

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

The Clerk, McKenzie Spriggs, called the roll and the following Commissioners responded: Wes Poole, Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, and Dave Waddington. Commissioners Blake Harris 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 April 26, 2021 meeting and suspend the formal reading. The President declared the motion passed.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

PRESENTATION

Tiffany Rufo presented on the Park Amenities App that was recently created, “Sandusky Parks Explorer.” It can be easily accessed through the city’s website. The app is for residents and visitors to find amenities throughout the city’s parks. For example, when we zoom into Lions Park, icons begin to pop up and then we can see all the amenities at this park, such as grills and seesaws. For the shelters, if you click on them you can see the capacity, whether it is ADA accessible, and it links directly to the recreation department’s website where you can reserve that specific shelter. One of the other functions is the search feature. For example, if we have a child that specifically likes slides, search “slide” and all parks that have slide features pop up, then we can pick the park nearest us.

Dick Brady said Aaron Klein shared that this application was going to be presented. This is one more effort on staff’s part to tug this city into the 21st century. We are blessed to have Tiffany Rufo on board, who can create programs like this. It makes it easier for residents, parents and grandparents, to find out information such as slides or whether equipment is handicap accessible. It is one more amenity we add to our cache, and make it available to our city. Tiffany Rufo is a quietly sung person on staff.

CURRENT BUSINESS

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

ITEM A – Submitted by Brendan Heil, Law Director

AMENDING CHAPTER 531 – NOXIOUS WEED AND GRASS ORDINANCE (SECOND READING)

Budgetary Information: There is no direct cost to the City to approve this Ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 21-064: It is requested an ordinance be passed amending Part Five (General Offenses Code), Chapter 531 (Nuisances Generally), Sections 531.09 (Notice to Cut; Duty of Housing Code Compliance Officer), 531.10 (Failure to Comply), 531.11 (Procedure When Owner

Fails to Comply with Notice), and 531.12 (Payment of Costs; Unpaid Costs a Lien), of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Sandusky, in the manner and way specifically set forth hereinbelow.

ITEM B – Submitted by Debi Eversole

SALE OF LAND BANK PROPERTY AT 421 FULTON STREET

Budgetary Information: The cost associated with this purchase and sale agreement is the total amount of the transfer fees, advertisement, deed preparation and any other customary fees that may be due and payable in the ordinary course of the sale and purchase transaction. These expenses shall be recouped from the purchase price. The proceeds of the sale shall be dispersed in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 5722 of the Ohio Revised Code. The sale and rehabilitation of this property will revitalize the neighborhood by enhancing the surrounding property values and reducing noticeable blight. The taxing districts will begin collecting real estate taxes of approximately \$963.80 on an annual basis if not more.

ORDINANCE NO. 21-065: It is requested an ordinance be passed declaring that certain real property owned by the City as part of the Land Reutilization Program identified as parcel No. 59-01165.000, located at 421 Fulton Street, Sandusky, is no longer needed for any municipal purpose and authorizing the execution of a purchase and sale agreement with respect to that real property; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

ITEM C – Submitted by Jim Green, Interim Fire Chief

DISPOSAL OF FIRE DEPARTMENT TURNOUT GEAR & DONATION TO EHOVE CAREER CENTER

Budgetary Information: There will be no proceeds from the donation of turnout gear and accessories.

RESOLUTION NO. 025-21R: It is requested a resolution be passed authorizing the disposal of used firefighting clothing as being unnecessary and unfit for city use; approving their donation to the EHOVE Career Center; and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

ITEM D – Submitted by McKenzie Spriggs, Commission Clerk

NEW LIQUOR PERMIT FOR BEER BAIT AND MOOR

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 C2 liquor permit (wine and mixed beverage in sealed container for carry out) for Beer Bait and Moor LLC, located at 1319 First Street. It is requested the Commission Clerk be authorized to notify the Division of Liquor Control the City does not request a hearing on this matter.

Upon motion of Dennis Murray and second of Dave Waddington, the Commission voted to accept the Consent Agenda and declare all ordinances, resolutions, and liquor permit requests 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, resolutions, and liquor permits whether they be in accordance with Section 13 or Section 14 of the City Charter.

Discussion: Dick Brady thanked the family that purchased the Land Bank property on Fulton Street. We are taking a chance on them, but they also have to spend a certain amount of money, it has to be a single family home, etc. and they are also taking a chance on us. This is so much more preferential than knocking it down and growing grass there. We thank them for their effort and wish them luck on their home.

Roll call on the motion: Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, 7. Roll call on the ordinances, resolutions, and liquor permit: Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, 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 Debi Eversole, Community Development Programs Administrator
FY 2021 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) ONE YEAR ACTION PLAN**

Budgetary Information: There is no impact on the City's General Fund. All projects in the program will be paid for with CDBG funds.

ORDINANCE NO. 21-066: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to accept an entitlement grant in the amount of \$750,212 total Community Development Block Grant funds for the program year of July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022, and to submit to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development a FY 2021 One-Year Action Plan; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Naomi Twine, the Commission voted to approve the ordinance in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

Discussion: Dennis Murray thanked Debi Eversole and Jonathan Holody for taking the public feedback into account. It is a better plan because of it, and thank you to the public for providing it.

Naomi Twine thanked staff for their work. There was great feedback from the public and she hopes we continue to take community input into consideration. The last year was challenging and the suggestions were great and will go a long way to improving the quality of life of our citizens.

Dave Waddington thanked Debi Eversole for the red lined version. The answers were good and it was helpful to see the input and the responses. He hopes it continues in future years.

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

**ITEM #2 – Submitted by Jonathan Holody, Community Development Director
APPROVAL OF THE TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL'S RECOMMENDATIONS**

Budgetary Information: Continuation of the Tax Increment Financing Districts will result in the City's continued receipt of Tax Increment Financing revenue for use on public improvement projects.

RESOLUTION NO. 026-21R: It is requested a resolution be passed accepting and approving the City of Sandusky Tax Incentive Review Council's (TIRC) recommendations regarding current taxation agreements; and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Dave Waddington, the Commission voted to approve this resolution in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

Discussion: Dennis Murray said this year he was the representative to the TIRC council. Jonathan Holody did an excellent job summarizing the relevant information, tracking to make sure that recipients for various tax deferrals and abatements are doing what they agreed to do, and he would like the public to know we track that faithfully. A report is attached, which is thorough but not the most scintillating thing to sit through but is incredibly important. He appreciates the job the staff does along with our county auditor Rick Jeffrey.

Roll call on the motion: Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, 7. Roll call on the resolution: Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, 7. The President declared the resolution passed in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

ITEM #3 – Submitted by Jonathan Holody, Community Development Director**ACQUISITION OF SUPERIOR STREET VACANT LOT FOR THE SANDUSKY BAY PATHWAY**

Budgetary Information: The City will be responsible for paying \$15,000 (plus closing costs) for the purchase of the property which will initially be paid with Capital Funds. The City intends to finance the costs with long-term notes that will be reimbursed with proceeds from the Cleveland Road Public Improvement TIF Fund.

ORDINANCE NO. 21-067: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a purchase agreement for the acquisition of real property located on Superior Street north of W. Monroe Street, Sandusky and identified as Parcel No. 59-00439.000 for the Sandusky Bay Pathway; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Dennis Murray, the Commission voted to approve this ordinance in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

Discussion: Dick Brady said he had a great conversation with Jonathan Holody and asked if he could share where this project is going with the public and commission without providing sensitive detail, which will be discussed at a future executive session.

Jonathan Holody said this parcel plays a part in the larger plan. The vision for the Sandusky Bay Pathway which is a multi-use path along the roughly 12 miles of shoreline here in the city. This parcel is needed to accommodate the currently planned alignment for the portion of the pathway that would extend from the western terminus to Lions Park. It sits roughly just south of the existing board of health facility. We are seeing development interest in that neighborhood but fortunately have negotiated a fair price with this seller who is a willing seller at this time. We'd like to move forward with this acquisition and are proceeding with acquisitions to accommodate the planned alignment as those opportunities arise. As suggested by Dick Brady, Aaron Klein and he will discuss where they are at with those various acquisitions in an executive session of a future meeting.

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

ITEM #4 – Submitted by Josh Snyder, Assistant City Engineer**AGREEMENT WITH AMERICAN STRUCTUREPOINT FOR DESIGN SERVICES FOR CLEVELAND ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

Budgetary Information: The not to exceed cost for preliminary professional design services is \$263,615. This work includes preliminary environmental, feasibility studies, warrant studies and public meetings, which will guide the subsequent detail design. The funding split is 5% City of Sandusky and 95% Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) through the Safety funds.

ODOT Safety Funds (4HJ7) and (4BC7)	\$250,434.25
Major Infrastructure Funds (Streets)	\$ 13,180.75

ORDINANCE NO. 21-068: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into an agreement for professional design services with American Structurepoint, Inc. of Cleveland, Ohio, for the Cleveland Road Safety Improvement Project; 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 in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

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

ITEM #5 – Submitted by Scott Kromer, Streets & Utilities Superintendent

AMENDING ORDINANCE 21-057 TO INCLUDE THE PURCHASE OF A HIAB KNUCKLE BOOM CRANE

Budgetary Information: The total cost for one (1) 2022 Freightliner M2 106 Cab & Chassis up fitted with the Hiab Knuckle Boom Crane at a cost not exceed \$175,448 and will be paid from Capital Water Funds. This purchase will be included in the Capital Improvement Plan.

ORDINANCE NO. 21-069: It is requested an ordinance be passed amending Ordinance No. 21-057, passed on April 12, 2021; authorizing and directing the City Manager to purchase a 2022 Freightliner M2-106 Cab & Chassis truck, including the purchase and up-fitting of a Hiab Knuckle Boom Crane, from Valley Freightliner, Sterling & Western Star, Inc. of Parma, Ohio, through the State of Ohio Department of Transportation Cooperative Purchasing Program for the Water Distribution Division; and declaring that this ordinance 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 in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

Discussion: Dick Brady said this is a do over. We got the truck before and now we are adding a crane to the order. He assumes we are getting a better deal through this process and asked for clarification.

Aaron Klein said commission already gave approval for the vehicle, and when the fleet supervisor began looking at the details, he realized we could get a better price for the crane we would eventually purchase, if bought all together. Instead of submitting a second ordinance request, we would like to amend that first one to get the best deal from the state purchasing contract.

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

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- **Upon a motion from Dave Waddington and a second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to accept a donation of \$400 from Sharon Smith for the Memorial Tree Fund at Oakland Cemetery. A tree will be planted this fall to honor her late husband Ezell Bailey Smith. The President declared the motion passed with the city's thanks.**
- **The filing deadline for municipal income tax returns has been extended until May 17, 2021.** With everyone's health and safety in mind, we offer contact-free ways to easily file and pay your municipal taxes. Visit RITAOhio.com for more information. RITA has extended customer service hours through the May 17th deadline, please call 1-800-860-7482 with your filing questions.
- **As part of the NPDES permit requirements, the City is required to complete construction of the Mills Street High-Rate Treatment project at the Wastewater Treatment Plant by December 1st, 2024. A Request for Qualifications is being advertised for design services for that project.** This is the final project that the City committed to during the negotiations with Ohio EPA in 2015. Conversations with Ohio EPA are anticipated to restart in 2024. It is also the project for which the City purchased the former Amvets ballfield, west of the treatment plant.

- **The 2020 Water Quality Report has been distributed.** Big Island Water Works continues to meet and exceed all established drinking water standards. Please refer to the City's website for more information.
- **Residents are welcome to drop-off yard waste at Barnes Nursery, 1630 Camp Road, Huron, this Saturday, May 15th and Sunday, May 16th.** For further details, please call 419.627.5829.
- Eric Wobser thanked staff and the community for their participation in the Love Where You Live cleanups. Sandusky looks great and the community participation was huge. A special thanks to staff Megan Stookey and McKenzie Spriggs for making those happen.
- **Congratulations to Bait House Brewery which re-opened on May 5 following an extensive renovation that included the construction of a new kitchen. The project was supported by the City's Economic Development Fund.** Be sure to stop into the Bait House Brewery to enjoy their new food menu and fresh look.
- The next **Arts and Culture Commission** meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 18 at 5:15 PM.
- The next **Landmark Commission** meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 19 at 5:00 PM.
- The next **Board of Zoning Appeals** meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 20 at 4:30 PM.
- The next **Planning Commission** meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 26 at 5:00 PM.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Dick Brady said he has an announcement, which was sent to each commission at about 4PM. We will resume in person meetings at Sandusky City Hall, beginning with the May 24 City Commission meeting. The safety of our community has been a top priority, including all our citizens and staff. All adults in Erie County who want the vaccine are now able to get the vaccine, and he encourages them to do that. Based off the recently released guidelines, he and staff believe we can safely reopen public meetings for in-person participation. In addition to the national CDC and Ohio Department of Health guidelines, he spent time talking to the local Erie County Health Director, Pete Schade who provided him with some guidance. He would ask Stuart Hamilton to provide specifics tonight, those specifics are out to the press and in commissioners' email boxes.

Stu Hamilton said we are opening meetings based on revised guidelines from the CDC. We will be restricting capacity of the room to 25% which is roughly 20 people per meeting, total. The seating order will priority to commissioners, board members, people presenting at the meeting or those who are part of a hearing. Staff will be encouraged to participate virtually, leaving as many seats open to the public as possible. The public will then be allowed to participate and attend on a first come, first serve basis. If we hit capacity, we will no longer be able to accept additional persons in the room. Chairs will stay six (6) feet apart. Public comment will be taken in person, but can also be sent in advance to the clerk of that particular meeting, to be read at the appropriate time. Of course we will continue to stream the meetings live on YouTube for anyone to be able to watch. May 24 allows us to train staff and get everyone ready to bring people back, with standards circulated.

Dennis Murray asked if Eric Wobser will be attending in person, with the rest of the city commission. He would have a preference to see Eric Wobser in person.

Dick Brady agreed, it is important to have the city manager present, in person. There is a connection that is lost with not having him in the room. Those 20 people are inclusive of commissioners, correct?

Stu Hamilton said yes.

Dave Waddington said it has been a long time and it is well passed the time to reopen. He is happy to see this benchmark, and get feedback from the residents directly. He is excited to return to some normalcy.

Eric Wobser said he is happy to be there in person and looks forward to being with the commission again.

Dick Brady said commissioners are welcome to attend however they'd like, in person or through virtual means until June 30, 2021. That is a personal decision. He would ask everyone to RSVP to McKenzie Spriggs before the meeting for the next month.

Wes Poole suggested to work with that limit of 20, staff continues to attend via the Teams app. He would like to not turn away residents.

Dick Brady agreed and said staff will continue to use electronic means unless they are presenting or have a reason to be present, such as Stu Hamilton who ensures the technology is working. He thanked staff for putting these recommendations together, as it is not easy. He would also like to hold out the possibility that things can change, and quickly. We have painfully found that out. This pandemic is not over, he suggests that we put our toe in the water and try to get back to a normal routine.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Matt Ames, 2204 Mills Street, Sandusky & Jennifer Ashburn, 1513 N Forest Drive, Sandusky

Greeting, my name Matt Ames, and I am a member of the Sandusky Homeowners Association along with Jennifer Ashburn et al. In our meeting on April 24th, we discussed the desire to have City meetings opened back up to the Public. We have taken note that surrounding municipalities including Perkins Township, Huron and Erie County have done so utilizing State guidelines provided by the CDC and respectfully ask that our city government do the same, as soon as possible.

We strongly feel that the strength and health of Democracy in city government is predicated on public participation. The City's homeowners feel it is essential to assemble and speak in public meeting spaces where decisions are being made on our behalf.

We would like to emphasize to our city leadership that there is a plurality of our homeowners who are retired, elderly, and/or are on financial assistance. Many do not have access to the Internet let alone own a computer which makes attendance in Zoom meetings difficult, if not impossible.

Having stated this, we do feel however, that continuing to archive public meetings on digital platforms such as YouTube are in the best interest of the community and should be maintained.

We offer scientific data to you that states that only .26% of the national population outside of nursing homes has succumbed to this virus giving a survival rate of 99.7%. We are aware that those over 70 and those with comorbidities should continue to be cautious and may not be

recommended to attend public meetings at this time. For the rest of us, we must get back to the business of the People by inviting them back.

Though we ultimately desire a full return to in-person public meetings without restriction, at this time we humbly recommend that:

1. Public meetings be open to residents ahead of the next scheduled Commission meeting
2. CDC guidelines be in place that recommend distancing and masks
3. Restroom facilities be open and available for proper hygiene maintenance.
4. Reservations by the public be made ahead of planned meeting times. A phone call or email notification should suffice. This will help regulate and ensure adherence to State and CDC guidelines.
5. Subsequently, as soon as State mandates are further relaxed and ultimately wane, we ask that the city leadership follow suit and fully return to normal proceedings at the first available opportunity to do so.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter by the Sandusky Homeowners Association.

Julie Fulton, 314 Fulton Street, Sandusky

1. Constant firework explosions. Beginning now, and continuing throughout the summer, well past Labor Day, fireworks are set off in neighborhoods around throughout the city. Even though multiple calls were reported to the police dept. last year, there is only so much they can do.

More restrictions are needed. If the only way to control illegal fireworks is to 'catch' the users in the act, the policy relies on an impossible ability of citizens and police to be everywhere at once. Other towns seem to have a better handle this. Perhaps there can be discussion with public meeting to receive input? Perhaps policy should be redirected around the purchase and acquisition of fireworks for public use, rather than trying to control their use once teens and younger people have them at their disposal. It is unsuitable to endure this constant disruption, night and day, for months on end. It doesn't only occur on the 4th of July.

2. Beautification. Is there a reason why porta-pots are front and center in public park areas?

How does the city determine where these are placed? I frequently walk in the parks, and also watch the sunrise at the back of the police station, one of the few areas to get a view of the waterfront where there is public access to see this daily phenomenon. This week when I went to my usual parking area there, low and behold, a public toilet was in the front parking spot. Can't see the sunrise if a toilet is in the way. Seems like a total disregard to the beauty of the natural resource we have here in Sandusky. The park downtown also has a portable toilet basically sitting on the street. Is this really necessary? If people have to use some public area for a restroom, could it at least be more discreet? De-emphasizes the beauty of the parks.

3. Litter. How can we enforce a more accountable littering policy? All along main streets, and especially once you go out of the downtown area a block or two, the trash and litter everywhere, including the public city dock, is really disheartening. It's as if Sanduskians care nothing for their living environment or this city. These are the streets a block or two from our most valuable resource, Lake Erie. If we are spending millions on waterfront improvement, it seems there must be some answer to keeping the streets, sidewalks, and unkempt lawns, clean for the citizens that live here. Sandusky is not ONLY downtown tourism.

4. Trees. Why are old and graceful trees destroyed, and often NOT replaced, even in the park? Again, shady streets and parks, and the resource of beautiful trees, seem lost on the city of Sandusky. "Tree City"? I think not. Is it strange that there are benches around the city fountain that have NO shade to sit and look at this landmark? Fifty year old trees can't be replaced! It's a resource that seems we should cherish, rather than tear down. It's too late now, I realize this. But it seems that everywhere I go, side streets and main streets, trees are being removed. Adams Junior High, the courthouse is now basically just a lawn. There are not even shrubs or flowers around the entry ways, only mulch. Can more trees be planted?

The city has focused on creating a downtown that is a destination spot. It is appreciated and was sorely needed. But lifelong residents, such as myself, see changes that don't necessarily add up to a better city environment. Often these subtle changes are a lifestyle perspective.

Tim Schwanger, 362 Sheffield Way, Sandusky

After spending \$10 million on Shoreline Drive, including widening sidewalks on the south side for improved walkability, why would the City Planning Commission and City Staff allow a Water Street restaurant business to encroach into the Shoreline Drive sidewalk taking away 4 three quarters of the walkable sidewalk? This opens the door for all Shoreline Drive south side businesses to do the same.

Discussion: Dick Brady said the first question has been handled, as we are returning to open meetings, as what was their desire. He asked that questions be divided up between the appropriate staff and responded to. He said he knows that a discussion was ongoing this afternoon regarding Shoreline Drive as Tim Schwanger mentioned in the last question. He asked if Eric Wobser or Jonathan Holody could share the answer with the public.

Eric Wobser said if we go back to the planning process for the Jackson Street Pier, it was made very clear that increased outdoor dining through patios or decks, was a goal. One of the things we heard loudest from the public was that Shoreline Drive was often viewed as the back door to downtown, and people wanted to take advantage of waterfront views. The north side of Shoreline Drive is a wide and unencumbered pedestrian right of way, with five (5) feet of sidewalk and 10 feet for the pathway, for a total of 15 feet for the pedestrian experience. When looking at the south side, five (5) feet or more is maintained for pedestrians, but we wanted room for patios and decks, to be activated and make Sandusky feel like a waterfront city. Hot Dog Tony's is doing what we were hoping private businesses would do, activating and making that space vibrant. But the north side is where most people are choosing to walk, to take advantage of that pathway, and the southside will always have five (5) feet for people that want to walk or do business on that side of the street. If you remember, there were renderings showing elevated boardwalks for those two blocks, and we pulled back from because of logistical difficulties. So yes, these patios and activated dining spaces were hoped for and a goal of the project

Eric Wobser added to Ms. Julie Fulton's question that we take those quality of life concerns very seriously and each department will take those questions.

Dick Brady said in spite of returning to open meetings, these questions will not go away. Those members of the public not in the room are still encouraged to send in questions, and they will be answered.

Wes Poole asked that when staff respond to Julie Fulton, if the commission could receive a copy. It is a good practice to see what was said in response to those questions posed at city commission meetings.

Dick Brady said that was a good idea and is a good policy as we move forward.

Dennis Murray said public comment has been a cherished tradition in the city of Sandusky for many years, and if you look towards Cleveland, they are just beginning to consider opening meetings to public comments.

Dick Brady said it is great to be ahead of the curve, and let us stay that way.

ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Dennis Murray, the commission voted to adjourn at 5:47 p.m. The President declared the motion passed.



McKenzie Spriggs
Commission Clerk



Richard R. Brady
President of the City Commission