

The President called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. after the Invocation, given by Dave Waddington, and the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Clerk, McKenzie Spriggs, called the roll and the following Commissioners responded: Wes Poole, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer and Dave Waddington. Commissioner Dick Brady was in attendance via teleconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A motion made by Mike Meinzer and seconded of Naomi Twine excused Blake Harris from the meeting.

City staff present: Eric Wobser – City Manager, Justin Harris – Acting Law Director, Stuart Hamilton – IT Manager

City staff via teleconference: Michelle Reeder – Finance Director, Matt Lasko – Chief Development Officer, Aaron Klein – Director of Public Works, John Orzech – Police Chief, Jim Green – Acting Fire Chief, McKenzie Spriggs – Commission Clerk.

Commission President Dick Brady said after traveling up the east coast for the past 10 days, he and his wife are abiding by state and federal COVID-19 guidelines for self-quarantine. He knows the meetings are hard to conduct virtually and is passing the gavel to Vice President Dennis Murray for this meeting.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to approve the Minutes of the September 28 meeting and suspend the formal reading. The Vice President declared the motion passed.

#### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

*Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street, Sandusky* wrote in: regarding Item #2: Transient housing projects should not receive ED grants from the city nor should the city be encouraging so much transient housing in the city.

Transient housing rent is highly priced causing higher rent in other parts of the city where no one can afford a rental within the city.

Item #3: The city is contracting with a contractor to remove the docks at the Shelby boat ramp costing \$96,000. Is there anyway the city can do the work saving the city a lot of money?

#### **CURRENT BUSINESS**

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

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

The Vice President asked if the commissioners wished to remove any of the items on the Consent Agenda. Wes Poole wished to move Item C to the regular agenda.

#### **ITEM A – Submitted by Justin Harris, Interim Law Director**

##### **DEMAND RESPONSE RENEWAL AGREEMENT AT BIWW (FIRST READING)**

**Budgetary Information:** The Capacity Payment and any energy Payment received for this transaction will be placed in the Water Fund to compensate for Big Island Water Works expenses for electricity usage.

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_:** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the city manager to enter into a renewal agreement with Direct Energy Business LLC, for participation in the Demand Response Program for the period of June 1, 2021, through May 31, 2024.

#### **ITEM B – Submitted by John Orzech, Police Chief**

##### **CONTRACT WITH ERIE COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT BOARD FOR SOLID WASTE VEHICLE INSPECTION SERVICES**

**Budgetary Information:** The City will collect an annual registration fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) per vehicle, for the purpose of inspection, administration, and enforcement of Chapter 955. One

half of the permit fees collected will be paid by the City to the Board of Health for providing bulky and solid waste vehicle inspection services.

**RESOLUTION NO. 040-20R:** It is requested a resolution be passed authorizing the city manager to enter into a contract for services with the Erie County General Health District Board of Health for bulky and solid waste vehicle inspection services for the period of December 1, 2020, through November 30, 2021; 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 Wes Poole, 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, and 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: Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, 6. Roll call on the ordinances and resolutions: Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, 6. The Vice 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 Debi Eversole, Housing Development Specialist**

#### **PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT FOR ONE PARCEL THROUGH LAND BANK PROGRAM**

**Budgetary Information:** The cost associated with this purchase agreement is the total amount of the title examination, recording and transfer fees, and deed preparation. Any such costs shall be recouped by the City from the nonrefundable earnest money deposits required to be paid by Purchasers upon sale. By returning this nonproductive land to tax producing status, the taxing districts will begin collecting real property taxes in the amount of approximately \$95.00 per year.

**ORDINANCE NO. 20-144:** 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. 58-02679.000, located on Filmore Street, Sandusky, is no longer needed for any municipal purpose and authorizing the execution of a purchase and sale 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.

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

*Discussion:* Wes Poole said he is grateful someone wants to purchase this property, it is good for our community. He suggests an amendment that the city clean the property before it is sold to her. The city was intending to clean it up before the buyer went to get it. The city did not have the equipment available to do it at the time. He looked at the property and it is a substantial amount of work that would need heavy equipment to clean it up. He thinks the city should take care of it either before or after the sale. This is not something we should pass off the cost to. We do not have to cut the grass anymore and save money on that. We should pass the property on in good condition, especially since we have the ability to do it.

Dennis Murray wanted to make sure the language is correct for a motion, he said before or after the transfer of the property, the city cleans the surface up.

Wes Poole said yes the lot is overgrown, has become a dump, and there is a big concrete step at the front of the property. They wanted the property because it is an eyesore, attracting rodents, and the city could not get to clean it. We should clean up the property and not pass on the burden to the citizen.

Dennis Murray said he wants to create the motion so it is not an open obligation for the city.

Justin Harris said Matt Lasko is likely the best person to answer on behalf of city staff but he and John Orzech are members of the Land Bank committee who approved this. Part of the program and consideration for acquiring property free of charge are efforts to keep the property clean.

Matt Lasko said from a staff perspective they would not disagree with Wes Poole's recommendation. He is correct, the city was intending on cleaning it up. There were delays on getting equipment. There is brush on the property and miscellaneous items that have been dumped. Candidly, the reason this wrinkle was put into the purchase agreement, which is a little atypical, was at the request of the purchaser. They were hoping to take title to the property sooner, and one way of doing that is providing a certain level of in-kind service that would meet the auditors' evaluation. Right now we have that at about two (2) years that they would have to take and maintain the property prior to it being transferred to them. They offered this and were willing to incur the expense to reduce the time or get to that in-kind level of service quicker. Staff does not have an issue with moving forward with us cleaning it up, and we will not deduct that cost from the in-kind service. We are happy to clean it up and strike that from the agreement, it will just show they provided that in-kind service of \$3600 over two (2) years.

Wes Poole said that is appropriate, and clarified that this is the mow to own program, and they would owe us longer in the program.

Matt Lasko said yes, that is correct.

Wes Poole said that is perfect. He looked at their work and it is not likely the resident next door has the where with all to get this project done.

Dennis Murray said for a motion then, Wes Poole wishes to modify the purchase and sale agreement to remove the advanced owner contribution and have the city clean the surface of concrete, brush and any materials dumped there. Wes Poole agreed.

**Upon motion of Wes Poole and a second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to amend the legislation to modify the purchase and sale agreement to remove the advanced owner contribution and have the city clean the surface of concrete, brush and any materials dumped there.**

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

**ITEM #2 – Matt Lasko, Chief Development Officer**

**AMENDING CDBG FY20 – DEMOLITION PROJECT #1**

**Budgetary Information:** The total estimated cost for this project including advertising and miscellaneous expenses will exceed \$10,000. The City holds a maintenance bond of \$10,000 for the property located at 1730 Putnam Street that will be applied to the asbestos abatement and demolition costs. The cost for the other seven (7) properties and any expenses over the value of the maintenance bond being held by the City for 1730 Putnam Street will be paid with FY20 Community Development Block Grant Funds. A tax lien will be placed upon the properties for the costs of asbestos abatement and demolition for those properties not owned by the City.

**RESOLUTION NO. 041-20R:** It is requested a resolution be passed amending Resolution No. 028-20R, passed on July 13, 2020, and declaring the necessity for the city to proceed with a modified CDBG FY20 Demolition Project #1; 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 Wes Poole, the Commission voted to approve this resolution under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

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

**ITEM #3 – Matt Lasko, Chief Development Officer**

**ENTERPRISE ZONE TAX ABATEMENT AGREEMENT WITH NAME ONE, YELLOWSTONE LLC**

**Budgetary Information:** The project will have an ongoing positive impact on the general fund, as 25% of the increase in assessed value will be subject to real estate taxes during the abatement period.

**ORDINANCE NO. 20-145:** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the city manager to enter into an enterprise zone agreement with Name One, Yellowstone, LLC, relating to property located at 333 East Washington Street; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

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

*Discussion:* Matt Lasko said as background on the applicant who has put in an application for a 10 year 75% enterprise zone abatement, the applicant is comprised of three (3) members of the Zimmerman family, led by Brent Zimmerman from Cleveland. Brent Zimmerman is a successful entrepreneur and developer in Cleveland. He began in the development world with the construction of town houses in downtown Cleveland, he has also built a 30+ unit on Cleveland's west side, and he is the Founder and CEO of Saucy BrewWorks which have locations in Cleveland and Columbus. He has roots in Sandusky and is looking to come back and invest those dollars in Sandusky. The company has recently purchased the long vacant property 333 E. Washington Street, this is immediately east of the Hartung Title Agency. They closed on that property in September. The company is looking to adaptively reuse and historically renovate the property into what will now be seven (7) short term transient rental housing units. They will also have additional indoor and outdoor amenities to be used by the guests. It will be managed by a full service property management company and will employ employee counting, cleaning, and property management staff. The goal is to be fully done and renovated by the 2021 vacation in-season. Based on the level of investment in the vacant property, and we are in an area of town we are beginning to see significant investment in, and needing a demand for the vacation rental and short term lodging, staff recommended approval of the application. The property owner would be obligated on an annual basis to meet certain obligations that are annually reviewed by the Tax Incentive Review Committee and those per the draft agreement that was provided to commission. They must invest \$450,000 on top of the acquisition cost and it must be completed by June 30, 2021 and must create three (3) new full time employment positions with minimum \$90,000 in payroll. Although not being legislated or in front of commission tonight, he did make a note in his communication that earlier in the year, the EDIC committee did recommend a grant of \$50,000 to this project. In conversations with the developer, we have mutually agreed to reduce that award to \$10,000. In front of commission tonight is consideration of the enterprise zone agreement.

Wes Poole said in relation to comments made by the public, this Airbnb is new for the community and granted it is legal to put them in certain locations without question, we do not know it will be working. The few we have seen up until now that we know of, Mike Meinzer's for example, we seem to feel out and have control over who is moving in. We are engaged in a legal battle out on the Chaussee over whether they are technically allowed to put them there or not. The problems caused by air bnbs that are not managed well, this project appears to be a good project that he is going to vote for. He is not very comfortable with not knowing what we are getting, putting additional money in the way of \$10,000. If the \$10,000 is a deal breaker, then we have a real problem with the project being viable. On principle, he is not sure tax payers should be giving extra money, for something that may disrupt their neighborhood. This particular building is three stories high and they're going to have seven residences. He does not know if it is going to work

out well for the neighborhood. He will go along with this as it is the first one but moving forward he is going to be critical of adding money to these projects.

Mike Meinzer said the \$10,000 would not be granted until they meet all building, planning, zoning codes and parking requirements. When final inspections are completed, then the \$10,000 would be released.

Matt Lasko said that is correct. The way the grant agreements are written is that this is a reimbursable grant that must be paid out after project costs have been verified, contractors have been paid, and ultimately they have received a certificate of occupancy from our building division. Funds will only flow into the project when they have met all our obligations and regulations.

Mike Meinzer said he thinks it is a viable mechanism to salvage a grand, old building with good bones. He would like to see it renovated and \$640,000 is a pretty significant investment.

**Roll call on the motion: Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, 6. The Vice 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, Project Engineer**

**CONTRACT WITH HOLCOMB ENTERPRISES, LLC FOR SEASONAL DOCK INSTALLATION & REMOVAL SERVICES**

**Budgetary Information:** The total cost of this contract for years 2020-2023 is \$96,500.00. If approved, the cost for installation and removal of the seasonal docks will be included in the Contractual Services portion of Building Maintenance's Operation and Maintenance budget.

**ORDINANCE NO. 20-146:** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the city manager to enter into a contract with Holcomb Enterprises, LLC, of Port Clinton, Ohio, for seasonal dock installation & removal services at the Shelby Street Boat Launch Facility and Pipe Creek Wildlife Canoe Launch; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

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

*Discussion:* Dave Waddington said he did not think it was that high, that is covering 2020-2023, and Pipe Creek Canoe Launch will become more popular with the Back Bay.

Mike Meinzer asked why the city could not do it—is it because of heavy equipment, time constraints, etc.?

Aaron Klein said the city provides personnel but we do not have the crane or barge that is needed to do the work from the water, along with the long reach excavator that is needed to reach that far out. We provide personnel on land to bolt things together and in the past we have always provided 6-8 people to make sure everything is ready for them. The barge and all equipment is needed for both locations.

The fire department helps, they dive into the water and put caps on so debris does not enter when the posts are removed. We supply as much labor as possible to keep costs down.

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

**ITEM #5 – Submitted by Joshua Snyder, Assistant City Engineer****PERMISSION TO BID DIGESTER CLEANOUT PROJECT**

**Budgetary Information:** The estimated cost of the project, including inspection, advertising, construction, and miscellaneous costs, is \$74,700.02 and will be paid out of line 613-5420-53000 through the Sewer Fund.

**RESOLUTION NO. 042-20R:** It is requested a resolution be passed declaring the necessity for the city to proceed with the proposed Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Digester Cleanout 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 Wes Poole, the Commission voted to approve this resolution under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

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

**ITEM #6 – Submitted by Joshua Snyder, Assistant City Engineer****PERMISSION TO BID 2020 SEWER LINING PROJECT**

**Budgetary Information:** The estimated cost of the project, including engineering and inspection is \$349,985.00 and will be paid with Sewer Funds.

**RESOLUTION NO. 043-20R:** It is requested a resolution be passed declaring the necessity for the city to proceed with the proposed 2020 Sewer Lining 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 Naomi Twine and second of Wes Poole, the Commission voted to approve this resolution under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

*Discussion:* Dave Waddington said when reading through, instead of open cutting, cuts are only going to be made to manhole covers and service connections. It was going to be about 1.2 miles. His question is consistency of the various sizes, some are 8" and some are 12", will that be upgraded to take more flow?

Aaron Klein said the polypropylene plastic liner goes in the pipe and pushes tight against the existing host pipe, essentially creating a new pipe within the existing infrastructure in the ground already. This is not a means by which you can increase the capacity within the sewer system, it is taking a sewer with a lot of infiltration and water, coming in through the joints or cracks, and is creating a liner inside. When it says "cuts" what that means is, when you put the liner in there, it is pulling it all the way through the pipes. Those service connections and manholes need to be reestablished so we are not blocking anyone off of the sewer system. Those cuts are within that liner so that we can reconnect everyone to the new pipe. There is no open road cutting, it is a non-invasive repair for the sewer system and some of the pipes go underneath houses, and we want to make sure those have no leaking or infiltration under it. We are doing the worst ones. We were going to jump right out of the gate and do this at the beginning of the year, but in future years we hope to do more of these types of projects.

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

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

- **Upon a motion from Naomi Twine and second of Wes Poole, the commission voted to accept \$300, from the Cruisin' Car Club for the K9 Fund. The Vice President declared the motion passed.**

Prior to the reading of the manager's report, Eric Wobser made note that **tonight would be the Chief Development Officer, Matt Lasko's, last commission meeting**. He wanted to personally thank Matt for six years of service to the city. In his current role, he's been a huge part of the city's progress from larger development projects to the housing division and the building department. Matt Lasko requested to say a few words to the commission and community.

Matt Lasko said he will try to be brief and had a few prepared words. The last six years in Sandusky have been the most enjoyable, challenging and dynamic years in his professional career. It has been a pleasure to serve the constituents of this great city. He cannot thank his staff, current and previous commission and most importantly, Eric Wobser, for all the support and passion that have been displayed to elevate the city to where it stands today. Although he is beyond excited to join another great city in Huron, he knows that he will miss all of those he has worked for and with and will miss his time in Sandusky. He looks forward to partnering with many of us in Sandusky in the months and years ahead. He thinks it is important to share a few things about his transition to Huron as he prefers people to hear it out of his mouth versus online posts that may stir up speculation and conspiracy. He would like to say thank you to Eric Wobser, it is because of him in large part that he came to work for the city of Sandusky, it is because of him and the commission that we have accomplished so much in six years, and it is due to Eric Wobser that he is leaving, but not for the reasons people may think. Eric has hired, empowered and developed a staff that are often desired by others. Eric has provided him a platform to undertake aggressive initiatives, to tackle challenging real estate development projects, and build an all-star team from a staffing perspective. Eric has provided vision to staff and given them the autonomy and support to execute. Eric Wobser is the Bill Belichick of city administrators with a hell of a coaching tree, that is only going to grow as time passes. It has been a pleasure to work for Eric, this commission, and the constituents. Thank you.

Dennis Murray said he has appreciated working with Matt Lasko over these last several years. The things he said are true, he has watched Matt take the ball and run with it, and he has had Eric and the full commission's support to do exactly that. Matt Lasko has contributed enormously to the fabric and the success of this community. He would like to say that Matt cannot be replaced, but the thing of it is, because of Matt's success and the city's success, we have an extraordinary opportunity to select from many fine candidates for a variety of different positions. Matt will be replaced, not in the same way, and we will not find the same skill set, but we will find a combination of those things. The best news is that Matt Lasko will be at his second favorite city, where he grew up, in Huron. We very much appreciate the enormous contribution Matt Lasko has made to our city and we wish him well.

Naomi Twine said over the last few years she has gotten to know Matt Lasko as she's been the liaison to the Economic Development Committee. His expertise, passion, and love of the city are the things that showed and shined as he went for this other position. She wishes him the best and is glad he will not be too far away. Huron is lucky to get him.

Dave Waddington said thanks to Matt Lasko. He thinks he has done a great job and he has enjoyed having a beer with him every once in a while. The new city he is heading to hit a home run getting him and he expects to see big things come from Matt.

Dick Brady said he echoes his fellow commissioner's sentiments. He has watched him over the last five or six years and Matt has put together deals that we would have struggled with otherwise. He thanks him for that. This city was transformed both by Eric Wobser's leadership and Matt Lasko's leadership in that department. He knows we are losing a great person in economic development but we are gaining a great friend and city manager in Huron. We will leverage that into both a great future for the city of Sandusky and a great future for Huron. Godspeed.

Wes Poole said what everyone has said is true. We wish you the best as you move forward in life.

Mike Meinzer said he only got to work with Matt for a matter of months but he has always been impressed by Matt's answers to questions thrown at him at the table. He provides very articulate and comprehensive answers and Huron was paying attention. They stole Matt from us, but he wishes him good luck.

Eric Wobser said he did everything he could to throw Huron off the scent but that didn't work out. He thanked Matt Lasko for the kind words he said about him, but tonight is for Matt. We would not be sitting in this city hall building right now, that the city and residents will benefit for generations to come, without Matt's hard work. He is very touched by what Matt said tonight, but more importantly he is inspired by what Matt accomplished in Sandusky and cannot wait to see what he does in Huron. He looks forward to working as peers and partners in Matt's new role.

Eric Wobser said as we transition from one great director from the city, we open a new chapter for another. He would like to introduce **Brendan Heil as his nominee to the city commission as the city's new Law Director**. He would like to thank Vice President Dennis Murray for his role serving as a liaison to the city commission on the search for the Law Director committee. Brendan Heil emerged as a top candidate based on his energy, passion and interest in the work we do and the community we serve. Before he formally nominates Brendan Heil, he asked if Dennis Murray cared to say a few words about the search.

Dennis Murray said they were blessed with a number of great applicants and it was difficult to choose from them. Brendan floated to the top because of his passion for local government. Not everyone wants to serve in local government, as it is not the easiest client, especially for a lawyer. A city law director has multiple people they are answering to at the same time and it requires special talent to be able to balance those things, and to have the passion to make a difference for a community as a whole. When a lawyer works for an individual client, they work as best as they can to satisfy that client, and have a one on one relationship. A city law director does not have a one on one relationship with the city so the feedback is more diffused, but that work can be leveraged because of the variety of people they work with. The commission was pleased Brendan Heil applied, he shined. This commission looks forward to seeing what he can do. He is sure Brendan will make a fine law director and Justin Harris will be available for a period of time to share thoughts and background. He would also like to thank Justin Harris for stepping up and filling in during this period of transition.

**Justin Harris said he will be at the next commission meeting, as it will be Brendan Heil's first day, but he would like to say a couple words as a farewell.** He would like to echo Matt Lasko's words. He has never been one to read papers, although Matt Westerhold and Andy Ouriel do a great job at the Register, and he does not have any social media. He hears rumors and gossips as to why people left and would like to share the only reason he came back, even on an interim capacity, was the opportunity to work with and for people like Eric Wobser, Matt Lasko and the city commission. Despite what the noise may be outside, by what he believes to be a few, this is the best place to work that he has been in a long time.

**Upon a motion of Naomi Twine and a second of Dave Waddington, the commission voted to affirm the city manager's choice of Brendan Heil as the new city Law Director.**

**Roll call on the motion: Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, 6. The Vice President declared the motion passed.**

Brendan Heil said he is beyond excited for this to be the first of many meetings with the Sandusky City Commission. Everyone has echoed the greatness of this team. He is very excited to be joining this team, as from a far he has watched the progress made in Sandusky at the leadership of the City Commission. He is excited to be part of that and help the progress continue for years to come. He looks forward to starting in a few short weeks.



- **The U.S. Census bureau has confirmed with staff that they will allow for self-responses at 2020census.gov or via telephone at 855-562-2020 through the end of October.** We are asking all residents to self-respond using one of those two methods. The U.S. Census bureau also asks that if a worker comes to your door, you answer the questions and complete the Census questionnaire with the worker. Please ask your fellow friends and family if they have completed the Census, as that will ensure the most complete count possible.
- **Sgt. Brad Wilson will be promoted to the rank of Lieutenant on October 15** to replace the vacant Lieutenant position from Lt. Newell's retirement.
- **Officer Troy Dillinger will be promoted to the rank of Sergeant,** to back-fill the rank due to Sgt. Wilson's promotion. This promotion will take place on October 15 as well. Congratulations to both Brad and Troy on their promotions.
- **The City will be receiving an additional \$885,182 in CARES Act funding.** The City is extremely grateful for these funds. We will utilize the funds to offset safety service wages that are ordinarily paid from our general fund.
- The next **Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for October 23 at 8am.** Due to COVID-19, the meeting will not be open to the public, but can be viewed on the City's YouTube channel.
- Congratulations to **Charlie Collas for passing his Wastewater Operator 1 License and receiving a contractual promotion from Assistant Plant Operator to Operator 1 at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.**
- The contractor for the **Sandusky State Theater has been approved to use the northern portion of the Jackson Street Parking Lot to stage equipment and prepare structural roof** that will be incorporated into the building's reconstruction. They will begin installing fencing to secure the area beginning Monday, October 19 and ending in December. Please move all vehicles from the north half the lot no later than Sunday, October 18.
- **The City received an ODOT Safety Application** for signal improvements, sidewalk additions and turn lane extensions on Cleveland Road, including intersection improvements at Cedar Point Drive. **The City, however, did not receive the requested OPWC grant for Warren Street improvements.** Schedules for both projects are still being developed.
- In preparation for the holiday season, Horticulture staff have started to remove flowering planters in various locations throughout the downtown business district and waterfront, as well as to string lights in Washington Park. They will be hanging light pole garlands and banners along Downtown streets in coming weeks.
- **Streets and Traffic staff will begin city-wide leaf collection on November 9.** There will be a drop-off area for bagged leaves near the Marquette Drive entrance to the City Service Center from October 26 to January 11. For questions about the City's Leaf Collection Program, call 419.627.5829.
- **Sandusky Transit has resumed and is running on its normal schedule.**
- Ridership on the STS fixed route lines are still significantly below 2019 numbers, but they have recovered to now exceed where they were at this point in 2018.

- The regular **Planning Commission** meeting is scheduled for October 28 at 4:30 PM.
- The regular **Board of Zoning Appeals** meeting is scheduled for October 15 4:30 PM.
- The regular **Landmark Commission** meeting is scheduled for October 21 at 4:30 PM.
- The regular **Arts and Culture Commission** meeting is scheduled for October 20 at 5:15 PM.
- The regular **Arts and Culture Commission meeting for October 20 has been scheduled at 5:15 PM. All of these meetings will be held remotely for the time being, due to COVID-19.**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Dave Waddington reminded the residents of the citywide service where they can drop off brush, yard waste, etc. at Barnes Nursery Saturday, October 17 and Sunday, October 18.

Dennis Murray thanked the city staff and the Sandusky City Schools Gentleman's Club for their help at the citywide cleanup day the previous Saturday, October 10, 2020. These services make a difference in our community.

Dave Waddington said we are seeing more walkers, bikers, joggers, etc. and he wanted to continue the conversation on the restrooms. We had a port-o-john down by the Meigs Street pier. We would like people using facilities.

Eric Wobser said the Jackson street restrooms are meant to be open 365 days a year. That is an added improvement, there is at least one location that public restrooms are available. He cannot speak to when Shoreline Park restrooms are closed, if there is a plan to have port-o-johns open at various locations but said Aaron Klein could speak to that and the city could certainly look into it if there is a demonstrated need.

Dave Waddington said we have many walleye fisherman that are at the Battery Park area on the piers. He thinks it would be worthwhile to have that one location open through January.

Dennis Murray said it does seem as though there might be a genuine need. He asked Aaron Klein to send an email containing the contract or schedule and locations for those port-o-john facilities.

Aaron Klein said yes, he could do that. We just issued an RFP to reup on our portable restrooms so the timing is perfect. Those proposals are due at the end of the month and if they have any comments, please share before the city receives those requests.

Dennis Murray said while on the subject, he noticed a sign on the restrooms at the Jackson Street Pier saying for emergencies only. Are those signs up all the time?

Aaron Klein said those are up as a recommendation from the health department for COVID-19.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

*Ashli DeMore & Ezekiel Ford, 504 Mason Rd E, Milan* wrote in: During the September 14th meeting, Eric Wobser said that the EDIC grant process had been corrected to avoid the failures we have experienced in the past. The provisions appear to have already existed and just lacked vetting and enforcement. What was corrected and how will we ensure that things are done differently in the future?

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Mike Meinzer, the commission voted to adjourn at 5:57 p.m. The Vice President declared the motion passed.**



McKenzie Spriggs  
Commission Clerk



Richard R. Brady  
President of the City Commission