

The President called the meeting to order at 5 p.m. after the Invocation, given by Dave Waddington, and the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Clerk called the roll and the following Commissioners responded: Wes Poole, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer and Dave Waddington. Commissioners Dennis Murray, Naomi Twine and Mike Meinzer were in attendance via teleconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Upon motion of Dennis Murray and second of Wes Poole, the commission voted to excuse Blake Harris. The President declared the motion passed.

City staff present: Stuart Hamilton – IT Manager

City staff via teleconference: Trevor Hayberger – Law Director, Michelle Reeder – Finance Director, Eric Wobser – City Manager, Angela Byington – Director of Planning & Development, Matt Lasko – Chief Development Officer, Aaron Klein - Director of Public Works, Rick Wilcox – Fire Chief, John Orzech – Police Chief & Assistant City Manager and Kelly Kresser – Commission Clerk.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Dennis Murray, the commission voted to approve the Minutes of the May 11 meeting and the May 18 Work Session and suspend the formal reading. The President declared the motion passed.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

PUBLIC HEARING

The President announced the opening of a Public Hearing regarding the CDBG FY 2020 Annual Action Plan and Amendments associated with COVID-19.

Angela Byington, Director of Planning, said this is the second Public Hearing for the FY 2020 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The plan includes both our normal CDBG allocation of \$743,396 as well as our new CDBG-CV allocation of \$437,328 totaling \$1,180,724. The CDBG-CV stands for coronavirus dollars and must be used to help prevent the spread of the virus and assist those affected by the virus. The money is one part of the CARES Act and HUD has communicated this round is the first of CDBG-CV and another will be announced soon. The normal public participation process was disrupted due to COVID-19 and as such, HUD has issued blanket waivers to expedite the public participation process to help get the funds into communities as quickly as possible. In order to use the HUD waivers, communities are required to amend their Citizen Participation Plans and Five-Year Strategic Plans. The amendments being proposed remove Public and Consolidated Plan Advisory Committee (CPAC) participation including the notification and review period during times of Declaration of Emergency and/or when it is necessary to expedite a response to a disaster. As it relates to amendment of the Consolidated Plan and/or Annual Action Plan, the public notice requirement is reduced from ten to seven days; the public comment period is reduced from thirty (30) to five (5) days, and the notice of CPAC meetings normally required, review time and recommendation is removed. There is a provision for an option to utilize virtual meeting platforms when emergency/disaster situations do not allow for public gathering. With regard to the Five-Year Consolidated Plan, there will be inclusion of CDBG-CV reference including:

- needs assessment and priority needs narratives to include persons, organizations and businesses impacted by COVID-19;
- anticipated resources section to include CDBG-CV funds in the amount of \$437,328 to be used in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- goal and goal descriptions throughout document to provide the number of persons and businesses assisted.

The proposed FY 2020 CDBG annual Action Plan (July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021) includes the annual allocation of \$743,396 plus the CDBG-CV Round 1 allocation of \$437,328. Both maintain a 20% administration cap and a 70% benefit for low- to moderate-income persons. The normal CDBG allocation maintains a 15% public service cap while the additional CDBG-CV money does not have one. The generally permitted uses of CDBG funds are housing, public improvements, public services, blight elimination and economic development. The permitted uses for the CDBG-CV funds are for activities that help prevent the spread or mitigate the effects of COVID-19. The normal CDBG allocation funding is proposed to be used for:

Program Administration

Administration Expenses	148,000.00
Fair Housing	10,000.00

Quality of Life

Public Facilities improvements ¹	270,000.00
Clearance and demolition ²	110,396.00
Acquisition of property ³	50,000.00

Neighborhood Stabilization⁴ 150,000.00

Special needs assistance⁵ 5,000.00

COVID-19 Administrative expenses 87,465.00

Personal protective equipment	54,863.00
Support programs ⁶	30,000.00
Food pantry programs ⁷	15,000.00
Non-homeless special needs	50,000.00
Youth programming	50,000.00
Assistance to businesses	150,000.00

¹ Hayes Avenue safety improvements project, reconstruction of two public parking lots and the Shoreline Park erosion control project.

² Residential clearance and demolition

³ Acquire blighted structures for demolition or sale

⁴ Code enforcement in low-to-moderate income areas

⁵ Summer parks program and spring and winter break camps through the Recreation Department

⁶ Purchase of food for Meals on Wheels program

⁷ Support of OHgo Mobile Food Pantry

⁸ Funds for food pantry program (Request for Applications to be distributed)

Angela Byington said the public process included a CPAC meeting in February and one Public Hearing in February. The COVID-19 then occurred which halted our public process. This is our second Public Hearing which allowed for public comments to be submitted.

Angela Byington read the public comments received into the record:

Sharon Johnson, via email: Looking at the CDBG-CV breakdown of the money, she is having trouble with \$87,465 for administration costs which seems a bit high to administrate a small amount of money. She asked if there is a further estimate or breakdown at how this figure was arrived at.

Wes Poole, via email: Section 12 includes \$50,000 for an unnamed food pantry and asked if there are existing pantries in town. He has concerns about spending \$50,000 without a designated use. He also needs support information to justify the administrative costs.

Angela Byington said funds can be used to reimburse any staff time spent on general administration, clerical work and time spent on any of the specific activities related to CDBG-CV. Funds can also be spent for supplies and any legal or professional services, if needed. Angela Byington said the city is required to take applications from organizations and there was not time to complete this process prior to submitting a plan to HUD. Since HUD is pressing communities to put these plans into action as soon as possible, many communities are taking applications after the plan is submitted. The contract with the organization(s) will also have to be approved by the City Commission for local organizations which apply.

Dick Brady said he understands the federal government is going out of its way to make this process easier to access money and more broadly in a variety of ways and with less strings attached in response to this virus. Angela Byington said they do want to get this money out as quickly as possible and have loosened up some of the regulations to help. Dick Brady said we are thankful for these dollars and only wishes it were twenty times this amount.

Wes Poole asked if there *are or are not* prospective food pantries in Sandusky which may make application for this money. Angela Byington said we anticipate there will be local organizations which will apply and does know, for a fact, the Erie County Senior Center will be putting in an application. Wes Poole asked if there are additional pantries beyond the Erie County Senior Center in Sandusky and if this is based on whether we hope they will apply when the money is available. Angela Byington said she assumes OHgo will put in an application; this a high need and many communities are looking at food pantries as an activity they would like to fund. We fully anticipate multiple applications, locally, for this money, and would assume OHgo will put in an application although she has not actually spoken with them directly. Wes Poole said this COVID-19 money is new and additional anticipated entities may also apply; they did not receive money prior to this. Angela Byington said the Erie County Senior Center and OHgo both applied for the normal CDBG funds and received them from our plan this year. In speaking with HUD, their need fits the normal CDBG criteria so well that we can move those applications over to CDBG-CV funds. They normally do not ask for all of the money needed because they know we have limited funds and she knows they could use extra money. She fully anticipates they will be asking for funds and if for some reason they do not, the city can amend this and shift the \$50,000 into another activity. Additionally, when we are getting the second round of CDBG-CV funds, we will have to amend the Plan yet again; at that time, we could easily amend this if no other organization applies for these funds. Wes Poole asked the timeframe for the request and the grant award. Angela Byington said she would like to get this out as soon as the application can be put together and has given herself a goal of having it out within two weeks. We could award as soon as the City Commission approves a contract. Realistically, this process could be complete within 45 days. Wes Poole said some entities were mentioned who could possibly provide this and asked if they will have to find out about it through the newspaper, or if we work with the community and send out information to alert them it is available. Angela Byington said she will do both; she will advertise and will also reach out to organizations within the city about the available funding. Wes Poole said advertising covers us from what we are expected legally to do in a town this size and thinks we will make sure all of the groups in town who are possibly eligible know about this and that we will reach out to them to make sure they aware of the opportunity. He asked if money is distributed in a lump sum when it is given to organizations or if they bill us each month. Angela Byington said money is distributed on a reimbursement basis and they must provide us with documentation on the expenses via payroll, canceled checks, invoices and/or bank statements which usually are provided monthly. Wes Poole said the number of programs we are supporting each month provide a report which he assumes we review for accuracy and compliance. Angela Byington said some organizations choose to provide this information quarterly and it depends on their budgets and what they can support; when invoices are submitted, we check the documents submitted for reimbursement and also the report provided detailing the activities they provide. As an example, when OHgo distributes food, they must tell us how many individuals they benefitted. We also conduct an on-site visit twice each year to confirm details in the original documents provided. Wes Poole said from what has been described, the question about why we are taking twenty percent of the money (\$87,000+) which could easily go toward the programs themselves to help the citizens is significant for reviewing paperwork which has already been done by the recipients of the funding. An on-site check cannot be more than one day worth of work and is why he asked the question. It seems we are taking way too much money off of the top which could actually go to being of value to the community. Reviewing paperwork once each month for the limited number of people we are dealing with does not seem like a full-time job worth \$200,000+ even though it is spread over two years. We pay staff to do a lot of things and this is for more than the salaries of a full-time person to do this. He is listening to whether there are actually several thousand dollars' worth of administrative work here before he decides how to vote.

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

CURRENT BUSINESS

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

CONSENT AGENDA

The President asked if the commissioners wished to remove any of the items on the Consent Agenda. There were no requests to do so.

A. ITEM #1 - Submitted by Angela Submitted by Nicole DeFreitas, Transit Administrator GRANT APPLICATIONS TO OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE OHIO TRANSIT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM FOR THE SANDUSKY TRANSIT SYSTEM

Budgetary Information: The 5311 Rural Transit program funds comprise approximately fifty percent of the Sandusky Transit System's budget and without this funding, the system would not be able to operate. The required local matching funds will be generated from multiple local sources; STS anticipates receiving \$90,000 in fare revenue, \$600,000 in contract revenue, \$100,000 in transit reserve fund revenue, \$65,000 from advertising, \$60,000 from fares paid by organizations, \$12,000 in elderly and disabled funds and the \$850,000 operating funds anticipated from the OTP2 grant.

1. RESOLUTION NO. 017-20R: It is requested a resolution be passed authorizing the filing of a grant application with the Ohio Department of Transportation through the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Transit Administration for the CY 2021 Rural Transit program grant for the Sandusky Transit System; and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

2. RESOLUTION NO. 018-20R: It is requested a resolution be passed authorizing the filing of a grant application with the Ohio Department of Transportation for State FY 2021 Ohio Transit Partnership program grant funds for the Sandusky Transit System; and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

B. Submitted by Aaron Klein Director of Public Works AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT WITH ODOT FOR URBAN PAVING PROJECT

Budgetary Information: The city's portion increased from \$1,074,955 to \$1,093,147 which is \$18,192. This additional amount would increase the contribution from Issue 8 from \$29,353 to \$47,545. All other funding sources would stay the same.

ORDINANCE NO. 20-080: It is requested an ordinance be passed amending Ordinance No. 20-068 passed on April 13, 2020, authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a contract with the Director of the Ohio Department of Transportation for the ODOT resurfacing – urban paving City of Sandusky project; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

C. Submitted by Michelle Reeder, Finance Director ANNUAL SUBMERGED LANDS LEASE PAYMENT FOR THE CHESAPEAKE LOFTS CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION

Budgetary Information: This submerged lands lease is payable by the City of Sandusky as the leaseholder. The Chesapeake Lofts Condominium Association will reimburse the city for the cost of the lease payment on the city's behalf.

ORDINANCE NO. 20-081: 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 No. SUB-2119B-ER for the period of April 1, 2020, through March 31, 2021; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

D. Submitted by Michelle Reeder, Finance Director**ANNUAL SUBMERGED LANDS LEASE PAYMENT FOR BATTERY PARK MARINA**

Budgetary Information: The submerged lands lease is payable by the City of Sandusky as the leaseholder. Sandusky Bay Investment reimburses the city for the cost of the lease pursuant to their agreement with the city. Since the amount is over \$10,000, it must be approved by the City Commission.

ORDINANCE NO. 20-082: 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 No. SUB-0385-ER for the period of March 1, 2020, through February 28, 2021; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

E. Submitted by Debi Eversole, Housing Development Specialist**ACCEPTING TWO PARCELS BY GIFT OF DEED THROUGH LAND BANK PROGRAM**

Budgetary Information: There will be no cost to acquire the two parcels. The city will not collect the approximately \$22,749 owed to the city in special assessments. As the properties are put back into tax producing status, the taxing districts will once again begin collecting real estate taxes of approximately \$458 per year.

RESOLUTION NO. 019-20R: It is requested a resolution be passed approving and accepting certain real property, identified as Parcel No's. 57-00419.000 and 59-01204.000 located at 1404 Third Street and 527 McDonough Street, respectively, as gift of deeds 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.

F. Submitted by Debi Eversole, Housing Development Specialist**PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT FOR ONE PARCEL THROUGH LAND BANK PROGRAM**

Budgetary Information: The city will recoup the cost of the expenses from the sale and any remaining balance shall be refunded and distributed to the taxing districts in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 5722.08. The taxing districts will begin collecting real estate taxes of approximately \$334 per year for the vacant land.

ORDINANCE NO. 20-083: It is requested an ordinance be passed declaring that certain real property owned by the city as part of the land reutilization program identified as Parcel No. 57-00419.000 and located at 1404 Third Street, Sandusky is no longer needed for any municipal purpose and authorizing the execution of a purchase agreement with respect to that real property; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

G. Submitted by Rick Wilcox, Fire Chief**RATIFICATION OF GRANT SUBMISSION TO U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FOR 2020 ASSISTANCE TO FIRE FIGHTERS GRANT PROGRAM – COVID-19 SUPPLEMENTAL**

Budgetary Information: The total amount of the grant funds applied for is \$19,645.34. The matching funds required for this grant are ten percent or \$1,964.53 which will be paid from the EMS account. The fee for Gatchell Grant Resources, LLC from Canton, Ohio, will be \$650 if the grant is awarded which will then be paid for from the EMS account.

RESOLUTION NO. 020-20R: It is requested a resolution be passed approving and ratifying a grant application submitted to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Grant Programs Directorate, for the FY 2020 Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant program – COVID-19 Supplemental; and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

H. Submitted by Kim Piotrowski, Municipal Court Clerk**RATIFICATION OF GRANT SUBMISSION TO OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES FOR CORONA VIRUS EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING FOR SANDUSKY MUNICIPAL COURT**

Budgetary Information: The total cost of this project is approximately \$88,679. Any amount of the \$88,679 that would not be awarded through the grant would be paid through the Sandusky Municipal Court's capital fund and/or computer improvement fund.

RESOLUTION NO. 021-20R: It is requested a resolution be passed approving and ratifying the submission of a grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs for financial assistance through the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental funding program for the Sandusky Municipal Court; and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

I. Submitted by John Orzech, Chief of Police

RATIFICATION OF GRANT SUBMISSION TO OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES FOR 2020 CORONA VIRUS EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING FOR SANDUSKY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Budgetary Information: The total amount being requested is \$15,901 which will allow for web cameras, a conferencing television and computer, and A1 phones for the Police Department.

RESOLUTION NO. 022-20R: It is requested a resolution be passed approving and ratifying the submission of a grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs for financial assistance through the 2020 Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental funding program for the Sandusky Police Department; 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 Dennis Murray, the Commission voted to accept the Consent Agenda and declare all ordinances and 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 they be in accordance with Section 13 or Section 14 of the City Charter. Roll call on the motion: Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington and Wes Poole 6. Roll call on the ordinances and resolutions: Yeas: Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, 6. The President declared the ordinances and resolutions contained in the Consent Agenda passed in full accordance with the city charter.

REGULAR AGENDA

ITEM #1 – Submitted by Angela Byington, Director of Planning

AMENDMENT TO CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN FOR CDBG

Budgetary Information: There is no budgetary impact.

RESOLUTION NO. 023-20R: It is requested a resolution be passed approving and adopting an amended Citizen Participation Plan for the Community Development Block Grant program; 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 pass this resolution under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington and Wes Poole, 6. Roll call on the resolution: Yeas: Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington and Wes Poole, 6. The President declared the resolution passed under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

ITEM #2 - Submitted by Angela Byington, Director of Planning

AMENDMENT OF 2019/2020 – 2023/2024 FIVE-YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN FOR CDBG

Budgetary Information: There is no budgetary impact.

ORDINANCE NO. 20-084: It is requested an ordinance be passed approving an amendment to the city's five-year Consolidated Plan for the Community Development Block Grant program from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2024, and authorizing and directing the City Manager to submit the amended five-year Action Plan to the United States Department of Housing & Urban Development; 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 Dennis Murray, the commission voted to pass this ordinance under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Wes Poole said he will need to accept the individual things identified in this proposed amendment and vote yes. He wants to go on the record he thinks the amount of money set aside for administration in the future needs to be adjusted down so the money can be spent on the people who actually need it. Dennis Murray said he disagrees with the insinuation money is being wasted on staff. These are essential jobs that need to be undertaken and the federal government has provided latitude in order to provide funding to make all of this happen. We are operating under a set of regulations which provide a cap on the amount available for administration and these have been time-tested for a very long period of time in many communities and have been found to be a reasonable amount. Wes Poole said what he stated was not an insinuation, it was a statement as to how he feels about this. The government put a cap of twenty percent as a cut-off of how much a community can take. His concern is we have taken more than is necessary to administer the program. The answer does not justify why we assign so much money to the administration when, in his opinion, it takes much less of staff time than the money we have allocated ourselves for this purpose to administer the program. The answer given, simply recited, is we are allowed to take it. Reciting back that the government allows us to take this much does not justify it. We could just as easily identify what it actually costs in time and hours to review ten reports each month from these folks about the money they spent. This dollar amount could be assigned and the rest of the money could actually be set aside and spent on the people the federal government designate to better their lives. Dennis Murray said there is no evidence on the table this money being spent is in excess of what is required. If an individual commissioner has concerns about this, there are many opportunities to address them to staff rather than putting them on the spot at a meeting and demanding information which is not available at people's fingertips. The amount suggested is appropriate and he will be supporting the legislation.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington and Wes Poole, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington and Wes Poole, 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 Angela Byington, Director of Planning

CONSIDERATION OF FY 2020 CDBG ONE-YEAR ACTION PLAN

Budgetary Information: There is no budgetary impact.

ORDINANCE NO. 20-085: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to accept an entitlement grant in the amount of \$1,180,724 total Community Development Block Grant funds for the program year of July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021, and to submit to the United States Department of Housing & Urban Development a FY 2020 One-Year Action Plan; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

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

Discussion: Wes Poole said this is new money and feels we are allotting too much of it for administration. He suggests there is nothing on the table to indicate this because the evidence is contained and controlled by the city; if staff does not present how much time they actually spend working on these projects, the evidence will never be there. This was not brought up at a meeting as a surprise; staff was told ahead of time but the answer he got was not complete and unsatisfactory so he asked it again. He said information which we may or may not have, but should have collected, was not presented to justify the expenditure. This does not erase the fact we simply said the government allows this so we should just take it. This takes away from what the money was sent to us for; what we spend it on is important to him. Dennis Murray said for some twenty years the City of Sandusky has been audited and has never been found to be wasting money, nor has any money been stolen. We have gone through all of the audits with flying colors and to suggest we are spending money inappropriately without a shred of evidence to suggest

so is incorrect. Wes Poole said when we are audited by HUD, they audit for compliance; they do not judge whether what we spend is wasted and there is no evidence of this. Taking twenty percent off of the top is legal so we are not out of compliance and he realizes this, but it is an arbitrary decision we as a commission and a community determine regarding how much money to take off the table for administration of the program versus how much money we send to the program to benefit the citizens. This is a moot point and is irrelevant. He is suggesting we do not spend the amount of time - to the tune of \$235,000 - for staff time giving out this money. This has little to do with being legal; it is a judgment call, and the fact HUD did not find us out of compliance or that we did not steal anything is not the point. It is our decision to say we are moving money for administrative expenses rather than going to the citizens without justification other than to say it was legal. Mike Meinzer asked Angela Byington to speak about tracking her time and other staff member's time. Angela Byington said unless it is for an individual, we do not have any paid at 100% by CDBG. The city is required to track our time including the hours spent on CDBG and what we are doing, so this is one of the things reviewed by HUD when audited. If we do not utilize all of our administrative money, it rolls over into the next year and is placed into an activity because we cannot have more than twenty percent on the books at any time. The administrative dollars go before activities other than staff salaries as well, and she would be more than happy to sit down with anyone regarding what items are considered administrative as it is not simply paying the bills which come in. There are a lot of hours which go into this and a lot of paperwork procurement, federal regulations to follow before we bid, as we distribute the money, and all of the documentation after the money is spent. This is quite a bit of work and is why HUD allows up to twenty percent. Naomi Twine said it is a little daunting we are spending this much time trying to distribute money to people in the community who need it. She understands the need for public hearings and to have opportunities for questions and answers, but is baffled by the assumption our staff is wasting administrative costs, time or money to implement the programs with these dollars from the federal government. She appreciates the answers provided and thinks Angela Byington has been very prudent; the staff has done a wonderful job in explaining what they would like to do with these funds for the community and she is in full support of the legislation and hopes we can get it passed. Wes Poole said he listened to tracking the numbers and all of what has been said; had she (Angela) simply sent this to him ahead of time and the numbers all worked out, we could have avoided all of this discussion.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington and Wes Poole, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer and Dave Waddington, 5. Nays: Wes Poole 1. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- Eric Wobser thanked the City Commissioners who voted for and supported planning and ultimately financing the construction process for the **Jackson Street Pier**. He, and many others, got out there this weekend to take a look at the new pier and there are so many persons who had a chance to be part of making this happen in such a special way. The Sandusky Register published an opinion about how wonderful it is to get this project done on so many levels. He thanked the commissioners for demonstrating political courage because the reality is, there is no way a project such as this would have gotten done in the last several decades in Sandusky. There has been a lot of talk and legal questions and we have paralyzed ourselves from doing anything but this commission and staff have overcome this idea of criticism as leadership. Ultimately, this project speaks for itself and he urged people to get out on the Pier and said this is what this city is capable of when we get beyond criticism and start doing things after taking calculated risks.
- **Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Dennis Murray, the commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$25 from James and Barbara Thom for the K9 Fund. The President declared the motion passed.**

- **Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Dave Waddington, the commission voted to accept an in-kind donation from RestorePro for the time and materials provided to disinfect all of the cruisers and the station at the Police Department. The President declared the motion passed.**
- Due to rain and inclement weather the past few weeks, the **completion of many projects including the Jackson Street Pier, Shoreline Drive, Buchanan Street, Pierce Street and McCartney Road have caused construction schedules to be extended** past expected completion dates. Please bear with us as we strive to ensure we do not compromise quality on these projects. Eric Wobser said Buchanan Street is nearly finished and is such a huge improvement.
- The **restrooms at the Jackson Street Pier** are now open to the public from 7 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. daily and will be maintained by city staff. The restroom at the Paper District Marina will be open during normal business hours for that facility and will be maintained by the marina staff. All other restroom buildings will remain closed until further notice.
- The **floating kayak ramp at the Pipe Creek Wildlife** area has been installed and access will be dependent upon water levels.
- Staff continues to develop a **plan for a potential local street resurfacing project**. We will bring back specific information once we work through some design and selection information based on various funding levels. We are also looking at tapping into low interest rates to spread the costs out over time as we know roads continue to deteriorate if we wait for a few years to pay with cash due to inflation.
- The **Sandusky Transit System will resume collecting normal** fares beginning June 1.
- The **Planning Commission meeting** is scheduled for June 24 at 4:30 p.m.
- The **Board of Zoning Appeals meeting** is scheduled for June 18 at 4:30 p.m.
- The **Landmark Commission meeting** is scheduled for June 17 at 4:30 p.m.
- The **Public Arts and Culture Commission meeting** is scheduled for June 16 at 5:15 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Dave Waddington said he spoke with a couple of the commissioners during the last few weeks. Now more than ever, going forward, he thinks most of our residents and city employees understand the dynamics of possibly losing funding for workers. We hired a City Manager and Finance Director to manage the money and the layoffs and he feels we need one voice. He is certain all of the commissioners would have various opinions about layoffs and money but we should have a little hope. We have been drug through this for about ten weeks (COVID-19) and employees have stopped him who are worried about their finances or if they will have a job. He has never made any recommendations and said this is what the City Manager was hired for. Unless someone is a doctor or a C.P.A., they are not qualified to make comments about this publicly. Everyone knows this is bad and anyone who has ever been in a bad position does not need a millionaire telling them it will get bad and most of the residents get it. He does not have answers for these city employees and he has been laid off himself in his lifetime; this is tough and he feels for people, but remains hopeful, and hopes to soon hear the train at Cedar Point from his backyard. He hopes they open and knows it will not be perfect, but we are all in this together. He feels this way about Sandusky and offers hope and encouragement which is vital and important. Naomi Twine said she agrees Eric Wobser was hired to manage and administer the day-to-day operations of this city and finds him very capable. He has developed a wonderful working relationship with her as an individual commissioner and also has done so with his staff. We are facing some daunting times and it is difficult. Eric Wobser has shown himself once again to be capable and willing to make the hard decisions and she would never want to second-guess

what he has done. Whenever she has had questions or concerns, all she had to do was call him and get a response to her questions. He has her full support and will continue to have it. Mike Meinzer said he loves this passion and said Dave Waddington has been around long enough to remember 2008 – 2011 when we had tough times. We need a leader to get us through this and Eric Wobser is the guy who is going to do it. Anyone can be a leader in great times, but it will take a leader like him (Eric) to get us through the bad times. He does not think the commissioners know enough about the city and running the day-to-day operations than the Department Heads; it is up to them to figure out how they can get the most out of their employees and this needs no interference with the part-time public officials. Eric Wobser puts in a lot of time and he has confidence in him even during this rough time. Dennis Murray said he could not agree more with his colleagues; Eric Wobser and his team are the ones to make the decisions about where to make cuts. While we may have some questions along the way, undermining him publicly would be a mistake and he does not think any of us want to do this, especially with his track record. He has the full support of the commission. Eric Wobser said he is getting a little nervous and this seems to have turned into a vote of confidence for him as the City Manager. He appreciates the comments and the confidence in his ability, and that of staff, to do this. We greatly welcome feedback and said as the elected representatives of the city, we will get into making difficult choices about reductions in services and/or staffing levels and welcomes the expertise in these discussions. By and large, comments and questions have been appropriate and are welcomed. He wants people to know he has had a wonderful working relationship with the commission in times before our momentum, during our momentum and now while the momentum is trying. Dick Brady said we are all suffering right now from a lack of clarity as none of us can see what lies down the road or around the bend. We will get through this and thinks it is our obligation to not make the calls which our City Manager is destined to make; it is our obligation to give hope. We are going to get through this and appreciates the comments and support for our City Manager. Wes Poole said the progress we have made over the last four years has been a result of the democratic process which is seven persons who were elected to represent many different opinions in the community and it has worked, it was not an accident. Opposing opinions come to the table in a democracy and the Charter dictates we must do that here in an open meeting. He understands staff may find it difficult or think they are not appreciated, yet they are paid to make sure the train runs on time and there will be differing opinions about the decisions made. He agrees totally with what the City Manager has said and he (Eric) has a good understanding of how things work. He agrees with Dave Waddington there should be one voice and individual commissioners have no business directing staff to do specific things. The commissioners give their input based on what is provided in terms of opportunities and they represent people in the community who do not always agree. The City Manager makes recommendations to the commissioners based on his knowledge and expertise of managing the departments. The decisions of what departments provide the community are supposed to come from the commission. In other words, the number of fire fighters is set based on what the commission wants them to accomplish and is ultimately decided by the commission. The commission is supposed to set the level of service they would like spent from taxpayer money for fire service. The City Manager then determines how many people it takes to do this and hires the folks to do it. The Charter says the City Commission directs and supervises the City Manager; how they do this should be as 'hands off' as possible and he fully understands this and will stand by the concept that the direction the city goes is determined by the elected officials. He is happy to take the city Manager's suggestions on anything and votes yes 85% of the time; he will not stand down because he represents people who do not benefit from some things the City Manager thinks are good for all. This does not make him (Eric) a bad guy and does not make the commissioners bad people but he will not be shamed, embarrassed or talked out of stepping up and speaking up for those who do not benefit from everything we do. Eric Wobser does very well on a lot of things, but does not find him to be perfect and brings it up when he thinks so.

NEW BUSINESS

Dave Waddington said he plans to have a **cleanup on May 30 at 9 a.m.** beginning at the Shelby Street boat ramp. We have been fortunate to have as few as six persons and as many as eight so far this year. This is a waterfront cleanup and will start at the ramp, work toward Jackson Street Pier and Battery Park Marina.

Dave Waddington said he would like follow up about the **Washington Park floral areas** not getting cut and flowers not being planted. This community has a lot of people who will get out and help and found this out with the litter program as all one has to do is ask (for help). He talked to volunteers at the Greenhouse who get this and this is why he brought this up originally under Old Business. This may not be perfect, but we can get ten or fifteen people to help with the plantings. He knows employees are upset and he would be too if he was one of those cut. This is like patching a bad tire and he will remain hopeful. His glass is half full and thinks we will dig out of this in the summer. He is thankful for all of the volunteers and wishes there were some way to develop a plan to avoid getting recognition for all of their hours. Dick Brady said he agrees with these thoughts and before being elected, did not really realize the city runs on the backs of a lot of volunteers and nothing is more evident than by what we are going through with the virus and thanked all who do this for the city. We will make a point to reach out to them later this year.

Dick Brady said the **vacancy on the Civil Service Commission will be filled by Jim McGookey**. He was formerly employed as Civista Bank's legal counsel and retired two years ago. Jim McGookey will replace Marva Jackson and will join Vince Rhodes and John May. **His term will end on November 22, 2020.**

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Dennis Murray and second of Wes Poole, the commission voted to adjourn at 6:10 p.m. The President declared the motion passed.

Kelly L. Kresser, CMC
Commission Clerk

Richard R. Brady
Vice President of the City Commission