

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

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

City staff present: Eric Wobser – City Manager, Brendan Heil – Law Director, Stuart Hamilton – IT Manager

City staff via teleconference: Michelle Reeder – Finance Director, Justin Harris – Former Acting Law Director, Aaron Klein – Director of Public Works, John Orzech – Police Chief, Jim Green – Acting Fire Chief, McKenzie Spriggs – Commission Clerk.

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

SWEARING IN OF NEW LAW DIRECTOR

Trevor Hayberger, former Law Director for the City, came to swear in the new Law Director, Brendan Heil. The following oath was said:

“I, Brendan L. Heil, do solemnly swear that I will support, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States and the State of Ohio and the Charter and Ordinances of the City of Sandusky;

That I will honestly, faithfully, and impartially discharge the duties of the Law Director for the City of Sandusky to which I have been appointed to the best of my ability;

That I am currently in good standing with the Supreme Court of Ohio and will maintain all of the qualifications throughout my appointment. So help me God.”

Dick Brady welcomed Brendan Heil on behalf of the commission and thanked him for taking a chance on Sandusky.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

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.

CONSENT AGENDA

The President asked if the commissioners wished to remove any of the items on the Consent Agenda. The Commissioners wished to leave as is.

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. 20-147: 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 Aaron Klein, Director of Public Works

ANNUAL DISCHARGE FEE PAYMENT TO THE OHIO EPA FOR THE WWTP FOR CY 2020

Budgetary Information: The total amount of \$25,900.00 shall be paid with Sewer funds and has been appropriated in the O & M Budget for 2020.

ORDINANCE NO. 20-148: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the Finance Director to make payment to the State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for the annual discharge fee for NPDES permit number 2PF00001 for the wastewater treatment plant for the CY2020; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

ITEM C – Submitted by Aaron Klein, Director of Public Works

PURCHASE OF BULK ROCK SALT FOR CY 2021

Budgetary Information: Funds for the purchase of bulk rock salt are routinely budgeted in the Street Fund each year. The total allocation for 2021 would be \$110,500.00.

ORDINANCE NO. 20-149: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to purchase bulk highway deicing rock salt for the Division of Streets & Traffic to be used in the CY 2021 from Compass Minerals America Inc. of Overland park, Kansas; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

ITEM D – Submitted by Jane Cullen, Project Engineer

APPLICATION WITH ODNR ON BEHALF OF CEDAR POINT MARINA FOR BUOYS

Budgetary Information: This grant is 100% funded by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

RESOLUTION NO. 044-20R: It is requested a resolution be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to file an application with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Navigational Aids Grant Program on behalf of the Cedar Point Marina (Harbour Marina), owned and operated by Cedar Fair, LP, to replace twenty (20) existing buoys; and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

ITEM E – Submitted by Debi Eversole, Housing Development Specialist

AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 19-206; PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT 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, survey and new legal description 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. These costs were initially split equally for each property owner. The property owner to the north will now be responsible to pay the uncollected balance on the property. By returning this nonproductive land to tax producing status, the taxing districts will begin collecting real property taxes in the amount of approximately \$578.30 per year.

ORDINANCE NO. 20-150: It is requested an ordinance be passed amending Ordinance No. 19-206, passed on December 9, 2019, and declaring that certain real property owned by the city as part of the Land Reutilization Program identified as Parcel No. 58-01458.000, located at 1531 Camp Street, is no longer needed for any municipal purpose and authorizing the execution of an amended 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.

ITEM F – Submitted by John Orzech, Police Chief and James Green, Interim Fire Chief

ANNUAL PAYMENT TO ERIE COUNTY FOR 9-1-1 AGREEMENT

Budgetary Information: The total amount of this expenditure is \$16,961.47. The replacement cost is \$9,342.22 and the maintenance cost is \$7,619.25. The cost will be paid with funds from the Police Department's 2020 Operating budget in the amount of \$8,480.74 and from the EMS Fund in the amount of \$8,480.73.

ORDINANCE NO. 20-151: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing payment for replacement and maintenance costs for Calendar Year 2021 pursuant to the 9-1-1 agreement between the City of Sandusky and Erie County; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

ITEM G – Submitted by McKenzie Spriggs, Commission Clerk

LIQUOR PERMIT MEMBERSHIP CHANGE

The city has received a Notice of Legislative Authority for a D5J (community entertainment district) liquor permit change for MAGROUP LLC dba No 2 Vita Urbana at 256 Columbus Avenue. It is requested the Commission Clerk be authorized to notify the Ohio Division of Liquor Control the city has no objection to this transfer.

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: Wes Poole, Blake Harris Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, 7. Roll call on the ordinances and resolutions: Wes Poole, Blake Harris Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, 7. The President declared the ordinances and resolutions contained in the Consent Agenda passed in full accordance with the city charter.

REGULAR AGENDA

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

ITEM #1 – Submitted by Matt Lasko, Chief Development Officer

CONTRACT WITH GARZA DIRT WORKS, LLC FOR CDBG FY20 DEMOLITION PROJECT #1

Budgetary Information: The total cost for the asbestos abatement and demolition is \$109,982.00. The cost for seven (7) of the demolitions will be paid with FY20 Community Development Block Grant Funds totaling \$100,232.00. 1730 Putnam Street will be demolished using a Maintenance Bond totaling \$8,715.00 and FY20 Community Development Block Grant Funds totaling \$1,035.00. A tax lien will be placed upon the properties for the costs of asbestos abatement and demolition.

ORDINANCE NO. 20-152: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Garza Dirt Works, LLC of Clyde, Ohio, for the CDBG FY20 Demolition Project #1; 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 full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Roll call on the motion: Wes Poole, Blake Harris Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Wes Poole, Blake Harris Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

ITEM #2A – Submitted by Tom Horsman, Assistant Planner

AGREEMENT WITH SARTA FOR EZFARE MOBILE TICKETING VALIDATOR PROJECT & PURCHASE OF JRV ELECTRONIC VALIDATORS

Budgetary Information: The total cost for the validators, including three years of warranty, is \$67,770. Funding from the OTP2 will cover \$54,216 and funding from the FTA Integrated Mobility Innovation (IMI) Program through Stark Area Regional Transit Authority (SARTA) will cover the \$13,554 required local match.

ORDINANCE NO. 20-153: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Stark Area Regional Transit Authority (SARTA) for financial assistance for the EZfare Mobile Ticketing Validator Project for the Sandusky Transit System; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

ORDINANCE NO. 20-154: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to expend funds for the purchase and installation of twenty six (26) JRV electronic validators from Masabi, LTD. of New York, New York, for the EZfare Mobile Ticketing Validator

Project 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 Blake Harris 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: Tom Horsman provided a presentation for the commission to review. Last year the commission approved a resolution to join an organization call NEORide which is a consortium of public transit agencies. It originally started in Northeast Ohio but has expanded to 16 different transit agencies across Ohio and Michigan, including Ann Arbor, Cleveland and Lancaster as most recent additions. As part of the NEORide organization, a project was launched called EZfare, which was mentioned last year as we joined this organization. This allows customers of Sandusky Transit to purchase their bus fares and passes on mobile phones. Since then three (3) different apps have joined EZfare: Transit, moovit, and Uber, so even on Uber it will give directions on Sandusky transit, you can purchase your pass through there, etc. We have been using this fully since June of 2020 and it has been successful so far. The next phase is the legislation that is before the commission. The graph shows purchases by days since June on EZfare. SARTA, the public transit agency in Canton, got a grant from the federal transit administration to study developing innovate alternates of payment for mobility, really targeting un-banked people, low income people, disabled elderly populations, and people who may not have cell phones or banks linked to a cell phone. Cleveland State is part of this for the research aspect. This is the agreement we are entering into with SARTA to be part of this IMI Grant process. The first phase is grant funding to purchase validators that come with the EZfare platform. Right now the drivers of Sandusky transit buses must visually inspect all the EZfare passes. The validators allow for automated validation and have the eventual capacity to read smart cards, contactless bank cards, etc. They are very easy to use and easy to install. The total funding is \$67,770 which is funded through the IMI Grant and the OTP2 Grant given to us from ODOT. We will be working with NEORide and Masabi on installation. Installation and training are included in the cost, and is covered by the grant. Marketing materials will be created by Masabi as well. These are in use by SARTA, and Akron metro is soon to join. This is a very exciting project for us to be involved in and we are finding more ways to allow people access to transit and mobility. This opens the door for those without banking infrastructure or cell phone infrastructure that is currently required.

Wes Poole asked what the growth of this has been since June. What percentage of the fares come from EZfare?

Tom Horsman showed the graph of daily purchases since June and said in September EZfare purchases represented 3% of the total purchase but we have been seeing growth. With additional marketing pushes he thinks we can push that number, but noted it is currently a small percentage of the total.

Dick Brady thanked Tom Horsman for bringing this legislation to the commission. This is one more department stepping into the world of electronics, which is a good thing because it will make us more efficient and user friendly. He noted the creative funding sources and that is excellent work.

Roll call on the motion: Wes Poole, Blake Harris Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Wes Poole, Blake Harris Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

ITEM #2B

ORDINANCE NO. 20-154: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to expend funds for the purchase and installation of twenty six (26) JRV electronic validators from Masabi, LTD. of New York, New York, for the EZfare Mobile Ticketing Validator

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

Roll call on the motion: Wes Poole, Blake Harris Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Wes Poole, Blake Harris Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, 7. 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

- Thank you to The Schlessman Family Foundation, Stein Hospice and Barnes Nursery of Huron for the coordination and donation of the White Fir tree that will illuminate Schade-Mylander Plaza throughout the holiday season. The tree will arrive Downtown during the first week in November.
- **Officer Elijah Coe was recently honored for being named “Officer of the Year”** for the year of 2019. The banquet was scheduled in March but due to COVID, we weren't able to hold it at that time. There are still restrictions, so officers were given their awards during recent shift meetings. Elijah was nominated by three supervisors for his professionalism, strong work ethic and his positive attitude. Congratulations Elijah on this deserving award!
- **Jared Oliver will be sworn in as Police Chief on November 9th at 4:00pm at the Gazebo on E. Washington St.** The venue is to allow for appropriate social distancing.
- The Customer Accounting Office will be including the applicable dock tax on the November billing statements. In accordance with Chapter 199 of our Codified Ordinances, the dock tax amount is \$25 for each watercraft that is docked or stored within the City limits.
- Tuck pointing at the Mylander Plaza has been completed for the inner fountain and seating areas in time for installation of Christmas decorations. Staff will continue to monitor the outer planter boxes for additional repairs when needed.
- Clean-Up Drop-Off day was a huge success as we saw around 700 cars come through to dispose of household trash, tires, electronics and other items. We would like to extend a huge thank you once again to the Sandusky Gentleman's Club for their help at the event.
- There are only a handful of commemorative benches remaining at the Jackson Street Pier. For more information, please call Public Works at 419-627-5829.
- **Streets and Traffic staff will begin city-wide leaf collection on November 9th.** The schedule is posted on the City's website and social media pages. There will be a drop-off area for bagged leaves near the Marquette Drive entrance to the City Service Center, starting today through Monday, January 11th. For questions about the City's Leaf Collection Program, call 419.627.5829.
- **Halloween is still scheduled to go forward on Saturday, October 31, 2020.** We are asking folks to act responsibly and stay in their own neighborhoods and to use safe social distancing practices as much as possible. Info can be found on the homepage of the city's website. Any changes from the health department or otherwise will be reflected on there and the city's social media.

- After the search for a new Transit Administrator, the position was offered to Tom Horsman. He will be transitioning into that position and maintaining some of his responsibilities related to Planning. Tom demonstrated a great understanding of Transit and had been working closely with Nicole in that position for many years. It was a natural choice for Matt Lasko to make, as he transitioned out of the office. The city is not going to immediately post Tom's vacant position that will be created. In addition to the three positions that were eliminated due to budget issues, we have had three more vacancies created in the Community Development Department due to departures. We will be posting Matt Lasko's director position and then will make a decision on a case basis as we get into next year, as to what we plan to do with those vacancies. Those positions likely will be in the budget but will be held back for a period of a few months as we figure out the department's specific needs and to provide some savings. We know that in order to maintain the momentum we have had, we will need to fill those positions at some point.
- **Sandusky Transit will be offering free rides on Election Day, November 3, 2020, on fixed lines, to encourage people to get out to vote.**
- The regular **Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 28 at 4:30 PM.**
- The regular **Board of Zoning Appeals meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 19 at 4:30 PM.**
- The regular **Landmark Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 18 at 4:30 PM.**
- The regular **Arts and Culture Commission meeting for Tuesday, November 17 has been scheduled for 5:15 PM.**

OLD BUSINESS

Dave Waddington wanted to check in on the gun shots throughout Sandusky and asked Chief John Orzech if he could provide a report. He believes it has died off since the summer months.

John Orzech said there has been on and off discharge of fire arms but nothing at individuals or property. It appears a few of them may have been up in the air as people are driving. At this point, he talked with Andy Ouriel from the Register and Andy did not follow up with that, but we are always ready to talk with Andy if he would like. Skip Oliver sent an email out and we are arranging a meeting with citizens who are concerned so we can begin a dialogue in that area of Wayne Street and Hancock Streets. The meeting has not been scheduled yet but will be as soon as the new Chief, Jared Oliver gets here. Skip had folks committed to attending so we will begin that dialogue. As the commission knows, these things go in phases. The individuals doing them are young kids making bad choices right now. We have warrants out for the homicide case and are aware of some individuals. The department has made traffic stops recently and taken guns off the streets, in excess of 30 since June 1, 2020. We have had stolen ones recovered in the last two weeks. We are trying to be aggressive, the DEA was just in town for enforcement and we will continue to partner with those agencies to get the violent individuals off the streets.

NEW BUSINESS

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Kim Eberhardt, 618 Sycamore Line, Sandusky, wrote in:

1. Related to the Charter review committee that came up with the changes that will be on the ballot, how are the members of this committee chosen and do they need to be residents of Sandusky?

2. Does the city continue to move forward with the planned bike path and The Landing at this current time or has this project been placed on hold? If so, do you think this is appropriate when repair of streets has been put on hold and our fire departments are understaffed.

3. It was mentioned a couple of meetings ago that Chief Orzech is being hired as Assistant Manager because we can not afford to lose his connections and knowledge. When people retire, you lose them as an employee. This happens every day in all types of businesses. Is this to say that others in the city do not have knowledge and connections? When has the City Manager ever had an assistant manager in the past? As the number of residents are decreasing, why are we adding additional office staff?

4. When will we be able to attend meetings in person again. At this point, people can go to church, school, restaurants, and bars. Meetings should be able to be attended by residents. Questions being read by staff will not show the same emotion as a question asked by the person themself. Body language and tone is huge in conversation.

Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street, Sandusky, wrote in:

The last finance meeting, the city manager stated that he is thinking about taking the housing and economic development grant money out of Issue 8 and transferring it to the general fund to cover short falls of the budget.

How can the city legally do a transfer of the Issue 8 money when the voters designated a certain percentage be set aside each year for Issue 8 projects?

Secondly, there is rumor that the city is thinking about allowing ECEDC to administer the city's next round of COVID because there is no one on staff to administrate the money since Mr. Lasko is leaving.

How is it legal for the city to receive COVID money and hand it over to ECEDC? I would assume that with any grant, the city would have to show accountability for the money.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Dave Waddington, the commission voted to adjourn at 5:29 p.m. The President declared the motion passed.



McKenzie Spriggs
Commission Clerk



Richard R. Brady
President of the City Commission