

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

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

City staff present: John Orzech – City Manager, Colleen Gilson – Community Development Director, Cody Browning – IT Manager, Don Rumbutis – IT Technician, Justin Harris – Interim Law Director, Michelle Reeder – Finance Director, Aaron Klein – Public Works Director, Jared Oliver - Police Chief, Mario D’Amico - Fire Chief, Arin Blair – Chief Planner, Jason Werling – Recreation Superintendent, James Stacey – Transit Administrator, and Cathy Myers - Commission Clerk.

**Upon motion of Mr. Waddington and a second by Mr. Poggiali, the commission voted to approve the minutes of the September 25, regular meeting and suspend the reading. President Brady declared the motion passed.**

### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Mike Hallock, 1503 McDonough Street, stated he lives across from Osborne School. He does not want low-income housing in his neighborhood. He stated according to an article in the Sandusky Register Thursday, the City is going to put twenty units of low-income housing in Osborne School. He inquired where would these people park. Where did the people who were relocated from Fallen Timbers go? He does not want that on Osborne Street. He heard the charter school at Monroe might leave, he would prefer education in the Osborne building. Putting low-income housing would decrease the property value of their homes. He stated he has lived there for fortytwo years. He contacted his realtor when he read this article, and so have other neighbors. He thanked the City for paving Osborne Street from Central Avenue to Camp Street. Tremendous job, it is beautiful. He stated he has one problem with it. Cars travel at fifty to sixty mph on our road now. The speed limit is twenty-five mph. He has contacted the police dispatcher many times and they state they will send someone out. He stated he had not seen one ticket written. He has not even seen one person stopped. He stated he is a crossing guard at Ontario school, and they have the same problem on First and Fifth Streets. Two years ago, they hit his flag. He has not seen anyone stopped or ticketed there either. He has observed many coming the wrong way on the one-way street. Ontario is a one-way street. He has only observed one police patrol there this year. The patrol sat there for ten minutes and left. Are these problems going to be corrected or continue?

### **INTRODUCTIONS: New Police Cadets: Patrick Sheridan and Ken Marin; Jared Oliver, Police Chief**

Chief Oliver introduced the two newest police cadets. Patrick Sheridan used to work for Cedar Point Security, and he is finishing his bachelor’s degree at the University of Ashland. Ken Marin served in the US Army. They need to obtain their certifications through the state. They are currently enrolled in the Police Academy; they are due to graduate in May and work with the City part-time for now. President Brady thanked the cadets for choosing Sandusky.

### **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. President Brady asked if anyone would like any items moved from the Consent Agenda to the Regular Agenda. None heard.**

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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**ITEM A – Submitted by Cathy Myers, Commission Clerk**

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### **LIQUOR LICENSE FOR SIP & SPIN LLC**

**Budgetary Information:** There is no budgetary impact for this item.

**Notice to Legislative Authority for NEW D1 & D3 Liquor License, Beer only for on premises consumption or in original sealed containers for carryout until 1:00 a.m. Spirituous liquor on premises consumption only until 1:00 a.m. For: Sip & Spin LLC, 151 E. Market Street**

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**ITEM B – Submitted by Cathy Myers, Commission Clerk**

**LIQUOR LICENSE FOR PATINA PORCH LLC**

**Budgetary Information:** There is no budgetary impact for this item.

**Notice to Legislative Authority for TRFO D1, D2 & D3 Liquor License, Beer only for on premises consumption or in original sealed containers for carryout until 1:00 a.m. Wine & mixed beverages for on premises consumption or in sealed containers for carryout only until 1:00 a.m. Spirituous liquor on premises consumption only until 1:00 a.m.**

**For: Patina Porch LLC, DBA Patina Porch, 1<sup>st</sup> Fl & Patios, 2434 W. Monroe Street**

**From: Sandusky Salvage Center LLC, 1<sup>st</sup> Fl & Patios, 2434 W. Monroe Street**

**ITEM C – Submitted by Michelle Reeder, Finance Director**

**APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENT #6**

**Budgetary Information:** Appropriation amendments are required to update the 2023 budget for these funds:

- General Funds
- Coronavirus Relief Fund
- Real Estate Development Fund
- Parks & Recreation Fund
- Federal Grant Fund
- Water Fund
- Sewer Fund
- Health Insurance Fund

**ORDINANCE NO. 23-206:** It is requested an ordinance be passed adopting Amendment No. 6 to Ordinance No. 23-002 passed by this City Commission on January 9, 2023, making general appropriations for the fiscal year 2023; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

**ITEM D – Submitted by James Stacey, Transit Administrator**

**APPROVAL OF SERVING OUR SENIORS VEHICLE LEASE**

**Budgetary Information:** SOS will provide the vehicles to STS at no cost. STS will be responsible for the maintenance and operation of the vehicles.

**ORDINANCE NO. 23-207:** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a lease agreement with Serving Our Seniors (SOS) for the purpose of leasing six (6) transit vehicles for use by the Sandusky Transit System for the period of October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

**ITEM E – Submitted by James Stacey, Transit Administrator**

**APPROVAL OF SERVING OUR SENIORS TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT**

**Budgetary Information:** SOS will pay \$16,666.67 per month to STS to provide transportation services to existing Serving Our Seniors clients during the term of the contract. The money collected will be used to leverage additional capital and operating revenue from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT).

**ORDINANCE NO. 23-208:** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a contract for transportation services between the City of Sandusky and the Board of County Commissioners of Erie County for the Department of Job and Family Services for the period of October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

**ITEM F – Submitted by Aaron Klein, Public Works Director****APPROVAL OF BULK ROCK SALT PURCHASE FOR 2024**

**Budgetary Information:** Funds for the purchase of bulk rock salt are routinely budgeted in the Street Fund each year. The total allocation for 2024 would be \$137,500.00.

**ORDINANCE NO. 23-209:** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to purchase bulk highway deicing rock salt for the Division of Streets & Traffic to be used in the CY 2024 from Compass Minerals America, Inc. of Overland Park, Kansas; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

**ITEM G – Submitted by Jason Werling, Recreation Superintendent****APPROVAL OF GRANT APPLICATION TO ODNR FOR NAVIGATIONAL AIDS**

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 048-23R:** It is requested a resolution be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to file an application to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Navigational Aids Grant Program on behalf of the Cedar Point Property Owners Association to replace fifteen (15) existing “swim area” buoys; and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

**Upon motion of Mr. Harris, and second by Mr. Murray, 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 shall take effect in accordance with the Section 14 of the City Charter. Roll call on the motion: Mr. Poole, Mr. Murray, Mr. Brady, Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Waddington, Mr. Harris, and Mr. Meinzer, 7. Roll call on the liquor licenses, ordinances, and resolutions: Mr. Poole, Mr. Murray, Mr. Brady, Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Waddington, Mr. Harris, and Mr. Meinzer, 7. President Brady declared these liquor licenses, ordinances, and resolutions passed.**

**REGULAR AGENDA****ITEM 1 – Submitted by Colleen Gilson, Community Development Director****APPROVAL TO PURCHASE FORMER OSBORNE SCHOOL PROPERTY**

**Budgetary Information:** The negotiated purchase price is \$100,000. The City will also be responsible for paying half of the closing costs and these costs will be paid with Real Estate Development funds.

**ORDINANCE NO. 23-210:** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into an agreement for sale of real estate with the Board of Education of the Sandusky City School District for the purchase of real property located at 920 West Osborne Street (former Osborne Elementary School property) and identified as Parcel No. 58-65001.000; 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. Poole, 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:**

Ms. Gilson stated the proposed goal for the former Osborne Elementary School, 920 W. Osborne Street, is to return the vacant building to productive use. The City will work with a real estate developer with experience to provide for the readaptation of the structure into at least twenty new units of housing. Rental restrictions will ensure affordability for a specific demographic, ideally senior citizens are the preliminary plan for Osborne School. The building lends itself wonderfully to apartment units, with also large common spaces for fellowship, programming, and services for those who live within. Our intention is to insure the preservation of the structure historically. Doing so will have a positive impact on the surrounding community. As an homage

to its use as an elementary school and to allow connection to the surrounding community and neighbors, preservation of the playground area is of particular importance. Engagement with surrounding neighbors will be critical to the success of this development. As you know, the City is challenged with a deep need for housing units. The largest delta being those accessible to families or individuals with modest to low-income. We are proud to bring this opportunity forward to begin to close that gap. Our goal is to be back before this body in the coming months with additional details on how to best bring this project to fruition. We have some work to do. And this important first step in gaining site control of the building sets us on that path. She expressed thanks to Chief Planner, Arin Blair, for her steadfast leadership on this effort as well as the Sandusky City Schools for their support of the plan to make Osborne a place people can call home. Thank you for your consideration.

Mr. Meinzer stated thank you to Mr. Hallock for coming and for his passion. He was under the impression the developer specialized in housing for the elderly. That is what we are targeting, not low-income like the in the projects. This project is senior housing. Seniors do not cause neighborhood problems. He also commented that traffic speeding happens on every newly paved street. It happened on Remington Avenue in his neighborhood. He suggested that maybe the police could install a speed sign that monitors how fast someone is going.

Mr. Poole inquired at what point would the City know what the developer would do there?

Ms. Gilson stated typically in a situation like this that once the developer has been identified, they will have a period of due diligence – to look at financing mechanisms. Our intention is to work with the developer to produce senior housing. It is our intention to engage with the neighborhood about that plan. Probably in the next three to six months.

Mr. Poole stated that yes it does happen all the time – speeding with street repaving. It does not mean that we find it acceptable. It needs to be resolved. We need to come up with a plan.

President Brady stated that the important factor of Ms. Gilson’s presentation is that there will be community outreach. We will decide based on the needs and wants of that neighborhood. Ms. Gilson stated that was correct. He thanked Mr. Hallock for his passion but stated that nothing would be shoved down the neighborhood’s throats that does not belong there, or that there is opposition to.

Mr. Murray stated that the commission would have to approve any sale of real estate. So, it would be up to this body to make sure that we collaborate with staff and that we have the outcome that the community desires. He stated he would like to see speeding cameras used – it is a good solution. He is not sure if the public would support it.

Mr. Poole stated he agreed with speed cameras. He believes the neighborhoods that have the problems would support them. He believes we should invest in them. But with Osborne School it seems to him that if we get a developer that develops senior housing, then we would get the outcome that we want. He votes yes going forward with a developer that does senior housing.

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

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## ITEM 2 – Submitted by Aaron Klein, Public Works Director

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### **APPROVAL FOR PSA FOR PAVEMENT CONDITION SURVEY UPDATE WITH TRANSMAP**

**Budgetary Information:** The amount of the consultant fee for professional services is \$34,145.72 to be paid with Capital Projects funds.

**ORDINANCE NO. 23-211:** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into an agreement for professional services with Transmap Corporation of Columbus, Ohio, for the 2023 Pavement Condition Survey Update: 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. Poole, 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 stated that the costs are a little lower for this than when it was done about six years ago. When we did it before it was intended for five years. We need to do it again to see what streets are now in need of repair. This is a great tool which takes politics out of what street gets addressed next. That occurs in way too many communities, those in power get their street fixed first. Mr. Poggiali stated he thought the cost was very reasonable.

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

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## ITEM 3 – Submitted by Josh Snyder, Public Works Engineer

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## **APPROVAL TO AWARD CONTRACT FOR 2023 W. MONROE STREET OUTFALL PROJECT TO GREAT LAKES**

**Budgetary Information:** The construction cost shall not exceed \$553,951.00, which shall be paid with Sewer Funds.

**ORDINANCE NO. 23-212:** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Great Lakes Demolition Company LLC of Clyde, Ohio, for the 2023 West Monroe Street Outfall Project; 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.**

### **Comments:**

Mr. Klein stated we have storm sewers that charge directly to streams or to the bay or the lake. In this case the storm sewer goes directly to Mills Creek. There is also a portion that goes to the wastewater treatment plant. We would rather not send that water to the wastewater treatment plant but continue the outfall that goes to Mills Creek, since it is stormwater, not sewer water, and does not need treatment.

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

## **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

### **DONATIONS**

- A donation of \$2,306.97 for the K9 account was received from Dr. Robert Johnson of Peds on Wheels. The donation will be used to purchase ballistic vests for K9 Viggo and K9 Chase. Thank you, Dr. Johnson, for your generous donation. **Upon motion of Mr. Meinzer, and a second by Mr. Poggiali, the Commission voted to accept this donation. President Brady declared this donation accepted.**

## **NEW & OLD BUSINESS**

### **ADMINISTRATION**

- We accepted applications for the position of Law Director. An interview Committee was formed for first round interviews and then two candidates were submitted for the final round interviews. Upon reviewing applications and interviewing candidates, Stewart Hastings was determined to be the top candidate. I would like to thank Commissioner Murray, Interim Law Director Justin Harris, and other staff for their participation on the search committee for the new Law Director. I would like to ask for a motion from the Commission to approve the recommendation for hiring Stewart Hastings as the new Law Director. **Upon motion by Mr. Meinzer, and a second by Mr. Murray, the Commission voted to hire Mr. Hastings.**

### **Comments:**

Mr. Murray stated he did have the opportunity to meet Mr. Hastings and learn about his background, he has an extraordinarily rich background and career. He will bring a tremendous amount of building talent to the position. He will be a great member for the staff to work with. He seems to be a very accessible person. He did want to address one item that has come up in the public that there was an issue years ago when Mr. Hastings was in the City of Beachwood when they found it necessary to take steps to protect the fire chief. The Fire Chief was under assault in social media. It was highly suspected of being another employee because of the specifics included in those postings. Some are concerned that he took some steps to challenge that action to find the identity of the individual. The City did not have any choice in his judgement to move forward because they had an obligation to protect the fire chief from a hostile work environment.

Although the trial court resulted in denial of that motion, it did result in the cessation of that activity. First amendment rights are not absolute. We must use our right to speak in



public judiciously. Sometimes those rights intercept with other rights. There needs to be a balance. The advice Mr. Hastings provided was the right advice. Others can challenge that, and they did. That is the nature of the judicial system to work through those issues. He was only doing what he was asked to do by the administration, which was to protect the fire chief. He just wanted to take a minute to set that record straight.

Mr. Poggiali stated he wanted to welcome Mr. Hastings to 240 Columbus Avenue. We know you will have a fine and nice career here as our Law Director. He also bade farewell to Mr. Harris for filling in our time of need.

Mr. Harris thanked everyone for allowing him to pitch-hit. He did sit in on the interview for Mr. Hastings, and he echoed what the others had said about his qualifications being second to none in this process. He also stated Mr. Hastings reputation is impeccable, and his knowledge base far exceeds his own. As a city boy who was born and raised here, he knows the City is in good hands.

Mr. Meinzer stated he did receive an email from an anonymous Facebook group calling attention to another anonymous group, the accusations were from an unnamed individual playing keyboard war. He trusts the staff and the City Manager has the chief hiring and firing authority in the City, and he trusts his judgement.

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

#### **FINANCE**

- The next Finance Committee meeting will be on Friday November 3, 2023 at 8:00 am at City Hall.
- The Customer Accounting Office will begin assessing a credit card convenience fee on November 1, 2023. The convenience fee will be 2.5% of the transaction total, with a minimum of a \$2.00 fee. These are the same fees that are already assessed to the customers in the Building, Code, Community Development and Recreation departments. The convenience fees are collected by the credit card processing company to cover their expenses, the City does not receive any revenue from these fees.

#### **PUBLIC WORKS**

- Erie County Health Department will begin construction of a southbound right turn lane on Superior Street. Plans were approved by staff and will be inspected by the Engineering Division. Formal acceptance of this infrastructure will be presented at a future City Commission meeting once complete.
- Phase 1 of the Justice Center is nearing completion. SPD will be relocating to the new side of the building with slight changes to public access. At the same time, the Municipal Court will be relocating to the Service Center for the remainder of the project. Once dates are finalized, this information will be presented to the public via various outlets.
- The Butler Street Reconstruction project is set to begin the week of October 23, 2023, local traffic will be maintained along Butler Street, along with the Butler Street Ramp will remain open. A full closure is expected to go into place Monday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, through the remainder of reconstruction. Detour routes will be set up directing traffic to use alternate routes.
- Various divisions will begin routine winterization, including closure of restrooms and other facilities, saving any facility in-use for business or recreation until last, unless temperatures dictate otherwise.

- The drop-off area for bagged leaves is now open and located near the Marquette Drive entrance to the City Service Center. For questions about the City's curbside Leaf Collection Program, visit our website or call 419.627.5884.
- Work on the Monroe Street paving and Healthy Hayes safety projects were completed last week. Additionally, crews completed pavement repairs on Campbell St., funded by Norfolk Southern, over two days last week. This was done because Campbell received excessive wear and tear as a detour route during the Columbus Ave underpass closure.

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- The Department of Community Development will be seeking an RFP for the 2024-2029 Consolidated Plan Update and 2024 One Year Action Plan. Additional information will be available online on the city's website starting October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023-November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- The City of Sandusky has submitted a pre-application to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources – Coastal Management Assistance Program for improvements to accessibility of the Meigs Street Pier. The proposed scope includes sidewalk repair, regrading, fence removal and wayfinding. If invited to submit a full application, City staff will seek authorization from Commission. Full applications are likely due at the end of 2023.

### PLANNING

The Lange Trust in coordination with the Public Arts & Culture Commission and Sandusky Recreation staff has placed new sculptures around the city as part of the ongoing Midwest Sculpture Initiative. This annual program brings large scale sculptures by various artists into parks across the city for the public to enjoy. The locations and descriptions of each sculpture will be highlighted on an upcoming map which will be available at the Sandusky Library.

### RECREATION

- Sandusky Recreation would like to ask the city commission for permission to accept a \$1,000 grant from Sam's Club. This is a quality-of-life community grant for Improving access to recreation, arts, or cultural experiences for Out of School at Mills Rec. **Upon motion of Mr. Meinzer, and a second by Mr. Poggiali, the Commission approved accepting this grant. President Brady declared this motion passed.**

#### Comments:

Mr. Waddington inquired if the restroom on the Jackson Street Pier would be open for all the walkers. Mr. Orzech stated if it was open last year, it would remain open this year as well.

### OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Harris wanted to share his thoughts regarding the Recreation Center. He stated today I stand before you with immense pride and excitement as we continue to discuss a remarkable opportunity that has come our way. Thanks to the historic hundred-million-dollar deal with Cedar Point in 2021, we have been granted an opportunity that would reshape our community's future. Out of that deal, roughly fourteen million has been allocated for the creation of a recreation center. A facility that will undoubtedly enrich our lives and lives for generations to come. However, let us not ignore the truth, building and maintaining a recreation center comes with significant annual operating costs. This is not about turning a profit. It is about providing affordable and enriching programming for our residents and those in nearby areas. Unfortunately, without the passing of the levy, we cannot move forward in this endeavor. He has been following the discussions on Facebook and it is evident that many of our residents have strong opinions. Some wish for both a recreation center and a pool, which is entirely understandable. But tell me, how many of us have ever gotten everything we wanted, when we wanted it? The good news is the Aquatic Center being constructed at the high school offers shared usage through an agreement that has been put in place. He sees this as a complimentary addition to our recreation center, creating a hybrid that caters to a wide range of desires



without the exorbitant cost. Instead of spending millions on an outdoor pool that might be used for only a fraction of the year, our City contributed half a million dollars to the Aquatic Center providing us with year-round access for at least fifty percent of the time. This not only stretches our resources further, but also addresses the challenges of staffing and maintaining an outdoor pool. A challenge faced by many neighboring communities.

Responsibility lies not only with our elected officials but also with the community. I applaud the few who attended the public meeting last week regarding the recreation center, but he must express his disappointment with the low turnout. For nearly four years he has served in this position and has observed the disconnect between those who voice their concerns online and those who actively engage with the City's leadership and staff to make a difference. The limitations of our recreation center are clear. They may not include everything on everyone's wish list. He stated he has dreams of his own for it. However, he urges everyone to focus on what it does offer. It is indeed a step in the right direction expanding our community's amenities and providing our recreation department with a foundation to build upon the incredible programming they have already initiated at the former Mills School location. In closing, he encourages everyone if you have not already, to please get out and vote. He also thanked each and every one who is committed to the betterment of our City. Let us not be divided by our desires but unified by our shared goal of making Sandusky an even better place to live, work and play.

Mr. Poole stated he does not believe there should be a void after that promotion. Yes, there is a ballot issue dealing with funding a recreation center. He would suggest we have twenty million dollars of which he is not sure but spending fifteen million of it on one building with all the things we need to do in this community is a wise choice. He stated it has been suggested that we build it on an abandoned industrial site, we have alluded that it can be made suitable to be utilized for our kids to play on and that it is near the high school. He suggests that eighty percent of our children ride school buses. So, promoting this rec center idea because it is near the schools seems a little misleading to him, because he doubts that if children are riding the bus that they will skip their ride home to go to the rec center. The lack of turnout at the meetings could very well be because folks recognize that this fifteen-million-dollar building is not going to bring very much in terms of additional use for the community. Those who have single parents that ride the buses do not have a way to get there by themselves and back. There are just so many other things we can be doing with fifteen million dollars to provide recreational activities in the neighborhoods where kids can actually access them. Spending this kind of money then another added \$640,000 tax a year for only those kids that can get there, it does not make a lot of sense to him. There is a Boys and Girls Club in the east end, Mills School on the south side. He is not sure what else we need. He asks that everyone take that into consideration when they are deciding what to vote for. We will live with whatever the public decides. He would suggest that programming that meets the needs of the children in the areas that have full access to makes more sense than a building with a basketball court, offices for the recreation department, and some rooms you can exercise in. He does not see for the amount of money we are investing in this that there is enough bang for the buck for the children of the community in the long term.

Mr. Murray stated he would like to take Mr. Poole up on his salutation to disagree with him. First, he wished to echo what Mr. Harris said, his thoughtful comments, he could not improve on that. He did want to point out that we have an historic opportunity in front of us. This is an opportunity that will not come again. We have a lot of things aligned at the moment. We have an agreement with Cedar Point. We increased the admissions tax and added the parking tax with their support, because we had a handshake deal that we would dedicate seven-hundredthousand dollars of that income stream to building this building. No ARPA money is being used on building this project, it is the admissions tax money. We stated we would not leave a future commission with the task of maintaining or operating this building when the hard times come, and they always do. When hard times come, rec centers get closed. So, we always wanted a dedicated income stream to support the operations of the rec center. So, for the public – yes, all the contours of the rec center are defined, there has been a lot of discussion

here, there has been a lot reported in the newspaper, there is a lot on our website outlining what our intent is. We have to go through the planning process next. If the voters say go forward. Then we will have a much better process of finding out what this thing will look like, how large it can be, and what we can afford. Then we go out to bid. That is another eighteen months to two years. He certainly hopes that is something we get to do.

Mr. Poggiali wanted to clarify that federal funds were not being used. Sometimes the public may feel that we are shoving something down their throat, or they do not get a say. The public gets a say this time. He thinks that is particularly important. That is how this process should work. If we don't pass this levy, we have all decided we cannot move forward, because we don't have that dedicated funding stream. He is happy this is how the process works. We will find out after the public votes.

Mr. Meinzer stated although it may seem we do not all agree on this, we are all kind of on the same page. He believes for the square foot building we are purposing we can almost cut those costs in half if we get the right developer. We are not voting on the building, at some point we will. If it costs fourteen million, then he may be opposed to it. If you missed the presentation, he encourages people to look it up on the website or see the flyer about it.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

President Brady asked for a motion to appoint Mr. Harris to serve on the Benefit Review Committee. **Upon motion of Mr. Waddington, and a second by Mr. Murray, Mr. Harris is appointed to the Benefit Review Committee. Roll call: Mr. Poole, Mr. Murray, Mr. Brady, Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Waddington, Mr. Harris, and Mr. Meinzer, 7. President Brady declared this motion passed.**

President Brady wished to turn the attention to Mr. Waddington and Mr. Poggiali since they have suggested a concept that is long overdue that is an outreach in the community to acknowledge some of the many people that have led us on the edge of our economic development. Mr. Poggiali stated that he and Mr. Waddington had talked about some sort of recognition of people who were instrumental in developing the downtown area, sort of an urban pioneer award. Originally, we thought about doing it with the Volunteer of the Year awards in September, but we thought maybe we should separate the two. We wanted to start with people that developed before it was cool, back when you could roll a bowling ball through downtown. These people had vision and put their money on the line. It will be put together in the next couple of months and forthcoming. Mr. Waddington added it was Steve's idea to add it after the Volunteer awards, which was our third year. Maybe in the future we can look out into the neighborhoods to those who took chances and helped to develop homes and such, beyond the Beautification Awards.

### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Alonda Gant, 315 W. Osborne Street, wanted to speak about the rec center. She is disappointed that Mr. Poole thinks it is a waste of money. She has a sixteen-year-old son that goes to Sandusky High School. She was one of the three people that attended the rec center meeting at Mills School. Many may say it is just a walking track and basketball hoops but she has watched her little cousins and people commute to Norwalk, to Fremont, to join teams for their kids to play, even little kids, because we cannot organize teams to play at our own rec center. So, these families pay and drive in the evening so their kids can play. That money could be going to our own facility. It is a convenient location as opposed to Sports Force. Eighty percent of the school kids do not ride buses. She is big on an outdoor pool. Yes, they are building the Aquatic Center at the high school. She grew up going to Surf's Up and Osborne Park pool. Our kids will never have the memories of the summer fun with their friends hanging out at the pool. It defeats the purpose of beating the heat if you have to go inside to swim. She hopes the levy passes, and if the commission would cater to the citizens, they would agree with anything they want to do for the tourists. She really feels the citizens are neglected, the youth have nothing. Schools do not offer open gyms for the kids. The Splash Pads are nice – but not for older kids. Please look at the bigger picture of what it can do for our community. So, then we would not have to drive to Norwalk for a pool, or

basketball or baseball games. This is one of the top ten waterfront cities in the country – why do we not have a recreation center? The money from Cedar Point should be spent on making the citizens happy. She is very passionate about this.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Upon motion of Mr. Meinzer, the Commission moved to adjourn at 5:57 p.m. President Brady declared the meeting adjourned.**



Cathleen A. Myers  
Commission Clerk



Richard R. Brady  
President of the City Commission