

President Brady called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. followed by the Invocation, given by Mr. Brady and the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Clerk called the roll and the following Commissioners responded: Dave Waddington, Blake Harris, Mike Meinzer, Wesley Poole, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, and Steve Poggiali, 7.

City staff present: John Orzech – Interim City Manager, Colleen Gilson – Interim Asst. City Manager, Cody Browning – IT Manager, Don Rumbutis – IT Technician, Brendan Heil – Law Director, Michelle Reeder – Finance Director, Jared Oliver - Police Chief, Mario D’Amico- Fire Chief, Aaron Klein – Public Works Director, Chris Mehling - Recreation Project Coordinator, and Cathy Myers - Commission Clerk.

Upon motion of Mr. Waddington and a second by Mr. Murray, the commission voted to approve the minutes of the June 26, regular meeting and suspend the reading. President Brady declared the motion passed.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

PUBLIC HEARING: 2024 Tax Budget, Michelle Reeder, Finance Director

Ms. Reeder stated per Ohio Revised Code Section 507 that we are required to submit an annual tax budget to be submitted to the Erie County Auditor by July 20 of each year. Prior to that submittal, a Public Hearing must be conducted, which is what we are holding tonight. Failure to submit a tax budget could result in a denial of receiving future local government funds. The tax budget allows the Budget Commission to review the anticipated and historical revenue and expenditures for each fund. The tax budget is comprised of current year estimated revenue and expenditures along with two previous years of actual revenue and expenditure figures. The Budget Commission will review the tax budget and generally looks for any over or under funding. Once approved, the tax budget helps to determine funding for the next year. As a general reminder of the City’s budget timeline per the City Charter, it requires the first draft of the 2024 budget to be available by November 1. The City Commission will need to approve an initial temporary budget for calendar year 2024 later this year, and then ultimately pass the 2024 budget by March 31, of 2024. As stated previously, this tax budget legislation is a requirement by ORC and must be approved annually.

Comments:

Mr. Meinzer stated that in 2023 we got the COVID funds, but next year it goes to zero? Ms. Reeder stated that we received two COVID fundings in 2021 and 2022. We have until the end of 2024 to promise to spend those funds and then until the end of 2026 to expend them. Mr. Meinzer stated the carryover was up to \$25M. Ms. Reeder stated he was correct - in all funds. Ms. Reeder stated she is waiting for the hiring of the new city manager to look at the 2024 budget, ultimately the City Manager is the one presenting the 2024 budget. This is a projection thus far.

Mr. Murray stated that the estimated unencumbered figures, this is not a balance sitting in our general fund checking account, these are projected revenues for all funds.

Without further comment, President Brady declared this Public Hearing closed.

PRESENTATION: Sandusky Schools Aquatic Center, Mr. Rambler, CEO Sandusky City Schools

Mr. Rambler stated that the Core values of the Project are promoting district aquatic programs, providing community programming, and providing swim lessons and water safety. The Aquatic Core Team meets every other week to discuss the project and move forward. The previous efforts include going through a number of phases including schematic design change, design development and bidding as we focus on our goals. Construction bids were opened on May 5th. We did not receive any bids. Our architect and consultant budget were under what the potential bidders projected the cost to be by 20-30%, approximately \$2M. The current efforts are to remain on budget, a new pool must be built within the existing pool space, with a potential addition added to the existing pool area. The addition will be less than 30% of the previously planned new pool space. We will need to utilize another pool during the construction phase. A Construction Manager at Risk (CMR) was selected by the Aquatics Care Team. The CMR will solidify Aquatic

Center budgeting and expedite the project timeline. Mosser Construction, Inc., was selected as the project CMR. The goal is to begin the building process in August 2023 as we are on a strict deadline as district funds must be utilized by December 2024. The Committee is exploring all options to ensure they meet the goals or core values of the project. Mr. Rambler stated they are committed to being open and transparent with the community. He has attended many events and speaking engagements to discuss the project, provide clarity, and answer questions. A final drawing of the one pool project will be shared in the next couple weeks. The pool is funded by the district, \$3.8M and donated funds, \$4.7M. They are very thankful for all that have been involved or donated to this project. Questions regarding the Sandusky Aquatic Center can be sent to SanduskyAquaticCenter@scsbluestreaks.net.

Comments:

Mr. Waddington asked when the community will have time to utilize the new pool. Mr. Rambler stated that the Team has created a mock schedule throughout the school calendar year. He stated that the community will have about 50% access to the pool on a time scale. Mr. Rambler stated “You would be blown away at the amount of time that is available for the public to use these facilities, our ball courts are used by the public all the time.” There will be a lot of decisions made on programming and partnerships. Mr. Meinzer asked about the initial idea of two pools. Mr. Rambler stated they realized quickly in the process that two pools was not a possibility because of the inflated costs involved and the budget they must work within. Mr. Meinzer asked if the elderly would be able to use the pool for therapy and exercise. Mr. Rambler stated that the programming is yet to be worked out but that Firelands has expressed interest in doing many programs. There will be seasons that the swimmers will be using the pool quite a lot, but there will still be time for the public to access it as well. He stated many of the multipurpose rooms and gyms are used by the public with great regularity. Mr. Poole stated the pool should be built first for the needs of the student swimmers and secondly for the public. He stated a certified competition pool was needed for the swim team. Mr. Rambler stated that was the primary goal. Mr. Brady inquired if they had their funding in place for this project. Mr. Rambler stated the district funding was in place, but they are willing to accept donations which would provide enhancements to the project and provide future upgrades and repairs. Mr. Brady stated that the commission has realized while planning the rec center that sometimes it is easier to construct a project but harder to manage and operate it. Mr. Rambler stated that they have developed an operations team that has gone out to neighboring districts to look at their pools and costs of operation, what has worked, what has not. Mr. Murray stated that this presentation has been very timely with the City looking at constructing a rec center. The City is not building an indoor pool, we cannot afford one in our project. The City would like to build some outdoor water amenities. He understands that some of the foundations that have pledged their support to the aquatic center have requested an ironclad community use agreement. Mr. Murray stated that you cannot build something that is all things to all people, so making these decisions is crucial and important for a positive outcome. Mr. Rambler believes constant direct and open communication has been key in making this go forward. Mr. Brady stated that the commission has found a great way to partner with the schools in both endeavors; they are great assets for our citizens. Mr. Rambler stated Sandusky is a very special unique place with phenomenal kids doing amazing things as well.

CURRENT BUSINESS

Upon motion of Mr. Waddington and a second by Mr. Poggiali, the commission voted to accept all communications. President Brady declared this motion passed.

REGULAR AGENDA

ITEM 1 – Submitted by Michelle Reeder, Finance Director

APPROVAL 2024 TAX BUDGET

Budgetary Information: The tax budget will establish initial funding for 2024.

RESOLUTION NO. 027-23R: It is requested a resolution be passed adopting the tax budget for the City of Sandusky for the calendar year 2024; authorizing the submission of the tax budget to the Erie County Auditor; and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

Upon motion of Mr. Waddington, and second by Mr. Poggiali, the commission voted to adopt this resolution as drafted under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter. Roll call on the motion: Mr. Waddington, Mr. Harris, Mr. Meinzer, Mr. Poole, Mr. Murray, Mr. Brady, and Mr. Poggiali, 7. Roll call on the resolution: Mr. Waddington, Mr. Harris, Mr. Meinzer, Mr. Poole, Mr. Murray, Mr. Brady, and Mr. Poggiali, 7. President Brady declared this resolution passed.

ITEM 2 – Submitted by Tom Horsman, Communications Manager

APPROVAL OF DESIGNATED OUTDOOR REFRESHMENT AREA EXPANSION

Budgetary Information: There are no direct costs associated with this legislation.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-143: It is requested an ordinance be passed expanding the Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area in downtown Sandusky; establishing requirements to ensure public health and safety within such area; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

Upon motion of Mr. Poole, and second by Mr. Harris, the commission voted to adopt this ordinance as drafted under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

Discussion:

Mr. Murray stated he loved the expansion of the area to include the Distillery. The use of the DORA is modest, but a nice addition for the consumers. Mr. Meinzer stated that he witnessed several people late one night pouring liquor into a DORA cup. He believes it nice for people to be able to walk and enjoy the sights of downtown. He questioned that the hours for DORA were too late, nothing good happens at midnight, the noise ordinance is 11 p.m. and the DORA should follow suit. Maybe Mr. Horsman should talk with the owners of these establishments for their input. Chief Oliver stated that if anyone would report such activity it would result in an open container violation, and he has not had any issue or complaint. He has also spoken to many of the business owners without complaint as well.

Roll call on the motion: Mr. Waddington, Mr. Harris, Mr. Meinzer, Mr. Poole, Mr. Murray, Mr. Brady, and Mr. Poggiali, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Mr. Waddington, Mr. Harris, Mr. Meinzer, Mr. Poole, Mr. Murray, Mr. Brady, and Mr. Poggiali, 7. President Brady declared this ordinance passed.

ITEM 3 – Submitted by Aaron Klein, Public Works Director

APPROVAL FOR LEASE AGREEMENT WITH ERIE COUNTY HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES

Budgetary Information: The appraised value of the lease area is \$4,080.00, which would be paid with one lump sum payment upon execution of the agreement utilizing funds made available to the City of Sandusky through the American Rescue Plan Act Stimulus Funds.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-144: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a lease agreement with Erie County Housing Opportunities, Inc. 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 Mr. Harris, and second by Mr. Poggiali, the commission voted to adopt this ordinance as drafted under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter. Roll call on the motion: Mr. Waddington, Mr. Harris, Mr. Meinzer, Mr. Poole, Mr. Murray, Mr. Brady, and Mr. Poggiali, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Mr. Waddington, Mr. Harris, Mr. Meinzer, Mr. Poole, Mr. Murray, Mr. Brady, and Mr. Poggiali, 7. President Brady declared this ordinance passed.

ITEM 4 – Submitted by Aaron Klein, Public Works Director

APPROVAL PDS AGREEMENT FOR CHURCHWELL & MACARTHUR PARK PROJECT WITH STRAND ASSOCIATES

Budgetary Information: The total cost for the final design shall not exceed \$110,000.00. The Erie County Health Department provided reimbursable grant funds totaling \$275,000 for this project through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), of which \$149,750 was spent on the South side Neighborhood Plan. Therefore, this phase of design would be paid with Capital Funds but reimbursed entirely from the remaining funds on this grant. Detailed design would utilize the

remaining grant funds as well as funding made available to the City of Sandusky through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) which must be encumbered by the end of 2024.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-145: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into an agreement for Professional Design Services with Strand Associates, Inc. of Cincinnati, Ohio, for the Churchwell Park Recreation Improvements and MacArthur Park Roadway and Utility Improvements Project; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

Upon motion of Mr. Murray, and second by Mr. Poggiali, the commission voted to adopt this ordinance as drafted under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

Comments:

Mr. Murray asked that Mr. Klein elaborate on this subject to put it in context. Being a legacy city we have tremendous assets, but there are some liabilities that come along with that sometimes. Mr. Klein stated that in Churchwell Park, which is the actual park in the greater MacArthur park district, there are sewer and water lines that were installed many years ago that run through the center of the park and need to be relocated. We do not know if the relocation should be behind the houses staying in the park, that would be least impactful to the residents, or inside the right-of-way along the drives. The goal is to relocate those to where they are the most effective to also accommodate the park plan for that entire area. The hope to be able to utilize funding that was made available through the grant that the Health Department has provided to the City. The future phases do have a split of around \$900,000 for the park so we do need to have conceptual design of that as well. The efforts of the Planning and Economic Developments over the past six through eight years of purchasing and demolishing properties have really opened up sightlines and other opportunities within the Southside Plan for playgrounds, splashpads and movement of utilities. We do have money available to relocate those utilities – we are very hopeful we can do the entire project with this funding. It will also eliminate the small waterlines out there. Mr. Murray inquired how we ended up with utility lines in the middle of a park, was it because of a need to rapidly move the development during wartime. Mr. Klein stated that was the reason, based on research that was presented to him. One sewer line actually has a duplex built on top of it. Those water lines are ¾ inch lines and over a hundred years old. There are newer, larger lines installed for the hydrants. But the home lines are not sufficient size. This project is hugely important to the community.

Roll call on the motion: Mr. Waddington, Mr. Harris, Mr. Meinzer, Mr. Poole, Mr. Murray, Mr. Brady, and Mr. Poggiali, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Mr. Waddington, Mr. Harris, Mr. Meinzer, Mr. Poole, Mr. Murray, Mr. Brady, and Mr. Poggiali, 7. President Brady declared this ordinance passed.

ITEM 5 – Submitted by Josh Snyder, Public Works Engineer

APPROVAL FOR CHANGE ORDER 1 & FINAL FOR MEIGS STREET PROJECT

Budgetary Information: The original contract with Underground Utilities Inc., was \$1,808,344.80. Change order #1 is an overall increase of \$41,646.13, increasing the contract total to \$1,849,990.93. The change order increases the amount to be paid with ODOT Funds in the amount of \$13,071.64; Sewer Funds in the amount of \$14,031.52; and Issue 8 Street Funds in the amount of \$20,365.11 and Water Funds will be decreased in the amount of \$5,822.14.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-146: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to approve the first & final change order for work performed by Underground Utilities, Inc. of Monroeville, Ohio, for the Meigs Street Reconstruction & Multi-Use Path Project in the amount of \$41,646.13; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

Upon motion of Mr. Waddington, and second by Mr. Poggiali, the commission voted to adopt this ordinance as drafted under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

Comments:

Mr. Klein stated that one of the big items for this change order is that we do not know what we will encounter until we start digging and what we actually found was an old interceptor sewer that was installed in the early 1900's that was still connected to our new interceptor and was bringing lake water in. That accounts for over \$14,000 of this change order. The majority of the

project overruns were asphalt base and construction costs. Mr. Poole stated he realized that for expediency we use PVC pipes and he has some concerns about the health risks associated with that. He asked are we going to continue using PVC, we should be using the best material available. Mr. Klein stated that most of our projects use ductile iron pipe, in this case when we bid the project, it was nearly impossible to get the ductile iron pipe, they were projecting over a year delivery time, unless we went to a different size, which results in cost implications. In most situations we spec out ductile pipe, EPA has approved PVC, but studies are out there on this. In the past there were asbestos lined cement pipes. Mr. Poole asked that going forward we should try to use ductile iron pipe whenever we can going forward. He stated he thought the county was in litigation about a broken PVC pipe.

Roll call on the motion: Mr. Waddington, Mr. Harris, Mr. Meinzer, Mr. Poole, Mr. Murray, Mr. Brady, and Mr. Poggiali, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Mr. Waddington, Mr. Harris, Mr. Meinzer, Mr. Poole, Mr. Murray, Mr. Brady, and Mr. Poggiali, 7. President Brady declared this ordinance passed.

ITEM 6 – Submitted by Josh Snyder, Public Works Engineer

AWARD CONTRACT FOR 2023 CDBG STREET REHABILITATION PROJECT TO ERIE BLACKTOP

Budgetary Information: The total construction cost shall not exceed \$263,211.15, paid for using federal Community Development Block Grant Funds.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-147: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Erie Blacktop Inc. of Sandusky, Ohio, for the 2023 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Street Rehabilitation Project; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

Upon motion of Mr. Harris, and second by Mr. Poggiali, the commission voted to adopt this ordinance as drafted under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter. Roll call on the motion: Mr. Waddington, Mr. Harris, Mr. Meinzer, Mr. Poole, Mr. Murray, Mr. Brady, and Mr. Poggiali, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Mr. Waddington, Mr. Harris, Mr. Meinzer, Mr. Poole, Mr. Murray, Mr. Brady, and Mr. Poggiali, 7. President Brady declared this ordinance passed.

ITEM 7 – Submitted by Mario D’Amico, Fire Chief

APPROVAL TO PURCHASE A 2026 SUTPHEN MONARCH CUSTOM PUMPER

Budgetary Information: The total amount for the 2026 Sutphen Custom Pumper with Sutphen Monarch Extreme Duty Chassis purchase is \$957,681.00 through the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Program Schedule contract #113021-SUT. The cost of this purchase will be paid from Capital Funds.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-148: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into an agreement for the purchase of a 2026 Sutphen Custom Pumper with Custom Sutphen Monarch Extreme Duty Chassis through the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Program from Sutphen Corporation of Dublin, Ohio, for the Fire Department; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

Upon motion of Mr. Meinzer, and second by Mr. Poggiali, the commission voted to adopt this ordinance as drafted under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

Comment:

Mr. Brady commented how appropriate it was that a former fire chief make this motion. Chief D’Amico stated that the scheduled time to replace this vehicle was 2025, when we picked up the last ordered engine they told us they had a three-year wait list, and the prices were inflated. We started immediately researching a new replacement vehicle so we could afford to wait for that timeframe. Mr. Murray stated that the prices have gone up 50% in two years. Chief D’Amico stated the last one was \$642,000 that was ordered in 2021, and we just received it this year. They looked at some different models and they are all in the same ballpark for cost and delivery. Mr. Murray stated that the state purchasing program ensures we get the best price. Chief D’Amico stated that all the part manufacturers have raised their rates which inflates the final costs of the engines. Mr. Poole thanked Chief D’Amico for having the foresight to order this well in advance so we will have the equipment when we need it, it is a good vision on his part.

Roll call on the motion: Mr. Waddington, Mr. Harris, Mr. Meinzer, Mr. Poole, Mr. Murray, Mr. Brady, and Mr. Poggiali, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Mr. Waddington, Mr. Harris, Mr. Meinzer, Mr. Poole, Mr. Murray, Mr. Brady, and Mr. Poggiali, 7. President Brady declared this ordinance passed.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

DONATIONS

- Sandusky Parks & Rec would like to thank John Arnold for his donation of a \$50 gift card to Pizza House East. **Upon motion of Mr. Waddington, and a second by Mr. Poole, the Commission voted to accept this donation. President Brady declared this motion passed.**
- A donation of \$20 for the K-9 account was received from the Fraternal Order of Police Lake Erie Lodge #17. **Upon motion of Mr. Meinzer, and a second by Mr. Poggiali, the Commission voted to accept this donation. President Brady declared this motion passed.**

NEW & OLD BUSINESS

ADMINISTRATION

- I was informed by Brendan Heil last week that he will be resigning as Law Director to pursue opportunities in private practice. Brendan's last day with the City will be July 21. Brendan served the city for nearly three years and has been a key member of our staff. We all wish him well in his new endeavors. The Commission expressed their appreciation of Mr. Heil and his work with the City as well.

Because of the critical role of the law director, and while we begin the search for a new law director, I have asked Justin Harris to again serve the City as the interim law director. Justin has graciously accepted this offer. Justin previously served as law director and as an interim law director. He will be able to keep the city moving forward during this transition and can hit the ground running. I would ask for a motion to appoint Justin Harris as interim law director beginning July 24. If approved tonight, formal legislation and contract will be presented at the July 24 meeting. **Upon motion of Mr. Meinzer, and a second by Mr. Poggiali, the Commission voted to accept the appointment of Mr. Harris as interim law director. Roll call on the motion: Mr. Waddington, Mr. Harris, Mr. Meinzer, Mr. Poole, Mr. Murray, Mr. Brady, and Mr. Poggiali, 7. President Brady declared this motion passed.**

FINANCE

- The next Finance Committee meeting will be on Friday July 21, 2023 at 8am at City Hall.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Meinzer stated that we had a presentation at the last Commission meeting about the rec center. He wanted to compliment Mr. Rambler tonight that he brought in this update that was very comprehensive. While Mr. Meinzer has been out in the public he has had a lot of conversation with residents about Air Bnb's, the other subject has been the rec center. People state they do not know enough about it, about what programs and amenities it will have. If the ballot should win to construct a rec center a one-page narrative about it would be helpful. Mr. Brady stated it was a good suggestion. Mr. Poggiali stated that they are planning a meeting next week about transient housing. He believes they are on the same page and the next step will be to get with staff and make some recommendations. Mr. Meinzer stated that when he and Mr. Poggiali began on this committee, they were on different sides of it. Now they are moving closer together – and are closer to Mr. Poggiali's point of view.

NEW BUSINESS

President Brady called for a Special Commission Meeting for an Executive Session only for the Personnel Issue of City Manager search on Monday, 07.17.23 at 5 p.m.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Mr. Waddington, the Commission moved to adjourn at 6:15 p.m. President Brady declared the meeting adjourned.



Cathleen A. Myers
Commission Clerk



Richard R. Brady
President of the City Commission