

The President called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. after the Invocation, given by Mike Meinzer, 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, 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, Development Director – Jonathan Holody, 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 January 25, 2021 meeting and suspend the formal reading. The President declared the motion passed.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

PUBLIC HEARING

Re: Application to amend the zoning map—parcels between First and Second Streets

Greg Voltz presented this public hearing, saying it was for various parcels between First and Second Streets. He showed an accompanying PowerPoint to display the information. The site is between Farwell and the Cedar Point dormitories. Planning commission received two applications in 2020 regarding properties within this general area. Staff took these applications after they were tabled at the July meeting, due to planning commission asking staff to look more comprehensively at the applications and to look for a compromise after hearing feedback from the residents. Ultimately, staff walked the neighborhood and talked to residents and took comments from that July Planning Commission meeting, to come up with the proposal before the city commission, today. The Bicentennial Comprehensive Plan outlines a number of priorities for these eastern neighborhoods. Recommendations specific to this land is 1) the Sandusky Bay Pathway and multipurpose trail along First Street. 2) Redevelop vacant land and infill to extend and stabilize single family neighborhoods. 3) Target areas around First Street for residential stabilization and infill and mixed use residential development. Understanding the goals set forth in this area in the comprehensive plan, and for reasons stated in the staff report, we believe the zoning outlined could satisfy the conditions the above conditions set forth for rezoning. Staff believes the rezoning of these parcels could create an opportunity for investment where to date we have not seen that reinvestment occur and could attract further infill development further south into the neighborhood. Commercial recreation still permits single family residential that the parcels are currently zoned as today, also permitting transient rental. In conclusion, staff recommends approval of the proposed amendment to the zone map, from R1-40, single family, to CR, commercial recreation. Staff did not receive any public comments to this. It was posted in the newspaper, and we had two public hearings at planning commission. Public comments were received at those meetings. Planning commission has recommended approval.

McKenzie Spriggs said no comments were received by her, regarding this public hearing.

Dave Waddington asked how many residents responded when staff walked through the area. Were comments positive, or were there questions?

Greg Voltz said they spoke to five different residents. Most of the conversation was that folks along Third Street specifically were in favor of the rezoning north of Second Street, however they were not open to anything south of Second Street. They wanted to maintain their single family neighborhood that they have been long-time residents of. They did not like the application that proposed rezoning random parcels south, into their neighborhood.

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.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

ITEM A – Submitted by Jared Oliver, Police Chief

PAYMENT TO LEXIPOL, LLC FOR ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FEE FOR SANDUSKY POLICE DEPARTMENT (FIRST READING)

Budgetary Information: The total cost for the annual subscription costs with Lexipol is \$14,341. The costs of the annual subscription will be paid from the Police Department Operating Budget.

ORDINANCE NO. : It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing payment to Lexipol, LLC of Frisco, Texas, for the annual subscription fee for policy manual updates and daily training bulletin services for the Sandusky Police Department for the period of April 1, 2021, through March 31, 2022.

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

APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR ANNUAL SLUDGE EXPENSE

Budgetary Information: The estimated cost of disposal by the Wastewater Treatment Plant at the Erie County Sanitary Landfill for 2021 shall not exceed \$140,000, which will be paid out of the Contractual Services portion of the Operation and Maintenance budget through the Sewer Fund.

ORDINANCE NO. 21-014: It is requested an ordinance be passed appropriating funds for the dumping of Class B Biosolids (a.k.a. sludge cake) and other dewatered and compressed solids from the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) at the Erie County Sanitary Landfill for CY 2021; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

ITEM C – Submitted by Troy Vaccaro, Fleet Maintenance Chief Foreman

PERMISSION TO DISPOSAL OF VEHICLE

Budgetary Information: Proceeds from the sale of the item will be placed into the City's General Fund account.

ORDINANCE NO. 21-015: 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.

Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Dave Waddington, 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

ITEM #1 – Submitted by Greg Voltz, City Planner

AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING MAP FOR PARCELS LOCATED BETWEEN FIRST & SECOND STREETS (FIRST READING)

Budgetary Information: There is no impact to the general fund.

ORDINANCE NO. _____: It is requested an ordinance be passed amending the official Zone Map of the City of Sandusky to rezone parcels on the south side of First Street, east of Farwell Street and parcels on the north side of Second Street, east of Wildman Drive, from “R1-40” (Single-Family Residential District) to “CR” (Commercial Recreation District).

Upon motion of Dennis Murray and second of Naomi Twine, the Commission voted to approve this ordinance on first reading.

Discussion: Wes Poole said he is not supportive of this zoning change. It covers way too much area. If you notice from the public hearing, and the information the commission received, the people on Third Street, which is all we seem to have comments from, said it is fine as long as it was on Second Street. That is an indication about the impact the zoning change has on actual residents. If you look at the area in question, the area in the center is all houses that already exist, east of Wildman and going down. If you look to the left and to the south, the group of eight parcels at the corner of Farwell, those are also houses. For whatever reason, we did not get any word from them. He suggests that the bicentennial plan says this area is open for infill and residential. If you look at what this change does, it says “beaches, swimming pools, accessory bath houses, locker rooms, manufacturing, rental repair, storage of boats and marinas, hunting and fishing, club shooting ranges, auditoriums, arenas, golf courses, driving ranges,” and three more lines of things to do, none of which have anything to do with residential infill. There was an opportunity, in fact, the owners of the six parcels, at the corner of Farwell that face First Street, asked to have that changed. There was a request to do that. That was never heard by the Planning Commission. I would suggest, if we were simply doing those parcels, that perhaps it would be alright as it just faces First Street. But from what the folks said on Third Street about not wanting this near their homes, all of those empty lots on the south side of Second Street, putting boat houses on that property will not encourage infill of residential. For that reason and considering the property owners that will not be positively impacted by this, and if the staff has a game plan that refutes this or has an alternative plan that will fill this with residential, I am open to hear it. As of now, he cannot support this as it stands. He would like to see it go back to planning commission and identify specific lots that will not negatively impact the neighborhood.

Dennis Murray said he raised a lot of good points. One of which, is the continued uglification of First Street by the awful boat storage units. It is hard to describe as anything other than a failure in planning. He means that in no criticism to staff. When you deal with planning issues, you are dealing with things that started 8-15 years ago. That is why planning is so terribly important. He has two requests—the first he already pitched to the law director and he would like to have a discussion about at the next meeting. He would like to avoid the trap of spot zoning. It becomes a problem if you rezone just a couple parcels and not a larger number in the area. That is a legal concept, not in the area he practices, and he would like to hear more about it from our legal staff. The second question, he wonders if we have the ability to ban further storage units. If we are not going to ban them, we need to start taxing them. The fact of the matter is, when we take valuable property and dump boats on it, we do not gain income tax, admissions tax, lodging tax, etc. He would like to explore our ability to ban those or look at options for discouraging that land use.

Mike Meinzer said he was on the planning commission at the time this came before them. It was a compromise, because the initial application was to encompass Second Street and to go in the backyards of the folks on Third Street. We cut it back, trying to respect their property. He said the Planning Commission was adamant they did not want gas stations to go in there, along with storage units.

Naomi Twine said Mike Meinzer just mentioned things they did not want in there. Were there suggestions as to what someone or the preference is to be there?

Greg Voltz said that was one of the conversations. The owner who applied for his eight parcels along Farwell Street wanted a use that was not permitted under single family zoning. It was a mix between a condominium project and a boat house on land. It was residential with a taller garage underneath it, for storage of his own boats. He is also the owner of most of the homes you see east of Wildman. He was okay with those being rezoned as it would allow for transient rental in that area. This is a two year long process, with the applications, and this is not something staff took lightly to come to this decision. Many things went into this proposal and the grouping of homes to make it the best fit for future development, whether that be a hotel or new residential infill. Or maybe there needs to be another step in this, presenting an overlay that would prohibit other uses like gas stations, to ensure those do not occur here, and to protect the property owners to the south.

Dennis Murray said the question for the ostensible land use that is going to be, is a dangerous precedent and a dangerous thing to rely on. We got conned by Jeff Rengel a couple months ago. We were supposed to be looking at things that were to be additive, instead all we got was some rich cat's toy box. That is unacceptable and we need to be very careful about making that mistake again.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, 6. Nays: Wes Poole, 1. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, 6. Nays: Wes Poole, 1. The President declared the ordinance passed on first reading.

ITEM #2 – Submitted by Jane Cullen, Project Engineer

PERMISSION TO BID CAMP STREET RESURFACING AND RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Budgetary Information: The estimated cost of the project including engineering, inspection, advertising, construction and miscellaneous costs, is \$416,463 paid with \$66,463 OPWC (0% loan), \$175,000 OPWC (grant), \$86,188 CDBG and \$88,812 Issue 8 (Street). CDBG funding is anticipated to be approved in March 2020. The project will not be awarded until funding is approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 003-21R: It is requested a resolution be passed declaring the necessity for the city to proceed with the proposed Camp Street Resurfacing and Reconstruction Project; approving the specifications and Engineer's Estimate of cost thereof; and directing the City Manager to advertise for and receive bids in relation thereto; and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Wes Poole, the Commission voted to approve this resolution under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Dick Brady asked Aaron Klein to elaborate. He said anytime the city spends money on paving, the city benefits.

Aaron Klein said this was a project that was cancelled in 2020 due to funding. He is happy to say it is the first project we have coming out of the gate in 2021, as a significant resurfacing project in a neighborhood. We will be resurfacing Camp Street from Monroe to Washington. We have some limited curb and sidewalk included in that project as well. This project is required to be completed by June/July, per our funding agreement with OPWC. We have included in the project about

\$175,000 from OPWC grant and \$66,463 from an OPWC loan. That is 0% loan over 5 years. The remaining funds are coming from CDBG and street, almost split evenly. One point of clarification, the ordinance says CDBG funding is anticipated to be approved in March of 2020 that was meant to say March of 2021. That was an error in our communication and something he wanted commission to be aware of. With the remaining money in CDBG, we are hoping to amend the contract and contract year. Deb and Jonathan from development are working through those details.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Wes Poole, Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, 7. Roll call on the resolution: Yeas: Wes Poole, Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, 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 Joshua Snyder, Assistant City Engineer

AMENDING CODIFIED ORDINANCE, CHAPTER 1157, FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION (FIRST READING)

Budgetary Information: There are no fees associated with making these administrative changes.
ORDINANCE NO. : It is requested an ordinance be passed amending Part Eleven (Planning and Zoning Code), Title Five (Additional Zoning Requirements), Chapter 1157 (Flood Damage Reduction) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Sandusky in the manner and way specifically set forth herein below.

Upon motion of Dennis Murray and second of Wes Poole, the Commission voted to approve this ordinance on first reading.

Discussion: Dennis Murray asked if Aaron Klein would provide some background for what the rationale is behind this legislation.

Aaron Klein said about two years ago, FEMA came out with new draft legislation and maps with new flood plain information. They are in the process of adopting that, and have been told for multiple years that they are in the process of finalizing it. We have not gotten to the point where the maps are approved but are requesting that we update the legislation on the books. What they have done is added new zones and changed definitions. The new zones are a “V” and a “VE” and a “V1-30,” these are really for the coastal wave action areas throughout the city-- the main parcels along Sandusky Bay or Lake Erie. The only thing we have looked at changing from a staff point of view is the free board requirement for two feet, above the base flood elevation. What that has done is limited developers and property owners from being able to develop their property or add significant cost to their development. It forces them to build outside the flood plain and add two feet above and beyond what the current flood plain is. We are recommending taking that out as it a burden and you do not get any added benefit from your flood plain insurance. We also added a section that if we have an emergency similar to Shoreline park or the transient marina where the erosion is happening on city property, we do not necessarily need to go through this piece of legislation to give ourselves a flood plain permit, like we do now.

Dennis Murray said he understood most of what he referenced. He should have narrowed in on the free board requirement, do we know when that was adopted, why, or what other communities do? It seemed to him that was probably a pretty good requirement to retain. Yes, it increases cost in the short term, but he’s not sure it increases cost in the long term. The long term Great Lakes forecast is very much in doubt. Right now the Army Corps cannot tell us any better than flipping a coin whether water levels are going to be above or below last year’s levels. The long term flood is right where last year was, and it seems to him that having a cushion on top of that makes sense. We are not talking about 100 year floods anymore on Lake Erie, they are either annual or every other year, and they seem to be getting worse.

Aaron Klein said this was originally adopted in 2008, FEMA and ODNR representatives had thrown that in as an option. Very few communities adopted an additional free board, and the ones that did mostly adopted a one foot free board, and a few did two foot. The city of Elyria adopted a free board as well, although he is not sure they still have it. With the new updates it is still an option and not a requirement. One of the main reasons we are recommending removal is because there have been quite a few residential developments that have taken extra time (years, numerous months) to get off the ground and it has added thousands of dollars to projects. In one case he can think of, the property owner must raise the garage. His house was grandfathered in at the current location, outside of the flood plain, but the garage needs to be built two feet above the floor of the house. Now the family has to have steps and a hallway in order to meet that. Many of the phone calls we get regarding the flood plain ordinance are people who do not want flood plain insurance, they do not think it is necessary, because they do not get flooding. In a lot of cases, these people are at or below the flood plain elevation that is shown in the plans and maps. In every instance we have dealt with, he cannot recall any that have said the water has gotten two feet above the flood plain elevation. Wave action can cause that, which is why the new flood zone designations have been added. It was a recommendation based on hoops and hurdles that we have encountered over his seven years of working here, that have hindered the development and progress along the flood plains.

Dennis Murray apologized for not taking this up before tonight's meeting. That is his job and he read the legislation, but it did not occur to him at the time. Given the significant problems he has had in a finished basement, he wished someone would have included free board requirements. He is not going to make a motion tonight, but he is open to considering a one foot free board. He will take these comments offline, but would like to get some more feedback from the construction industry.

Wes Poole said he agrees with Dennis Murray, the free board is of value to whoever ultimately does the development. He asked that between now and the next meeting, he would like to understand visually, with a map that shows 1A and 1B, where the areas are in the city and information about the residential problems Aaron Klein has encountered. He would like to understand what and where we are talking about. The water is going to come up, regardless, because FEMA keeps raising the elevation, and putting in a one or two foot requirement ahead of time means that things will not be flooded. And it will be a long time before it becomes a problem. He does not see any advantage to allowing people to build at the flood plain level, knowing years from now it is likely to be underwater. He would like to talk offline as well. If the owner in five years suffers for buying a house, he does not think that is good planning on the city's part. He would like to be considerate of the end user, not just the developer.

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

ITEM #4 – Submitted by Joshua Snyder, Assistant City Engineer

EXPENDITURE TO MARK HAYNES CONSTRUCTION FOR EMERGENCY SHORELINE RESTORATION WORK AT SHORELINE PARK & THE PAPER DISTRICT MARINA

Budgetary Information: The cost of the shoreline restoration work is \$49,160.00 and shall be paid for with funds from the Parks and Recreation Capital Projects Fund.

- (A) **ORDINANCE NO. 21-016:** It is requested an ordinance be passed approving the emergency shoreline restoration work to be performed at Shoreline Park by Mark Haynes Construction of Norwalk, Ohio, in the amount of \$30,740; 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 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: Yeas: Wes Poole, Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: 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.

(B) [ORDINANCE NO. 21-017](#): It is requested an ordinance be passed approving the emergency shoreline restoration work to be performed at the Paper District Marina by Mark Haynes Construction of Norwalk, Ohio, in the amount of \$18,420; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

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

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Wes Poole, Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: 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 #5 – Submitted by John Orzech, Assistant City Manager
PURCHASE OF USED TRUCK FOR CODE COMPLIANCE DIVISION**

Budgetary Information: The cost per vehicle will not exceed \$15,000 and will be paid from the Code Compliance Division 2021 budget.

[ORDINANCE NO. 21-018](#): It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract for the purchase of a used vehicle for the Code Compliance Division at public auction at an amount not to exceed \$15,000; 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 under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Dave Waddington said Troy Vaccaro does a nice job. When we purchase a used truck on govdeals.com, is he able to inspect it? What is the protocol for staff to inspect this truck prior to getting it? He knows \$15,000 is not very much for a truck.

John Orzech said Troy Vaccaro does all the city's work on vehicles. He has indicated in the past they would be able to get someone by phone or email and check the vehicle. They got a lot of information exchanged when we sell things, all of the repairs are exchanged prior to even bidding on the item. He will do his due diligence prior to making a purchase for the city. We have purchased vehicles in the past, but they were under the \$10,000 threshold and did not come before commission. Nowadays, vehicles and used vehicles are getting more costly. This is the best course for us to get something, without buying new.

Wes Poole asked if Troy Vaccaro will be identifying the vehicles on behalf of the city.

John Orzech said yes, he will be.

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

- **Upon a motion from Naomi Twine and second of Blake Harris, the commission voted to accept \$100 anonymous donation for the Sandusky Rec Youth Scholarship Fund. The President declared the motion passed.**
- The street department did a fantastic job keeping the roadways as clear as possible during the recent snowstorm. Thanks to their hard work we only had few minor accidents.
- **The Customer Accounting Office has discontinued the use of a Post Office Box to receive mail. Effective immediately, please mail all utility bills and correspondence to 240 Columbus Avenue Sandusky OH 44870.**
- Collection for **Transient Rental Lodging tax** has an online collection and reporting requirement beginning February 1, 2021 through the Erie County Auditor's website: <https://lata.localgov.org>. This website will collect both the City and County's lodging tax in a single transaction.
- There has been a change in policy regarding who bills go to with tenant/landlord relationships. Effective this year, bills are currently being sent to the landlord and Michelle Reeder, the city's finance director can answer any questions.
- **Until February 25, members of the public are welcome to submit written comments regarding the Healthy Hayes Safety Improvements project** that has qualified for ODOT funding through the Highway Safety Improvements Project. Further information on this safety and signal improvements project taking place along Hayes Avenue from Orlando Pace Drive to Columbus Avenue, as well as where to submit comments, can be accessed on the City's homepage or by calling 419.627.5829.
- Dependent on the ground staying frozen, work on the Shoreline Stabilization projects at the marina and Shoreline Park will begin in the next two weeks.
- The City will begin the RFQ process this week of seeking a professional design firm for waterline replacement, roadway resurfacing and sidewalks along the north half of Perkins Avenue west of Anita Drive.
- With cold weather slamming our region this week, we'd like to remind property owners of a few extra steps to take to avoid frozen water lines, including setting thermostats at 55 degrees minimum, insulating exposed pipes and letting the cold-water faucet trickle continuously during extreme cold weather.
- The Greenhouse is now accepting palm and fern reservations for Good Friday and Easter Sunday, order forms are available at www.ci.sandusky.oh.us/departments/greenhouse or you may contact 419.627.5829 to place an order.
- **Housing Development and Beautification Program Applications will be available on the City's website beginning Monday, February 8. This year, \$180,000 will be distributed to support housing renovation, new construction, and home purchase assistance.** This continues to keep us in line with Issue 8 pledges. This is a popular program and it will go quickly. A thank you to Debi Eversole and Jonathan Holody for

getting this program up and running.

- **Community Development Block Grant Substantial Amendment - the Consolidated Plan Advisory Committee will meet on February 10 at 9:00 am to review the proposed programming of COVID-19 and other CDBG funds.** The proposed amendment will be presented to the City Commission for approval on March 8 following the required 30 day public comment period.
- The next **Arts and Culture Commission** meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 16 is scheduled for 5:15 PM.
- The next **Landmark Commission** meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 17 at 4:30 PM.
- The next **Board of Zoning Appeals** meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 18 at 4:30 PM.
- The next **Planning Commission** meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 24 at 5:00pm
- **Upon motion of Naomi Twine and a second of Mike Meinzer, the commission voted to approve a grant application to the Erie County Community Foundation for funding to go toward a strategic visioning plan for the Sandusky Transit System. The President declared the motion passed.**
- The City of Sandusky Recreation Department is excited to announce the **opening of the ice skating rink at Wightman-Wieber Park in Jaycee North.**

Staff from the city's Public Works department have worked with Mother Nature to provide a free ice skating venue as weather permits. Lights will be on at the park from 5 to 10 p.m. The public can skate at their own risk and the park can be accessed from Milan Road to Baltimore Street and into the park's parking lot.

Sandusky Rec plans to provide music on select nights and resident Tim Schwanger has pledged to bring a portable fire ring and volunteers to keep snow off the ice during nights and weekends.

Follow Sandusky Rec on social media for up-to-the-minute updates on programming at the ice rink. www.Facebook.com/SanduskyRec or www.twitter.com/SanduskyRec

For more information or questions regarding the **Wightman-Wieber Ice Rink**, please call the Sandusky Recreation Department at 419-627-5886 or 419-627-5888. Or contact Jason Werling at jwerling@ci.sandusky.oh.us

- **The Warming Shelter is open again for the cold weather ahead. The shelter is open 6PM-8AM nightly**, a warm shelter and light food will be provided. The transit system and police department will provide transportation to the warming shelter location, free of charge. To volunteer, please call/text Brittany Benedict at 419.656.8927 or email Brittany.benedict@isaiah52-7.org. Many thank yous to New Jerusalem and other parishes, Tondra Frisby, Jason Werling, John Orzech, Chief Oliver, Tom Horsman, Commissioner Dave Waddington, and many others. They really do need volunteers, COVID has limited who can volunteer from years past.

Discussion: Dave Waddington said they are very much in need of supplies at New Jerusalem. He would like to recommend a donation for supplies for the warming center.

Upon a motion of Dave Waddington and a second of Dennis Murray, the commission voted to make a donation of \$500 to New Jerusalem Baptist Church.

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

Dennis Murray said not everyone is pleased about the condition of the streets, the body shop owners are not pleased. All joking aside, he said the streets department has done a great job. He also wants to remind residents of their obligations we have agreed to with each other, meaning that snow emergency routes need to be free of parked cars, so the plows can get in there. Those routes are critical to public safety. We have been getting lax on enforcement, which he understands due to COVID. But there are many cars that have not moved since the last snow storm. He wonders if those are abandoned vehicles. He also reminds property owners that it is our obligation to make sure sidewalks are shoveled or cleared within four hours of daylight.

OLD BUSINESS

Dave Waddington asked if staff has gotten any reports back from the U.S. Census. He is concerned that we are continually looking at the budget, and if we fall below the 25,000 population number, which he has a hunch that we have, that CDBG and state/federal funding will be dramatically reduced. Are we going to hear anything over the next few months, so we can figure that out?

Eric Wobser said he is not aware when information will be coming out. He shares Dave Waddington's concern regarding the population loss. While he does not have the details, we are at the danger zone where there can be an impact. It was not an easy year to support Census counting with the pandemic. We will do what we can in the period ahead to advocate for legacy cities like Sandusky, where they have lost population, but may be stabilizing. Over the last generation we have seen people leave the city, but we are doing what we can to bring people back into the city, to create new housing types that are in line with how people are living in this day and age. It will not be an easy thing, but we will continue to work on the long-term goal of stabilizing the population while dealing with the ramifications from population loss.

Dave Waddington asked Dennis Murray what impact falling below the threshold of 25,000 might have. Does it take Sandusky off the radar?

Dennis Murray said that potentially is the risk, taking our CDBG funds through the county, and that probably would not go as well as we would like. He believes the last time there was consideration given to grandfathering legacy communities that fall below that threshold. He hopes that will be the case this time as well. He will certainly reach out to our Congresswoman and ask that be included in the legislation going forward.

Eric Wobser said that is his understanding as well, 25,000 is not an immediate line by which we would make that change. He will get more information or understand that appeal process. We would rather be above that line than below it, but either way we will do what we can to mitigate our risk.

Richard Brady said he has received emails from the federal government pertaining to the Census but they are vague. What he has read is that they are months away from releasing those numbers. COVID presents a host of issues with counting, let alone counting accurately. He is optimistic that if we fall below that line we will get some leeway and not have the rug pulled completely out from under us. We will lobby whoever we have to, to stay the course.

NEW BUSINESS

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Dennis Murray and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to adjourn at 6:03 p.m. The President declared the motion passed.



McKenzie Spriggs
Commission Clerk



Richard R. Brady
President of the City Commission