

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

ITEM #4 - Submitted by Jane Cullen, Assistant City Engineer

LOAN AGREEMENT WITH OHIO EPA FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO PIER TRACK AND FARWELL PUMP STATIONS

Budgetary Information: The total cost associated with the loan will be as follows:

Engineering costs with Jones & Henry Engineers	\$230,000.00
Construction costs with North Bay Construction	\$2,752,444.00
Ten percent project contingency	\$275,244.40
TOTAL	\$3,257,688.40

ORDINANCE NO. 19-065: It is requested an ordinance be passed approving a Water Pollution Control loan fund agreement between the City of Sandusky, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the Ohio Water Development Authority to finance the cost of the pier track pump station and Farwell pump station improvements project; 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 accordance with Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Dave Waddington, Greg Lockhart, Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole and Dick Brady, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Dave Waddington, Greg Lockhart, Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole and Dick Brady, 6. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

ITEM #5 – Submitted by Jeff Keefe, Project Engineer

AUTHORIZATION TO BID MCCARTNEY ROAD RECONSTRUCTION, STORM SEWER & PUMP STATION PROJECT

Budgetary Information: The total estimated cost of the project, including construction, engineering, inspection, advertising and miscellaneous costs is \$1,840,000 with \$175,000 to be paid with Issue 8 funds from the capital projects fund, \$175,000 to be paid with Ohio Public Works Commission loan funds, and it is anticipated the city will apply for a low interest Ohio Water Development Authority loan after bid opening to fund the remaining balance of \$1,490,000.

RESOLUTION NO. 016-19R: It is requested a resolution be passed declaring the necessity for the city to proceed with the proposed McCartney Road reconstruction, storm sewer and storm pump

station project; approving the specifications and engineer's estimate of cost thereof; and directing the City Manager to advertise for and receive bids in relation thereto; and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

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

Discussion: Dennis Murray said this is a very long-awaited project and will be much appreciated by folks who live on McCartney Road. Aaron Klein said as with many of our street resurfacing projects, they turn into utility projects. We looked at trying to reutilize an existing storm sewer system and it was severely inadequate. It was way too high, not of the right capacity, was too small and the ditch it drains into was filled in and overgrown. That ditch goes into another which runs along a culvert under Barrett Road and to another ditch on railroad property next to Sandusky Bay. The entire wetlands area to the west - which is outside of the city - also uses the same drainage system and anytime there is rainwater or flooding issues, this neighborhood was competing for the culvert which runs under the railroad. It is difficult to get new infrastructure under the railroad and we decided to build a lift station on the south side of Barrett Road, replace the culvert and put a backflow device within the culvert in order to alleviate this situation. Because everybody was competing for the railroad ditch, now everybody can use this and when we need to, we can still keep pumping into it with no problems whatsoever. We are replacing the storm sewers and as part of the project, we are also going to replace the entire roadway and this is what started the project. For the OPWC grant, we also included Ward, Church and Niagara Streets which are all in the same vicinity. We received a \$175,000 loan for the roadway portion of the project as well as \$175,000 from Issue 8 capital funds to round the project out. There is also a \$1.49 million OWDA loan which should come to the commission in May or June. We are doing everything we can by replacing storm sewers, putting in lift stations and backflow devices and increasing the capacity in the Venice sanitary lift station. A lot of the combined laterals, downspouts and sanitary laterals in these neighborhoods are leaking and this is where some of the capacity issues may end up being if we end up with flooding. We are going into yards and doing work on private properties, but if there is flooding in these neighborhoods, especially on McCartney Road, we will still work with property owners to replace and repair their laterals. We have talked to them about this at public meetings and plan to have another this or next month to update them on the projects. Dennis Murray asked the current state of the homeowners' legal ability to tie downspouts into the sanitary sewer. Aaron Klein said he has been told they cannot tie into a sanitary sewer, but they can tie into a storm sewer if it is new. If they are already tied in, we are not allowed to force them to disconnect. Wes Poole asked about the legality of this and Trevor Hayberger said it is his understanding downspouts cannot drain into sanitary systems, but was not aware the city can make them disconnect.

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

ITEM #6 – Submitted by Matt Lasko, Chief Development Officer

CONTRACT WITH BARNES NURSERY FOR ASBESTOS ABATEMENT AND DEMOLITION OF 624 CAMP STREET

Budgetary Information: The project cost based on the bid, including advertisement and miscellaneous costs is \$19,232. This project will be paid for with \$19,232 of removal of unsafe building funds. The owner will then be billed the full cost of the demolition. If the bill remains unpaid, the full cost of the demolition will be certified to the tax duplicate.

ORDINANCE NO. 19-066: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Barnes Nursery of Huron, Ohio, for the asbestos

abatement and demolition of 624 Camp Street project; 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 accordance with Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Dave Waddington, Greg Lockhart, Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole and Dick Brady, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Dave Waddington, Greg Lockhart, Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole and Dick Brady, 6. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

ITEM #7 – Submitted by Matt Lasko, Chief Development Officer

AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT WITH MANNIK & SMITH GROUP FOR BROWNFIELDS

Budgetary Information: The Brownfields grant will fund one hundred percent of this contract which will be split between petroleum and hazardous funding as site restrictions apply.

ORDINANCE NO. 19-067: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a first amendment to the agreement with Mannik & Smith Group, Inc., of Beachwood, Ohio, for professional environmental services in conjunction with the US EPA brownfields grant received from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; 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 accordance with Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Dave Waddington, Greg Lockhart, Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole and Dick Brady, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Dave Waddington, Greg Lockhart, Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole and Dick Brady, 6. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- **Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to accept a donation of \$10,000 from the Randolph J. and Estelle M. Dorn Community Foundation for body worn cameras.**

Discussion: Eric Wobser said the Dorn Community Foundation committed \$10,000 on March 1, 2020, and March 1, 2021 (each year) for a generous \$30,000 total donation over the three year contract with Axon. We are thankful for their support of the program. John Orzech said in January, the commission approved the expenditure of \$62,373 for the Axon body cameras with \$30,000 coming from the Police Department's operating budget, \$10,000 from a grant and \$23,373 from the capital fund. We appreciate the Dorn Community Foundation and said Mel Stauffer was involved with this when we originally started using body cameras. They have been great advocates for the Police Department and the community in providing transparency for interactions with our officers and we greatly appreciate their contribution.

The President declared the motion passed.

- Lake Erie Shores & Islands reached out to the city via email and said the **media coverage of the city's opting to recognize Election Day as a paid holiday in lieu of Columbus Day** was recently reviewed with their public relations tracker. During the months of February and March, 153 articles appeared with a reach of over 237 million people. Coverage occurred in 38 states and the District of Columbia with notable publications including the *Washington Post*, Yahoo, News.com, MSN.com, the Huffington Post, CNN, Fox News, National Public Radio, Newsweek and at the *New York Times*. In addition, notable individuals re-tweeted the coverage including Senators Bernie Sanders and Sherrod Brown, Zooey Deschanel, Paton Oswalt and Bernice King. This was a policy decision made by the City Commission and we received nationwide recognition in the past few months because of it.

- Police Officers participated in the **spring break camp hosted by the Recreation Department.**
- The **Coffee with a Cop** at Viewpoint was very successful. A five gallon bucket of unused prescription drugs was collected during the event to be properly disposed of.
- **Congratulations to Brian Cowie who will be retiring** as a Captain/Shift Commander on April 17 after 27 years of faithful service to the Fire Department.
- **Congratulations to Mario D’Amico who will be promoted** to Shift Commander in his current rank as Captain and to **Kevin McGraw who will be promoted to Lieutenant.**
- An **offer of employment has been given to Andrew Pettay** for an open Fire Fighter position; he will start on April 18.
- We are currently **awaiting results of the Captain’s test given in the Fire Department.** Once results are in, we will have a promotion to Captain. A **Lieutenant’s exam** will be given on April 22.
- Our **Fire Department Community Impact Officer has been active in the community** by participating at the Sandusky Children’s Museum and helping with the St. Mary’s Fish Fry. Fire personnel, along with the Community Impact Officer, helped the Recreation Department during its three-day spring break camp which was a great success.
- Sandusky was named a **2018 Tree City USA** by the Arbor Day Foundation in honor of its commitment to effective urban forest management. The city also received a Growth Award which is given to communities which engaged in new programs and projects while enhancing urban forestry resources. An awards ceremony will take place on May 8 in Brecksville, Ohio, and several members of the city’s Tree Commission will attend.
- There are **two spring clean-up opportunities** available to city residents free of charge. Drive-thru drop-off day will take place on April 27 at the Shelby Street boat launch overflow parking lot located at 101 Shelby Street. We are in desperate need of volunteers for this event. In addition, residents are welcome to **drop their yard waste** at Barnes Nursery, 1630 Camp Road, Huron, on Saturday, May 4 and Sunday, May 5. For further details, please call 419.627.5884.
- Crews at **Oakland Cemetery will be conducting spring clean-up** on April 24. All items placed at gravesites during the fall and winter months will be removed and no artificial flowers will be permitted for spring and summer months.
- We would like to welcome **Nas’Jzhere Brown, a Sandusky native and graduate of Sandusky City Schools, who has joined Sewer Maintenance as a Maintenance II.**
- Various divisions have begun **seasonal preparation of facilities** throughout the city including installation of drinking fountains, docks and buoys, activation of park fountains and restrooms. This work will continue through the first week in May.
- The city began the year with approximately \$575,000 in available funding through the **housing development and beautification program** city-wide and within model block areas. As of March 31, only \$228,500 remains uncommitted. The approximate \$350,000 in committed funds represents 110 awarded projects including: 12 substantial redevelopment projects, 69 exterior repair projects and 29 down payment assistance projects.

- Eric Wobser introduced **John Storey who is the city's new Economic Development Specialist**. Matt Lasko said John will replace Maria Muratori and said we undertook a rather extensive search and wanted to hold out for the right individual; he is certain we have him in John. He is a graduate of Wooster College with an undergrad in Urban Studies; he also holds a Master's Degree in Urban Planning & Design Development and a Juris Doctorate from Cleveland State University. He has an extensive background in corporate law and real estate law, is a welcome addition to our team and is thrilled to have him here.
- **Sandusky Youth Commission students have selected a "Going Green" mural project** as their group project for the year. Talon Flohr is working with them to find a location within the city to promote sustainability, environmentalism and keeping Lake Erie clean.
- **Greyhound Bus Lines** began operating their local bus stop at the Sandusky Transit System facility on North Depot Street on April 1. Greg Lockhart asked the status of opening the station later in the evening when people are dropped off. Nicole DeFreitas said Greyhound makes four stops each day and dispatchers are in the office from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. so someone is always in when Greyhound comes in. Amtrak does arrive later and after staff leaves but people can call the Police Department to get inside. There will be upgrades made to make it easier for them to unlock the doors after hours.
- A **new yellow line on the Sandusky Transit System** started running on April 1, seven days per week, from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. This line makes five stops including the downtown transit hub, Cedar Point dorms, Cedar Point Express Hotel, Castaway Bay and Cedar Point Sports Center. With the addition of the yellow line, STS will be producing new brochures to be distributed around the community including to Cedar Point staff and at Cedar Point Sports Center.
- The **Sandusky Transit System is seeing increases in fixed route ridership**. The March, 2018, ridership numbers were 6,669 while March, 2019, had a ridership of 16,231 passengers which is an increase of 143%. This is due to the new HUB system, improved marketing and contracts with Cedar Point and Kalahari.
- The **Planning Commission** meeting is scheduled for April 24 at 4:30 p.m.
- The **Board of Zoning Appeals** meeting is scheduled for April 18 at 4:30 p.m.
- A **Landmark Commission** meeting is scheduled for April 17 at 4:30 p.m.
- The **Arts and Culture Commission** meeting is scheduled for April 16 at 5 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Dick Brady said he and Aaron Klein met and the clock is ticking with regard to **extending our recycling contract** which ends April 28. He asked the commission to be thinking about what they may want to do about the two drop-off locations currently offered. Aaron Klein said we reached out to Republic Services to look at opportunities we may have. The two current locations are Kiwanis Park and the city Service Center. Both have seven containers offering weekly pickups at each location on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. To continue this service, the cost is in the \$96,000 range; to eliminate both services, there would be no cost and we looked at something in the middle. If we were to consolidate to one location, it is evident the best approach would be at the Cement Avenue location as it is closer to Republic's facility and would have the best monthly rate. We have asked what the cost is for ten bins at Cement Avenue with pick-up on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Monday and Friday are very popular days and both locations are usually very full, especially with cardboard as people do not break it down. This would all be contained within the fenced-in area on city property and cameras can be utilized. The cost would drop from \$7,000 to \$5,100 per month (or from \$96,000 to \$60,000 per year) and would mean a cost of \$40,000 to \$45,000 to close out 2019. We have been looking around and asking questions,

but these are the options which we feel are the best and will bring them back to the commission to determine how to move forward. We currently do not have money allocated in the budget and would have to work with the Finance Department to figure out where it would come from. Dave Waddington asked about looking into possibly having one site with ten bins for May and June and follow up with ideas at the next meeting after reviewing the additional information received over the weekend. We could perhaps work collectively during the next couple of months to try and figure something out. He is comfortable with having one site, but said we need to come up with something we can all live with. We just received a report from Mannik & Smith and he would rather give us a couple of months instead of trying to make a decision at the next meeting. Dennis Murray said he thinks the decision in front of the commission is what to do about the recycle centers and is the immediate decision which needs to be addressed. He does like the idea of consolidating to one location to conserve some of the costs, but this is a new cost for the city and would like to get a better sense of how widely used this service is as he does not know how many people use it. This is a \$60,000 expense for a relatively small number of people and is not sure this makes sense. If the service is widely used, this would be a different question. Dave Waddington said if we used cameras in May and June, it would give us a better template to go by. Greg Lockhart said recycling is measured by tonnage and we would know and could compare this with Sandusky or with other cities. Dennis Murray said this is one way to measure it, but we are also providing a service to the residents. If only ten percent of the residents are using it and everyone else is subsidizing it, we should have this information too. Wes Poole asked for this information to be sent to the commissioners. Dick Brady said it may make sense for Mannik & Smith to make a presentation about this report so they can answer many of the questions commissioners may have; Wes Poole said he does not want to pay them to do this.

Dennis Murray said there was a Coffee with Commissioner meeting this past Saturday and a question was asked about **placement of cameras in the west end to track train crossing closures**. These were just installed last week and we are awaiting FirstEnergy to get power to them and once we have sufficient data, will be supplying it to state and federal authorities to see where we go next. Dick Brady said another question raised was the issue of our **lack of diversity on many of our volunteer boards and commissions**. This is a very valid point and our Board of Zoning Appeals and Planning Commission membership is solidly made up of males. He would like people who seek to serve this community to make application as it runs on the backs of a lot of volunteers and encourages anyone interested to apply so we can improve our diversity. Dennis Murray said volunteer applications are available on the city's website and a list is kept for when there are vacancies. There have been a lot of folks who have served for a long time who may like to rotate off and do some other things and who would be delighted to make their seat available so others can serve.

NEW BUSINESS

Greg Lockhart said citizens and businesses have come to him who are increasingly **unhappy with our cable system**. They are unhappy with the internet, high-speed services, contract rates and prices. He knows the city may have a contract, but does not know if anything can be done about it and suggested it may be time to see where we are with it. Trevor Hayberger said there were local franchise agreements until approximately 2007 when the State of Ohio stepped in and said cities can no longer have them. These are now run by the State of Ohio's Department of Commerce where complaints can be filed since they stepped in and thought they could run this better than the municipalities have. Greg Lockhart asked if we are not then an exclusive partner and Trevor Hayberger said this is only for cable. Stuart Hamilton said cable television is the only thing which is franchised and the city has no authority over it. Greg Lockhart asked if they are providing a franchise agreement of some kind for our area which makes it exclusive to Buckeye Broadband. Stuart Hamilton said it is a single source franchise and they manage it for the State of Ohio and did this so they could release a franchise for multiple jurisdictions at one time. Ohio Buckeye has Sandusky's, but we need quality for television, not for internet, phone or satellite television; it is for cable tv only, the rest is part of a free market. Greg Lockhart asked if the only recourse for citizens is to complain to the Department of Commerce and Stuart Hamilton affirmed it is. Dennis Murray said he has not heard from anyone who is happy about Buckeye

Broadband which is ridiculously expensive and should not be the monopoly it is. A number of communities have gone to municipal internet service which is the way around this problem. This has been kicked around here, but staff has a lot on their plate right now. This is something we have discussed and he has talked about this for years and said the time may be coming, but has a feeling if we speak too loudly about it, the state may come in and say there will be no municipal internet service. He does not know where all of this is going to go but has had conversations with Stuart about this and does not know if this is a viable idea. Stuart Hamilton said there are a lot of options and there is no single source for internet providers and there are several in town. The city becoming a provider is always an option, but asked if government wants to start doing what those in the private sector can do better. The upfront infrastructure and maintenance costs would be extremely high and we can report back to the commission when we have something solid.

Wes Poole said as we bring more and more people into downtown and have grants for various things, staff should to look into **accessibility issues at entrances to downtown locations**. For instance, Value City Furniture has a relatively new concrete ramp and it would be nice for others to do this.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Tim Schwanger, 362 Sheffield Way, asked about the five trash cans (which have been reduced to one) and the five park benches (which have been reduced to two) on or near the Washington Street Pier. The Jackson Street Pier was discussed at the recent Coffee with Commissioner meeting and he does not recollect anyone getting into exactly what the city intends to do with the pavilion to be constructed. Early on, the plans by Osborne Engineering showed a building labeled a “market building”, but we have plans from Donley in the last month showing a kitchen, a women’s powder room, two restrooms, a janitor closet and two storage units and asked what we plan to use this building for. There has not been any work done on the pier in five weeks and asked what the holdup is. Dennis Murray said his understanding is there were two facilities – one a restroom building and one a pavilion building – which have been consolidated in the more recent plans which is why there are bathrooms here. It is not a kitchen, it is just a prep area which may have been mislabeled on a drawing. Eric Wobser said this is designed as a four season shelter; we have a lot of three season shelters programmed by the city at various parks or rented out to the public for events. This is meant to be a facility which can be programmed by the city for various purposes, or in the alternative, rented out to the public for family reunions, class reunions or similar events. The type of amenities to be provided are so it can be more convenient for people. We have all been to receptions where there is a little window for storing or serving drinks or food and this will allow people to do this more comfortably. We wanted to build this to best practices so it is very casual and will not be a high end facility, but will provide a nice year-round place for the public to affordably have these types of events as well as for the city to do things from this location. Aaron Klein said the contractor ran into two problems during the underground work and stopped work to figure them out. The first problem was they found some lower areas around the exterior wall where stone was lost and needed to come up with a plan to add stone and reestablish the grade. This was a minor amount of stone considering it has been 30 to 40 years since it was put in. They are not working now because they started doing the sanitary sewer and did not anticipate the amount of water coming into the trench. They are working with de-watering contractors and getting larger pumps and other equipment so they can do this work. Their intent is to be back on site later this week or sometime next week.

Evelyn Green-Bush, citizen leader/volunteer with American Promise, said she represents Erie and Ottawa Counties. This group was the first one started in Ohio and is a non-profit, national cross-partisan organization working toward a Constitutional amendment (28th) to get hidden and unlimited money out of elections and governance. To this extent, they are working in their small group with state and federal representatives and because they believe this is a grassroots movement, they also want to work with local government. We need a Constitutional amendment because a decision by the Supreme Court leading up to the Citizens United decision in 2010 basically allowed unlimited and hidden money in politics, short of bribery. They believe this is a

real problem for our federal, state and local governments and have met with State Representative Steve Arndt (previously State Representative/Senator Gardner) who both have supported their Resolution. They are talking with Senator Gavarone now to ask the state legislature to pass the Fix-It amendment. Proposed language for a Resolution was passed along to the commissioners. This will not cost the city any money; it is a matter of getting enough local governments behind this issue so they can persuade the State of Ohio to act. They already have about 23 cities in the State of Ohio who have supported this or a similar amendment. At the federal level, there are 19 states which have passed this or a similar amendment and basically are asking Congress to pass this Constitutional amendment and send it back to all 50 states to be ratified just like any other Constitutional amendment has been passed before. They are not asking for Article V - Constitutional Convention. This is important for Sandusky because this is the gateway to all other kinds of problems we have right now with politics and policy-making. She can cite many examples of how hidden and unlimited money has affected moving forward on issues important to us. One of the very recent examples is the City of Toledo where the Lake Erie Bill of Rights passed, and about one week prior to that particular Election Day, a flurry of ads came out with negative information about the Bill, but the group putting them out could not be traced. They have since found out those ads were paid for by BP, a multi-national company. The opioid epidemic was infused with big money, healthcare is affected by dark and hidden money and many of our political candidates are also supported by Super PACS which cannot or are not supposed to communicate with them, but send out dark ads against them when there are elections. Dennis Murray said Evelyn contacted him and a number of others and this proposed Fix-It resolution was distributed to the commissioners to decide whether we want to ask for Resolution in support. There are a lot of systemic problems in politics and the way we draw legislative districts may be first. He supports this, but said it is up to the commission as a whole to decide. Dennis Murray said Ellen is doing this as a volunteer and is advocating for this. Wes Poole said he agrees, but is ignorant whether or not this commission should take a position. Dennis Murray said they can, but do not have to; we do not take positions on a lot of state and national issues.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Greg Lockhart, the commission voted to order in legislation for the Fix-It Resolution. The President declared the motion passed.

Barbara Linden, said she is here to make the city aware persons in this area who are handicapped cannot go to stores or restaurants downtown because they cannot open the doors. She, and others, cannot stand somewhere waiting for someone to open doors. The city building does not have handicapped doors and they need to be on all doors. Dennis Murray said this comment is quite topical and is glad to see Barbara back and wished her good luck with her mobility and recovery. Wes Poole said this building does have handicap accessible doors.

At 6:25 p.m., upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Dave Waddington, the commission voted to adjourn. The President declared the motion passed.

Kelly L. Kresser, CMC
Commission Clerk

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