

The President called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. after the Invocation, given by Naomi Twine, 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, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine and Mike Meinzer were in attendance via teleconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

City staff present: Stuart Hamilton – IT Manager

City staff via teleconference: Eric Wobser – City Manager, John Orzech – Assistant City Manager, Brendan Heil – Law Director, Michelle Reeder – Finance Director, Aaron Klein – Director of Public Works, Jim Green – Acting Fire Chief, Jared Oliver – Police Chief, McKenzie Spriggs – Commission Clerk.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to approve the minutes of the December 14 meeting and suspend the formal reading. The President declared the motion passed.

#### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

*Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street, Sandusky:*

1. Does Commissioner Murray have to abstain on the STS school contract with his wife seated on the school Board?
2. Why is the school under a busing contract with the city when the school has its own buses?

#### **PUBLIC HEARING**

##### **Application to Amend the Zoning Map-- 2101 Perkins Avenue**

*Discussion:* Greg Voltz gave a brief presentation to give context to the public hearing. The site location is the former YCMA, it is currently zoned “public facilities” and is surrounded by other “public facilities” zoning. It is just north of Perkins Township which is zone “heavy industrial.” Parcel no. 58-68009.000 located at 2101 W. Perkins is currently zoned “public facilities” and the applicant hopes to rezone it to “limited manufacturing.” The applicant is proposing to use the site for a light manufacturing facility, looking to relocate into the city limits. The current building stands vacant and is not likely to be able to be used as a future public facility. The building has fallen into disrepair since the closure of the YMCA. The staff believes this use is in line with the city’s bicentennial vision plan as a rezone offers great potential to a growing small business. This also helps redevelop a blighted parcel along Perkins Avenue. The applicant has other future ideas for the property to make the most of the space, including use as an incubator for other small manufacturers. In conclusion, staff recommends the approval of the proposed amendment to the zone map for 2101 Perkins Avenue, Parcel no. 58-68009.000 to “limited manufacturing.” It was also recommended by the Planning Commission.

One public comment comes from the applicant, Mark Miller, of Ahner Commercial, located at 2435 Gill Rd. It read:

To the Representatives of the City of Sandusky,

We would like to introduce ourselves as Ahner Commercial, dba AC Commercial Door and Window. We are a provider of door and window solutions and materials for the commercial building industry. We are before you in the hopes of purchasing the property located at 2101 West Perkins Ave in Sandusky, formerly the YMCA. We have a formal Purchase Agreement with the current owners, with the one of the remaining contingencies being a re-zoning of the property from Public Recreational Use to Light Manufacturing. The Company currently has 8

employees and is looking to grow that number by over 50% in the next 18 months. We feel that we will be able to repurpose the building to suit our growth needs, while providing several jobs for residents, tax revenue for the City, and initially using a portion of the building as business incubating spaces for local entrepreneurs as well.

We believe this can be a great opportunity for both the City, for our Company, and for the residents of the City of Sandusky. Not only will we be providing tax revenue to the City and bringing jobs for the City's residents, we would also be restoring and utilizing a blighted and repeatedly vandalized building. We are hopeful the City's Commission will see the progressive vision we have for this once-prominent fixture of the City and a favorable outcome for everyone can be met.

Thank you for your time and Happy Holidays.

Blake Harris said ahead of the vote, he is delighted to see this move into the city of Sandusky. He has known Mr. Miller for quite some time, as he grew up down the street from him on Perry Street. He has witnessed this company grow over the last few years, and knows first-hand they are excited about the move. He hopes the city welcomes them with open arms and approves the legislation to make this move possible.

Dennis Murray said he is also pleased to see the repurposing of this property. He knows there are many folks who want to see the YMCA come back, but this building is to a certain extent, a white elephant. It could very well be that the city finds itself, if it is not resold or fixed up, it could become a liability which quickly will exceed the value of the property. For a lot of reasons this is a good move-- new jobs, new tax revenue, and alternately could be an expense waiting for the city down the road. Perhaps not this commission, but within the next 10-15 years this could become a liability.

Dick Brady said he agrees with the other commissioners and is thrilled someone is willing to take a chance on this property, and take what was an iconic property that has fallen into disrepair and give it new life. This is the next step in this progression and this is an excellent opportunity for them and for us.

The President declared this public hearing closed.

### **CY 2021 Budget**

*Discussion:* Michelle Reeder presented the 2021 budget and said we have made it through 2020. It has been a rough year and we are grateful it almost over. The charter requires the finance department have the first draft by November 1. Now we are onto the final draft, which cannot be passed until the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in January which is the first commission meeting of the year. On tonight's agenda is a first reading of the budget.

The 2021 budget has been recommended for approval by the finance committee. Highlights include: General fund revenue is estimated to be \$17.8M. When compared to 2020 revenue, \$21.6M. We are budgeting conservatively for 2021, with revenue down \$4M. Looking at year to date revenue, it is \$18.2M, so we're budgeting slightly less than what we received this year, intentionally. We received stimulus dollars this year that are not guaranteed for next year. Income tax revenue is budgeted at \$9.4M, compared to the \$11.4M that had been budgeted for 2020. We are down \$2M, much of which will be dependent on withholdings, employees getting back to work, and our businesses and their net profit returns in 2020, which we will receive in 2021. Our admissions tax is budgeted for \$1.7M in 2021, which is a far cry from the \$4.7M budgeted in 2020. Lodging tax revenue is estimated to be at \$950,000, compared to

\$1.5M budgeted in 2020. We are trying to be conservative with revenue. If revenue comes in better, we will cross that bridge when we come to it. We were conservative so we could make it to the end of 2021.

When it comes to expenses, we have estimated \$19.9M for 2021. That is down from \$21.6M that we had budgeted in 2020. CARES Act funding helped reduce expenses by \$1.6M this year. This budget contains the contractual wage increases for AFCSME employees, which is 2.5%. Police and fire union personnel will receive a 3% wage, according to their union contract. Administrative staff will have their wages reinstated to the pre-COVID levels. Administrative staff had either a 5% or 10% wage reduction in April. In 2021, administrative staff will have their pay go back to their previous full wage. They also had the option to take a voluntary furlough day. Our full time employee count is 223 employees. We started 2020 with 253 employees. We are still down 30 full time employees, at this point.

The budget includes general fund transfers. \$180,000 has been budgeted for the housing program, \$750,000 for infrastructure, \$125,000 for development, \$60,000 for programming, \$10,000 for public art. With the 2021 revenue budgeted to be \$17.8M and expenditures to be \$19.9M that gives us a projected deficit spending of \$2.1 M. The year-end cash balance for 2020 is \$4.6M, meaning this projected deficit spending (things could come in better than expected,) puts us at a year-end cash balance in 2021 of \$2.5M. We all know 2020 has been a rough year, and we are expecting 2021 to be slightly better. But we are budgeting conservatively, especially on the revenue figures. We will make adjustments as necessary.

Dick Brady asked if there were any additional funds baked into the budget for CARES Act funding for 2021, as they are presently unlikely. We are certainly thankful for the dollars we have received, but it would be foolhardy to expect dollars when the federal government is as unpredictable as it is currently.

Michelle Reeder said he is correct, there is no CARES Act funding shown in the 2021 budget.

Dennis Murray said he would like to tip his hat to staff, particularly Eric Wobser and Michelle Reeder, who have worked so hard to contain the budget in 2020, and the staff who have worked mercilessly in difficult conditions. Our police and fire departments are working with reduced numbers and in the face of COVID, yet they are still getting it done. There have not been interruptions in service. He would like to express his gratitude for a lot of careful planning, and many difficult cuts. We have made it through. In March and April it looked like our budget might be cut by as much as 45% of revenues. We made it through with revenues down 29%. Still an enormous blow to our budget, and yet we see with the transfers planned for the 2021 budget that we are not missing a beat in terms of maintaining the performance we have had. That is ultimately going to lead to Sandusky's continued success and revival, the fact that we have not burned the furniture in order to keep things warm right now. In fact, we have continued to plan for the future and that is what is going to get us through this and prosper again. Thank you again to all levels of staff. The fire fighters and police officers have done heroic service. Thanks to all staff for their amazing service this last year.

Wes Poole said we have 223 employees now, what is baked into that deficit? What new employees will we get next year and in which departments?

Michelle Reeder said we want to get our safety service personnel back to where they need to be. We are working on filling positions from retirements as quickly as we can. The only other positions in the 2021 budget are the Planning Director position, midway through the year; and an Assistant Planner position budgeted for September of 2021. Jonathan Holody joins our staff as the new Director of Development January 4, 2021. After he comes on board, we will assess the other positions.

Wes Poole said Michelle Reeder talked too fast. He asked what is happening with police and fire to get them up to staffing levels.

John Orzech answered saying the police department has 46 officers that are budgeted in the 2021 budget. In 2020, the department had 48 officers budgeted. A retirement happened last week and the department currently has 43 or 44. Police Chief Oliver made a conditional offer, he will start on January 4. Another will be starting shortly thereafter. That takes care of the police department. Fire Chief Green and Captains Lesch and D'Amico have been interviewing candidates for fire. They are currently down two positions and have a retirement coming after the first of the year. A firefighter started two weeks ago and once we get through the interview process, we plan on filling those positions for the fire department. They have to do physical agility testing to get their list up to 10, minimum. Those positions will be filled as quickly as possible.

Wes Poole asked when the fire department will be back to 50 personnel or full staff. If we are going to be in deficit spending, where is the money being spent? With the crime and problems we are having in the community, my questions are directed toward what are spending the money on, if not that? 46 is too few police officers.

Eric Wobser said we have budgeted to hire all vacant fire positions in 2021, other than extending the period for the Fire Chief. We have down two less police positions this year, but that will not impact our ability to do patrol work. We had beefed up three new positions in the community impact department after the passage of Issue 8. Through creative staffing, we will be able to meet the needs with 46. Our goal is to get that number right back to 48 as quickly as possible, when we know where revenue is coming in. Just to put that in perspective, we are talking two total safety positions that are down in the 2021 budget from a total staffing of 96. So about a 2%-3% reduction in police and fire staffing, when the reality is that nearly every other division of the city has taken a 10% hit in staffing. We have very much prioritized police and fire staffing over all else, the reality is we are staying in other lines. Michelle Reeder alluded to another planner position, he would like to be clear, we went from 10 positions in planning and development to seven, through attrition and restructuring. Then because of three other vacancies the department went down to having four staff members. We never anticipated that and would like to slowly fill those positions over the course of 12 months. There will still be a 30% reduction of the staff within that department. Many other department have taken significant hits and we hope to get back to full staffing by the end of 2021.

Wes Poole suggested that the percentage of cuts is not relevant, because we are starting with numbers that are not necessarily appropriate. The fact that you had 10 people in whatever department you said it was, we never discussed throughout the last five years, whether what those people are doing is important to the community. He is getting back to the fact that we have 46 patrolmen of which two are doing community impact, which is essentially talking to businesses. He is concerned about the ability to walk down the street safely and do we have enough police officers to do that. The number of people in a planning department, when he compares to the amount of activity going on in planning, he is unsure we needed 10 people. Those percentages are meaningless until we have established that the numbers we started with are appropriate and had the right priorities for our community. He is interested in people moving to the community, the fact we have lost population, and factors like safety and schools as people consider those when moving to a community. He would like more information before the second meeting, to decide whether the priorities are in the right place.

Eric Wobser clarified that everything we do is about community safety. But certainly when you look at the overall health of the community, statistically speaking, police are one part of what makes a community safe. What we do with investments, economic development, infrastructure, housing, etc. all of which have all been built up over the course of each budget

passed by this commission the last six years, is equally important to community safety. When you look at things like population, you cannot just invest in safety. While those departments have taken the smallest reductions of any departments, which will continue to be the case, if we get out of these other areas entirely, we will end up with a city in decline of revenue and investment and a less safe community over time. When people imagine the safest community they can think of, it is not because they have a police officer at every corner. It is because of a variety of things, including a responsive police department. The commission has been a big part of passing these budgets, it did not come up out of nowhere. Nobody is talking about returning to 10 employees in the development department, they are talking about going from 10 to four, and whether that 60% reduction allows the department to do run as we hope it does. He feels pretty firmly that we have balanced the needs of the community and the city commission's will in the preparation of this budget.

Mike Meinzer said he is torn. He knows the minimum manning for the fire department at one time was 60, the run volume has likely doubled since that day. And yet the older and wiser he has gotten, the reason that happened was because the city started rotting. We have to turn it around somewhere. He does not want to put two men on an engine or not enough people in an ambulance to handle a cardiac arrest, which is not safe for the citizens. However, if we do not be strategic in improving our community, and get rid of this rot through investment, the calls will continue increasing and we will not be able to hire enough police and firefighters. Continuing to throw police and firefighters at it, is not the answer. He wants enough police officers and firemen that they are safe, and he wants the community to be safe. We cannot let the town deteriorate, we must improve it. We have to draw the 10,000 people we have lost in population decline. Actually we probably lost 15,000 people but 5,000 have moved in because they found some house they can move into. It has to be a delicate balance. He knows both Chiefs are doing the best they can, we are not letting people die in the streets, calls are not backed up. His answer is automatic aid and mutual aid to get out of it.

Wes Poole said he did not say we are going to abandon the rest of the things we do for the community. He does not agree that everything we spend money on affects safety. He wants to point that out. The commission needs to look at all the things the money is going to be spent on and decide if we agree that is best for the community.

Michelle Reeder read her public comments:

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

1. What will the deficit be going into 2021?
2. What is the overall debt going into 2021 including water and sewer?
3. Are there going to be any raises budgeted for 2021 and how much?
4. Will the 2020 raises been reinstated?
5. A Charter amendment passed giving the commissioners a raise. What will the yearly dollar amount be for each commissioner?

Michelle Reeder said the projected deficit is \$12.1M at this time.

Michelle Reeder said the overall debt is a convoluted question. The debt spreadsheet will be sent to Miss Johnson and the entire commission. It is included in the 2021 budget which can be found on the website.

Michelle Reeder said raises are 2.5% for AFSCME union, and 3% for the police and fire unions.

Michelle Reeder said we do not have any raises to be reinstated. She thinks Miss Johnson's question pertains to administrative staff who underwent a wage reduction. Their full wage will be reinstated.

Michelle Reeder said the charter amendment moves the pay for the commissioners to \$684.85 per month, or \$8,218 annually. The Commission President earns slightly more than that, his salary will be \$9,258 annually.

The President declared the hearing closed.

**U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, FY 2019 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report under CDBG Program.**

Debi Eversole gave a presentation and shared the following information--

The City of Sandusky intends to submit to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the FY2019 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report under the Community Development Block Grant Program.

- The Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) details the City of Sandusky's accomplishments during the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Year 2019. It also shows achievements toward meeting the goals outlined in the City of Sandusky's 2019-2023 Five-Year Consolidated Plan.
- For the Program Year 2019, the City of Sandusky was allocated \$721,669.00 to spend on eligible activities during the period beginning July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. The annual funding is calculated through a formula allocation from HUD. Sandusky administered several activities that include: Public Facility Improvements, Clearance and Demolition and Public Service activities to name a few.
- The purpose of this Public Hearing is to announce that the City of Sandusky intends to submit this report in its final version to HUD by the required deadline of December 30, 2020. The City was given a 90 day extension to the normal deadline of 90 days following completion of the program (September 30).

The program rules state that in order to be eligible for funding, every CDBG-funded activity must qualify as meeting one of the three national objectives of the program. This requires that each activity, except certain activities carried out under the eligibility categories of Planning and Capacity Building, Program Administration, and Technical Assistance, meet specific tests for either:

- Benefiting low- and moderate-income persons,
- Preventing or eliminating slum and blight, or
- Urgent Need

The Goals and Outcomes table shown is generated within HUDs Integrated Disbursement and Information System (IDIS). Because the report is auto populated, some of the goals of the 5 year consolidated plan are listed, but were not funding during the first year of the five year program. Therefore, some of the outcomes have generated a zero percentage complete.

Additionally, some of the outcomes populated were accomplished well over the targeted goals. Therefore, some of the outcomes have generated an over 100% percentage complete. The largest portion of funding was categorized as--

**NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION**

The purpose of this category is to enhance the quality of life for people living in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods through public investment in facilities, improvements, and services, as well as the elimination of blight.

During the 2019 Program Year, the City of Sandusky allocated \$392,348.27 in funding for Public Facilities. A reconstruction project on Shoreline Drive benefited an estimated 8,155 people residing in the City of Sandusky. This funding was fully disbursed during the program year.

Another accomplishment during the 2019 Program Year, the City of Sandusky was awarded \$191,196 in funding to be used for blight elimination. The City of Sandusky used \$108,108.20 of these funds to demolish 9 dilapidated structures that were beyond repair, they were all residential structures. The remaining funds were disbursed after the program year ended in June for ongoing demolitions that were in progress at the end of the program year.

Another category directly benefiting City residents is—

#### SPECIAL NEEDS ASSISTANCE

The purpose of this category is to promote access to public services for special needs populations generally assumed to be low- and moderate-income, including, but not limited to, programs addressing youth and children, seniors/elderly and frail elderly, veterans and persons with mental, physical or developmental disabilities, alcohol or drug addiction, HIV/AIDS or other special needs.

Accomplishment: During the program year, 30,000 was allocated to the Erie County Senior Center Meals on Wheels Program was used to purchase food, which was then delivered to senior citizens residing in Sandusky. The program was able to benefit 264 elderly persons residing within the City of Sandusky. The funding for this activity was fully disbursed during the program year.

Accomplishment: The City of Sandusky also awarded \$15,000 in funding to the OHgo Reach Program which allowed the continuation of the Mobile Food Pantry which helps fight food insecurity within the City of Sandusky. The program was able to benefit 4,895 persons residing in the City, which is over triple the amount of the anticipated number of persons to be benefitted through the program. The funding for this activity was fully disbursed during the program year and the COVID-19 outbreak is suspected to be the reason for the high numbers reported.

There was an additional \$5,000 awarded to the Erie County General Health District 2-1-1 Program, which cancelled prior to the contract being signed. The funding was not used during the 2019 Program Year and will be eligible carry-over for use in the 2020 program year.

#### TARGETED AREAS ASSISTED

For the 2019 program year, the City of Sandusky assisted low- and moderate-income areas of the City in addition to improving the City as a whole. Assistance was made available citywide to persons meeting the CDBG eligibility requirements for low- and moderate-income benefit.

The City of Sandusky had identified eight (8) projects that benefited low- and moderate-income persons citywide. Projects with citywide benefit include Fair Housing, Public Facilities/Infrastructure Activities, Blight Elimination, and Food Assistance. The percentage of Low / Moderate income persons benefited was 77.46%.

This slide shows the eligible census block groups

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

As required, the City of Sandusky published a legal ad advising that the draft report was available and that the 15 day comment period had begun. This ad was published on December 14, 2020 and comments were taken until December 28, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

There were 4 comments received via e-mail. There were replies to each, with no further responses received.

*Tim Sun 12/20/2020 10:42 AM To: Debi Eversole Cc: Kristen Barone*

Question/Comment: What is the dollar amount the City expects to receive this year?

Response: I have not been contacted directly with an anticipated dollar amount. Looking back at prior years' files, it appears that the Annual Action Plan discussions with the CPAC Committee begin in Feb/March for the upcoming year (7/1/21 – 6/30/22).

*Jackie Sat 12/19/2020 1:28 PM To: Debi Eversole*

Question/Comment: Since this is to help improve places with low income maybe we could improve Churchwell park and or enlarge the splash pad there only one small thing it has to be turned on by a person every day play equipment is over 20+ years old

Response: Noted and will be discussed during the 2021 annual action planning

*Brian Thu 12/17/2020 4:37 PM To: Debi Eversole*

Question/Comment: MacArthur Park needs sidewalks and streetlights

Response: Noted and will be discussed during the 2021 annual action planning

*From: John Sent: Sunday, December 27, 2020 5:29 PM To: Debi Eversole*

Subject: Re: 2019 CAPER (draft)

Question/Comment: Looking just at page 2, the, numbers, years, percentages don't make any sense??

In the following pages, many of the programs ended up with zeros?? No money spent?

The Plan, on the surface, looks like a failure.

Response: The reports are pulled from HUD's reporting system, IDIS. The numbers generated are based on the 5-year consolidated plan, which has larger goals over the course of the 5 years. Being that 2019 was year #1, not all of the goals had money allocated to them for that particular year. Therefore, the reports generated from the HUD system will show zeros for money spent and percentages.

Follow-up: How can a program be 7,000% complete??

Added Response: The prediction was way lower than the result. We are looking at how these numbers were populated as well and since this is a "draft", it is possible that the final submittal to HUD will be modified.

Debi Eversole added her e-mail address as a form of contact and has also listed the link to the city's website where the full report can be found.

*Discussion:* Wes Poole asked to see the slide before Special Needs. He wanted to point out at \$392,000 the city benefitted 8,000 people on Shoreline Drive. Whereas on the next slide, OHgo benefitted 4,895 people with a fraction of the cost. He would like to make sure we are dispersing this money, there are other people and entities that operate like OHgo, he would like



to fund those kinds of folks and activities. They seem to benefit a lot of people for not a lot of money.

The President declared the public hearing closed.

### **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 the Consent Agenda as is.**

#### **ITEM A – Submitted by Thomas Horsman, Transit Director**

##### **2021 TRANSPORTATION SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

**Budgetary Information:** STS will bill for trips consumed by individuals who are enrolled with Erie Board of Developmental Disabilities and eligible for transportation services. The revenue from this agreement will be used as matching grant funds for the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Program grant. This contract is expected to provide approximately 10,500 trips and generate over \$200,000 in 2021.

**ORDINANCE NO. 20-188:** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into an agreement for transportation services between the City of Sandusky and the Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities for the period of January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

#### **ITEM B – Submitted by Thomas Horsman, Transit Director**

##### **2021 TRANSPORTATION SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH CEDAR POINT**

**Budgetary Information:** STS will receive \$175,000 for the length of the proposed contract. This money collected will be used to offset the capital planning and operating expenses through the 2021 5311 Rural grant program.

**ORDINANCE NO. 20-189:** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into an agreement for transportation services between the City of Sandusky and Millennium Operations LLC, d.b.a. Cedar Point, for services related to the Sandusky Transit System for the period of January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

#### **ITEM C – Submitted by Thomas Horsman, Transit Director**

##### **2021 TRANSPORTATION SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH CANCER SERVICES**

**Budgetary Information:** STS will receive \$8.00 each way, per passenger trip from Cancer Services for the length of the proposed contract. This money collected will be used to offset the capital planning and operating expenses through the 2021 5311 Rural grant program.

**ORDINANCE NO. 20-190:** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into an agreement for transportation services between the City of Sandusky and Cancer Services for the period of January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

#### **ITEM D – Submitted by Thomas Horsman, Transit Director**

##### **2021 TRANSPORTATION SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH SANDUSKY CITY SCHOOLS**

**Budgetary Information:** STS will receive \$9.00 per passenger, per one-way trip from Sandusky City Schools for the length of the proposed contract. This money collected will be used to offset the capital planning and operating expenses through the 5311 Rural grant program.

**ORDINANCE NO. 20-191:** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into an agreement for transportation services between the City of Sandusky and Sandusky City Schools for services related to the Sandusky Transit System for the period of January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

**ITEM E – Submitted by Troy Vaccaro, Fleet Maintenance Chief Foreman**

**PERMISSION TO DISPOSE OF VEHICLE**

**Budgetary Information:** Proceeds from the sale of the items will be placed into the City's Issue 8 revenue account.

**ORDINANCE NO. 20-192:** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to dispose of a vehicle as having become unnecessary and unfit for city use pursuant to Section 25 of the City Charter; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

**ITEM F – Submitted by Greg Voltz, Planner**

**VACATION FOR A PORTION OF FOURTH STREET (SECOND READING)**

**Budgetary Information:** There is no budgetary impact.

**ORDINANCE NO. 20-193:** It is requested an ordinance be passed vacating a portion of Fourth Street, south of Third Street and north of Fifth Street, and located east of Arthur Street right-of-way, within the city, as set forth on the vacation plat, a copy of which is marked as exhibit "A-2", attached to this ordinance and incorporated herein.

**ITEM G – Submitted by Greg Voltz, Planner**

**VACATION OF AN ALLEY LOCATED SOUTH OF 1404-1424 THIRD STREET (SECOND READING)**

**Budgetary Information:** There is no budgetary impact.

**ORDINANCE NO. 20-194:** It is requested an ordinance be passed vacating a portion of alley located south of 1404-1424 Third Street, within the city, as set forth on the vacation plat, a copy of which is marked as exhibit "A-2", attached to this ordinance and incorporated herein.

**ITEM H – Submitted by McKenzie Spriggs, Commission Clerk**

**NEW LIQUOR PERMIT FOR PADDLE AND CLIMB LLC**

**Budgetary Information:** There is no budgetary impact.

The city is in receipt of a Notice to Legislative Authority from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control for a new D1, D3, D3A liquor permit(s) (beer and spirituous liquor for on premises consumption until 2:30AM) for Paddle and Climb LLC, at 305 E. Water Street. It is requested the Commission Clerk be authorized to notify the Division the City does not request a hearing on this matter.

**ITEM I – Submitted by McKenzie Spriggs, Commission Clerk**

**NEW LIQUOR PERMIT FOR LAKES ELEVEN LLC, d.b.a. SANDUSKY WINE MERCHANT**

**Budgetary Information:** There is no budgetary impact.

The city is in receipt of a Notice to Legislative Authority from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control for a new D2 liquor permit(s) (wine and mixed beverages for on premises consumption until 1AM) for Lakes Eleven LLC, at 211 W. Water Street. It is requested the Commission Clerk be authorized to notify the Division the City does not request a hearing on this matter.

**ITEM J – Submitted by McKenzie Spriggs, Commission Clerk**

**TRANSFER OF LIQUOR PERMIT FOR DOT RED, LLC d.b.a. CIRCLE K 5260**

**Budgetary Information:** There is no budgetary impact.

The city is in receipt of a Notice to Legislative Authority from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control for C1, C2 liquor permit(s) (beer, wine, and mixed beverage for carry out) for Dot Red LLC, at 814 W. Washington Street from Macs Convenience Stores LLC, at 814 W. Washington St. It is requested the Commission Clerk be authorized to notify the Division the City does not request a hearing on this matter.

**Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Mike Meinzer, 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.**

*Discussion:* Dick Brady asked if Tom Horsman could address the public question sent in regarding the schools buses.

Tom Horsman said this is a contract renewal that the city has had since 2017. It offers a few different things, the first is a discounted rate for Sandusky City School students for the transit fixed route passes. It also provides dial a ride demand response service for individual students. It is not high volume, typically students are getting a ride out to EHOVE School in Milan. They transport the students there. It is not providing trips for a large number of students, as a school bus would, it offers more individualized transportation needs.

**Roll call on the motion: Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, 7. Roll call on the ordinances and resolutions: Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, 7. 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 Josh Snyder, Assistant City Engineer**

#### **AMENDING CODIFIED ORDINANCE CHAPTERS 933 & 939 (SECOND READING)**

**Budgetary Information:** There are no fees associated with making these administrative changes. The updated rates were calculated based on actual time and materials to complete the work by City staff. They were then compared to other cities to ensure Sandusky stays competitive and fair with other cities that have updated their same fees more frequently. Furthermore, the updated fees are to eliminate the fact that the City's utilities, in turn protecting the residents who have been subsidizing a portion of the private developers and private haulers due to the age of the ordinance.

**(A) ORDINANCE NO. 20-195:** It is requested an ordinance be passed amending Part Nine (streets, utilities, and public services code), Title Three (utilities), Chapter 933 (sewer regulations and rates), Section 933.07 (definitions), Section 933.15 (computation of connection charges), Section 933.17 (building sewer and sewer connections), Section 933.25 (rates), Section 933.27 (high strength surcharges), and Section 933.28 (miscellaneous charges) of the codified ordinances of the City of Sandusky in the matter and way specifically set forth herein below; 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 Blake Harris, the Commission voted to approve this ordinance.**

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

**(B) ORDINANCE NO. 20-196:** It is requested an ordinance be passed amending Part Nine (streets, utilities, and public services code), Title Three (utilities), Chapter 939 (water regulations and rates), Section 939.01 (service installation; connections to water mains or distribution pipes), Section 939.03 (setting tap charges), Section 939.04 (setting connection charges), Section 939.05 (private service lines in same trench with private sewers), 939.06 (new service lines equipped with water meter), 939.17 (nonreceipt of bill) of the codified ordinances of the City of Sandusky in the

matter and way specifically set forth herein below; 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.**

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

**ITEM #2 – Submitted by Michelle Reeder, Finance Director**

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND TRANSFER**

**Budgetary Information:** The transfer amount of \$550,000 will be transferred from the Capital Improvement Fund to the Capital Project Fund. The 2020 budget was passed with an approved amount of up to \$605,000 allocated for this transfer.

**RESOLUTION NO. 046-20R:** It is requested a resolution be passed authorizing the transfer of funds from the capital improvement fund to the capital projects fund; and declaring that this resolution 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:* Dick Brady said he is sure of the answer but would like Michelle Reeder to clarify for the audience that this is a formality, so we can continue to pay our bills and not stiff any of our vendors.

Michelle Reeder said this is a requirement from the Ohio Revised Code that anytime we do a transfer of funds from one fund to another, we have to get resolution from the commission, approving that transfer. This item was already budgeted, this is simply the resolution allowing her to transfer the funds.

Dick Brady clarified it was not new money, just transferring of funds.

Michelle Reeder said that is correct.

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

**ITEM #3 – Submitted by Michelle Reeder, Finance Director**

**FINAL BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS FOR CY 2020**

**Budgetary Information:** This action will cover anticipated expenditures through December 31, 2020. The agenda deadline occurs before the final payroll costs can be determined. The amendment needs to cover final payroll and other projected costs through December 31, 2020. The ordinance will be available at the meeting.

Appropriation amendments are required to update the 2020 budget. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- General Fund
- Corona Virus Relief funds
- Federal Grants
- Capital Project funds

- Water funds
- Sewer funds

**ORDINANCE NO: 20-197:** It is request an ordinance be passed adopting Amendment No. 4 to Ordinance No. 20-058 passed by this city commission on March 23, 2020, making general appropriations for the fiscal year 2020; 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:* Wes Poole asked what this is.

Michelle Reeder said the final budget amendment of the 2020 year comes before them tonight as the pay period ended December 23, with one final paycheck to employees coming out this week. We needed to account for the final pay of the year to make sure numbers were correct.

Most numbers are a reduction to where we were previously. The general fund shows an increase, but is unsure whether we are going to get reimbursed for the transit grant in the next three days, before year end. The transfer amount for the transit program is a safety net, it shows \$347,000 this year.

The general fund shows an increase of \$398,700. Most of that is the safety net for transit. The Street Fund is a reduction of \$290,000. The Transit Fund is a reduction of \$591,000. Park and Recreation a reduction of \$25,870. The Fire Pension Fund, an increase of \$20,000. State Grants, an increase of \$20. Federal Grants, a decrease of \$900,000. Coronavirus Relief Fund, an increase of \$14,610.06. That is to account for the final round of CARES Act Funding. The Capital Improvement fund a reduction of \$54,995. The Capital Projects Fund, a reduction of \$1,143,200. Special Assessment Fund, an increase of \$1,700. Bond Retirement fund, an increase of \$8,341. The Water Fund, a decrease of \$130,630. The Sewer Fund, a decrease of \$1,008,346. The General Trust Fund, an increase of \$34,602. The Park Endowment Fund, an increase of \$340. The Cemetery Endowment Fund, an increase of \$1,600. Again these are final budget appropriations for this year, to make sure we have everything appropriated and decreased appropriations where we could to make fund balances match where we needed to be at the end of the year.

Dennis Murray said this is the same thing he has gone through every year he has been on the commission. This is one of the quirks of government accounting, perhaps required by the ORC. It's not a budget in the sense that this is what we project our spending is going to be, it is a budget showing what we spent. We have to go through this at the end of the year. Is this a fair summary?

Michelle Reeder said it is indeed a great summary.

Dick Brady said there is little to no chance that we will not be reimbursed for our transit dollars, is that correct?

Michelle Reeder said it is tough. Many agencies have employees out with coronavirus, employee turnover, they are processing things. The funds should be coming, but she is unsure of the timeline. With the timing of this, she needed to plan for worst case scenario, in case she does not receive those funds.

Wes Poole said as a general comment to staff, he could not read the screen. He requested staff enlarging PDFs before they come on the screen. He added we have money we intend to or have spent, in certain accounts, and she transfers it from accounts with money in it to accounts that do not. Is that what is occurring?

Michelle Reeder said no, she cannot move it from one fund to the next. She has to make sure the revenues meet what we said we were going to expend for the year. The majority of these she reduced the expenditures, because the revenue did not come in where it was needed. She cannot have a fund be negative at the end of the year.

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

**ITEM #4 – Submitted by Michelle Reeder, Finance Director**

**ADOPTION OF CY 2021 BUDGET (FIRST READING)**

**ORDINANCE NO.** : It is requested an ordinance be passed making general appropriations for the fiscal year 2021.

**Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Wes Poole, the Commission voted to approve this ordinance under first reading.**

**Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed under first reading.**

Dennis Murray wanted to discuss what they just did as they voted twice on the motion and ordinance, but it passed on first reading. He asked the law director to clarify.

Brendan Heil said yes, it is passed under first reading. The ordinance will not take effect until after a second reading.

**ITEM #5 – Submitted by Michelle Reeder, Finance Director**

**TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS CY 2021**

**Budgetary Information:** This action will establish a budget for operations until the annual appropriations can be approved after the second Monday in January 2021. The City Charter prohibits the City from enacting the 2021 budget before January 11, 2021.

**ORDINANCE NO. 20-198:** It is requested an ordinance be passed to make temporary appropriations for the months of January, February, and March 2021; 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.**

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

**ITEM #6 – Submitted by Greg Voltz, Planner**

**APPLICATION FOR AN AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING MAP FOR 2101 W. PERKINS AVENUE**

**Budgetary Information:** There is no budget impact.

**ORDINANCE NO. 20-199:** It is requested an ordinance be passed amending the official zone map of the city of Sandusky to rezone parcel no. 58-68009.000 located at 2101 W. Perkins Avenue from "PF" Public Facilities to "LM" Limited Manufacturing District; and declaring that this

ordinance shall take effect under suspension of the rules as contained in and in accordance with Section 13 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 13 of the city charter.**

**Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 13 of the city charter.**

**ITEM #7 – Submitted by Thomas Horsman, Transit Director  
AMENDMENT TO THE BYLAWS OF NEORIDE**

**Budgetary Information:** There is no budget impact.

**ORDINANCE NO. 20-200:** It is requested an ordinance be passed approving the amended bylaws of NEORide Regional Council of Governments; 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 Blake Harris the Commission voted to approve this ordinance under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

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

- **Upon a motion from Naomi Twine and second of Dennis Murray, the commission voted to accept \$670 from Dave Waddington for the Recreation department. The President declared the motion passed.**
- Thank you to the commissioners who opted to give back a portion of their pay to the general fund.
- **Upon a motion from Naomi Twine and second of Dave Waddington, the commission voted to accept \$5,000 grant and \$109,600 from the Mylander Fund for the Recreation Department. The President declared the motion passed.**  
*Discussion:* Eric Wobser said Sandusky Rec applied for and received a \$5,000 grant to assist in improvements for the baseball field at Jaycee Park. Planned improvements include replacing/painting some areas of fence around park, replacing foul ball netting, painting dugouts and concession area. Partners for the improvements include the Sandusky Travelers baseball program, Sandusky Community Church of the Nazarene, and any other businesses or entities who would like to help spruce up the park. Those interested in donating funds or services to the project can contact Jason Werling at (419)627-5833. The improvements coincide with the new connector trail project for Jaycee Park that will debut in the spring of 2021.  
The Sandusky Recreation Department received funds in the amount of \$109,600 representing an annual distribution from the Mylander Foundation in 2020. These funds are to be used as directed by the Sandusky City Commission, for the purchase of (i) trees and/or plantings to be planted in and/or (ii) structural improvements made to the Sandusky City Parks, Oakland Cemetery, or the Sandusky Recreation Areas.

In recent years, the funds have been used to help purchase playground equipment for Huron Park and flooring for the Rec Room at 222 Meigs Street. These new funds will be used as permitted for park and recreation purposes in 2021 and beyond.

- The holiday lighting contest was a success, with photos being taken from neighborhoods all over Sandusky. A huge thank you to our partners at the Sandusky Register for sharing the details and celebrating our winners, and thank you to all our participants for spreading holiday cheer this year. Winners include: (residential): 718 Sycamore Line, 1914 First Street, and 1011 Alpine Drive; (commercial): the Merry Go Round Museum, Mabel & Ethel's Quilt Shoppe, and Vita; the staff at both the Register and the city also gave the BGSU building/Falcon Lofts an honorary award for their artistic uplighting installed earlier this month.
- **New Year's Eve Fireworks, presented by Hotel Kilbourne, will take place at 9 pm on Thursday, December 31.** Fireworks will be set off from the end of the Jackson Street Pier. Weather delay date will be January 1, 2021 at 9 pm. Social distancing is encouraged for everyone in attendance. For those wishing to stay indoors, the fireworks will be streamed live on the City of Sandusky's Facebook page.
- **Our Community Impact Officers assisted volunteers with OHgo at their Christmas fresh market which took place in our parking lot on December 21.** OHgo provided hundreds of people with free hams, food and groceries. We also assisted OHgo with Project Happy Delivery, a gift drive thru, in our parking lot on December 23. Both events drew very large crowds. OHgo did an outstanding job! They are a great organization.
- **On January 3<sup>rd</sup> 2021, Firefighter Rick McGee will be retiring after 28 years of honorable service to the Sandusky Fire Department.** Firefighter McGee is a City resident. He was well known around the community, which made the many community members he knew feel more comfortable when dealing with tragic events. We would like to thank him for his dedicated 28 years of service and wish him a happy and healthy retirement.
- **General reminder for property owners of vacant dwellings – if your dwelling is expected to remain vacant and unoccupied during the winter months, we highly recommend that you contact our office to turn off the water.** This will help prevent your water lines from freezing and breaking which would lead to costly repairs for the property owner. The Customer Accounting Office number is 419-627-5893.
- **Upon Motion of Dave Waddington and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to expend \$31,500 for an emergency purchase. The President declared the motion passed.**  
*Discussion:* Eric Wobser said **On December 16<sup>th</sup>, an unfortunate traffic accident occurred at the intersection of W. Perkins Avenue and Caldwell Street, causing an outage.** The equipment needed for the repair has a 6-8 week lead time so we don't anticipate it being installed until February or March. **Temporary controllers have been installed for the time being to ensure somewhat consistent traffic patterns through the holiday season.** After the holidays, we will work with the County engineer's office to evaluate the need to continue renting this equipment. All costs associated with the repair will be billed to the driver's insurance company, but we are seeking emergency approval to make those purchases.

Wes Poole said in terms of the upgrades, are we going to see upgraded lights at that location, as opposed to what they just knocked down?



Josh Snyder said he does not know about this intersection in particular, but believes it was redone recently with the Perkins Avenue signal project. He does not know that there is much upgrading that needs to be done at this location, because if memory serves him right, it was done within the last five years.

- The **Forestry division will be performing Christmas tree collection throughout the City during the week of January 11<sup>th</sup>** and will distribute further details through our website, the press and social media. Residents may also drop-off trees from January 4<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> at two locations: the Shelby Street Boat Launch overflow parking lot or the Kiwanis Park parking lot. For questions regarding Christmas tree collection, please call 419.627.5829.
- **The Streets & Traffic crews have completed two rounds through each zone for the Leaf Collection Program.** Residents are still welcome to drop-off leaves near the Marquette Drive entrance to the City Service Center seven days a week until January 11<sup>th</sup>.
- The regular **Arts and Culture Commission** meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 19 has been scheduled for 5:15 PM.
- The January **Landmark Commission** meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 PM.
- The January **Board of Zoning Appeals** meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:30 PM.
- The regular **Planning Commission** meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM
- All meetings will be held virtually and can be viewed on the city's YouTube page.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Dave Waddington said he received a letter from 1101 W. Jefferson, from Charles Long, he is not going to read it all, but **Amirah's Turn** continues to be problematic. Highlights of the letter include he questioned the 50' law, there has never been a day without noise rattling windows. He commented, "as I drove through the neighborhood on Sunday afternoon, all you can see in street and tree lawns is trash—cups, beer, bottles, containers that migrated from the party at the bar. It looked like a third world country. I continued picking them up a long time ago." He also said, "later on I heard a fight outside, but since there was no gun fire this time, I didn't bother even checking it out. The business is not compatible with the neighborhood and there is no parking lot large enough to handle the large crowds. I have nothing against bars like this, like I have nothing against steel mills and slaughter houses, but I do not want to live next to them for the same reason." Dave Waddington agrees that this cannot go on, he knows the city is actively working on it. He does not want to think of Sandusky as majority blighted but this is something for folks to leave. He wants every resident to stay and more to move in. Hopefully we can get this turned around going into the next year. He will give the letter to the clerk for safe keeping.

Dick Brady said Sandusky does have a dog in this fight. It is our obligation to provide a peaceful and quiet neighborhood for residents to live in. The city is going to get an opportunity to weigh in on this issue when it comes time for Liquor permit renewals. He would ask each commissioner to pay close attention to the police reports that are associated with this property, and the date when the liquor license is set to be renewed. It will come before the city commission, and he asks the commission to evaluate that when it comes before them.

Eric Wobser said he completely agrees and empathizes with what the individuals in that neighborhood or any neighborhood dealing with a challenging business go through. He has been impressed in the past with the efforts of the commission and the staff, specifically Chief Orzech in the past and Chief Oliver currently. They have done a great job dealing with problem bars in the past and we will do everything we can on this one as well. It does take time, because the people who own this have property and constitutional rights, but we are aggressively pursuing this as we have in the past and hope to resolve it quickly to bring peace back to that neighborhood and community at large.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Upon a motion from Dennis Murray and second of Dave Waddington, the commission voted to Set a public hearing for February 8, regarding an application to amend to the zoning map, for numerous parcels located south of First Street and north of Second Street, all being east of Farwell Street and west of Cedar Point Drive. The President declared the public hearing set for February 8, 2021.**

Naomi Twine said this has been a difficult year, going from 2019 to 2020, there were great expectations and everyone was looking forward to a number of things taking place. As we all know, we had to slow down and at a certain point, stop because of circumstances beyond our control. She would like to thank Eric Wobser and staff for the work they've put into trying to maintain and keep things going. It has not always been easy, there have been difficult decisions that had to be made, and everyone was not always in agreement. But she appreciates the point we are at currently, and is looking forward to the closing out of this year and going into a new year. Things will not be that easy next year either, we will still be dealing with challenges and things that will seemingly slow us down. She'd like to thank all the commissioners, Eric Wobser, and all the city staff for the work done this year. We will rebuild in the new year, listen to the quality of life concerns affecting people in neighborhoods, as mentioned tonight, and addressing those and figuring out how best to continue improving the quality of life for all of our citizens moving forward. She recognizes the hard work that went into 2020 and appreciates everyone hanging in there, and looks forward to the fact that everyone can work together to start some things from the beginning, start some things from the middle, and ending with things that will grow our community.

### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

*Diane M Peters, 1105 W Jefferson Street, Sandusky wrote in:*

I am writing in regards to Amirah's Turn Bar and am asking for an update on the intentions that the city has for this establishment.

I have been in contact with Agent Croft from the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Ohio Investigative Unit Cleveland District. In my latest email a week ago, Agent Croft states with the investigations that have so far been completed; ( which resulted in two administrative citations with significant violations), that it will be up to the CITY to reject a renewal of their permit or the Ohio Liquor Control Commission to revoke their license.

May I ask what the intentions are for this establishment? I had previously written a very lengthy letter which was emailed to each commissioner and City Manager Wobser outlining the safety concerns and what the quality of life has become living with this bar in our close knit neighborhood, with only one commissioner taking the time to respond.

We have lived in our home for 32 years, are good citizens and pay our taxes on time. After living in our home for over half of my lifetime where we have raised our family it saddens me to think that we are going to give in and let these people win this fight. I do not want to have to feel forced to move out of the City of Sandusky because we are giving establishments and people with very little integrity the upper hand on how life is living in Sandusky.

I feel the days of bars in densely populated neighborhoods unfortunately needs to be a thing of the past, and a discussion that needs to be had. We are not seeing the old Everett's Club from back in the day that people are going for a friendly fish fry, beer, and conversation. We are witnessing dangerous situations, shootings, trash in our yards. Shootings that are happening right next to our homes that have small children in them. Our Children should be able to live in this city that has great opportunities in safe neighborhoods; parents and grandparents shouldn't have to live with fear when they want to let little ones roller skate, play with sidewalk chalk, or ride bikes because things are starting to heat up at the end of the block.

Thank you for your time, and please consider all of this as if you were living next to this establishment.

*Tim Schwanger, 362 Sheffield Way, Sandusky:*

Happy New year City Commissioners and Staff,

With the announced retirement of Sandusky Firefighter Rick McGee and retirement of Police Officer Lieutenant Rich Braun, is there dedicated intent to fill both positions after the first of the year?

*Discussion:* Eric Wobser said the answer to Tim Schwanger's question is absolutely, we will fill both of those positions. In the case of fire, they have already begun the process, to interview and fill positions based on their list. That process is ongoing with the police department. We will fill vacancies as quickly as we can, over the course of 2021.

Dick Brady said he felt compelled to respond to Miss Peters again on her communication. He assured her that the staff and city commission is not giving up and not giving in on this issue. The next chapter will be written, not soon enough for any of us, but she has our attention and we are going to get back into that neighborhood.

Wes Poole said in regards to Miss Peters' letter, he would like to comment with regard to constitutional rights. Shootings and noise complaints all hours of the night, there is no constitutional right to do that. The concept of we do not have any way to address the problems, is something we need to look at really carefully. This has gone on long enough. The kinds of things that deal with people's quality of life is most important and should be the number one priority for us next year. A stray bullet can end up anywhere. In addition to that, we have received letters recently about cats overrunning neighborhoods. The last one, he thinks, has grown from a problem on the north side of the tracks near Boalt Street and moved to 42<sup>nd</sup> Street due to our inability to control it. We need to put a special emphasis on this budget to deal with these inner city issues that negatively impact people's lives.

Chief Oliver said the police department is doing everything they possibly can to rectify any situations at the former Dog House, now called Amirah's Turn. We have not had any shootings there since his time. The one that was there, an investigation was conducted and warrants are out for that individual. Most recently, police were called there on December 18, with four different complaints. Two of them were unfounded, one led to an OVI arrest and one led to two people leaving the area. They have been in touch with liquor control. Previous to his time and since he has been here, liquor control has not been very receptive with many issues. They have been focused on COVID and COVID related violations, understandably so. He would be opposed to any permit renewal, obviously that is up to the board. The police department will continue to do whatever they can do and he is happy to meet with Miss Peters, and he knows and has talked with Mr. Long. He will continue communicating with him. They will do whatever is possible to bring peace of mind to residents in the area. They have a very visible presence when this bar is open and will continue to do so.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Wes Poole, the commission voted to adjourn at 6:38 p.m. The President declared the motion passed.**



McKenzie Spriggs  
Commission Clerk



Richard R. Brady  
President of the City Commission