

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

The Clerk called the roll and the following Commissioners responded: Steve Poggiali, Dave Waddington, Blake Harris, Wesley Poole, Mr. Murray, and Dick Brady, 6. Upon motion of Mr. Waddington and a second by Mr. Harris, the commission voted to excuse Mr. Meinzer. President Brady declared this motion passed.

City staff present: John Orzech – City Manager, Cody Browning – IT Manager, Tiffany Rufo – GIS Analyst, Stewart Hastings – Law Director, Michelle Reeder – Finance Director, Aaron Klein – Public Works Director, Colleen Gilson – Community Development Director, Jared Oliver - Police Chief, Mario D’Amico - Fire Chief, Arin Blair – Chief Planner, Tom Horsman – Communications Manager, Jason Werling – Recreation Superintendent, 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 November 27, regular meeting and suspend the reading. President Brady declared the motion passed.

PRESENTATION: Kiwanis Imagination Library – Anne McGookey

Ms. McGookey introduced Missy Timko, the State coordinator, and the regional director as well. She stated that we are reminded of our blessings especially this time of the year, and in particular the people who care about our community such as the Sandusky City Commission. On behalf of Kiwanis Club, she stated they wanted to thank the Commission for their ongoing support of this important program which encourages and supports early childhood literacy. She stated she could not think of a better way to express this appreciation other than to have you hear directly, as they say, from the mouths of babes, and their parents. Ms. McGookey introduced two families that represent the many children in Sandusky and Erie County that are reaping the benefit of the amazing books that are supported by this program. Melissa Frisch and her three-year-old daughter, Kingsley Killian and Hannah Miller and her nine-month-old son, Cairo Pace spoke briefly about their enjoyable and learning experience with the program. Ms. McGookey thanked the Commission for their generosity in supporting this program which gives books monthly to children from birth to five years.

President Brady stated that the Commission has a multi-year commitment to this program and they are only in year two.

Ms. Timko stated that Erie County is a great example of local governments working together on this program, something she would love to see replicated in every county.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street, stated she would like to comment on the \$900,000.00 grant given to the Greater Sandusky Partnership (GSP). This is for event planning, marketing, and some development. This is part of the Cedar Point MOU – strings attached clause. She looks at this as money for consultant lobbyists for businesspeople. She asked, where is our consultant lobbyist? She stated we should not be giving out this kind of money, this is \$300,000.00 each year for three years. If the City is going to spend that kind of money, why can't we have our own consultant? Why don't we hire our own and put him on contract so there is more transparency. Non-profit does not have transparency. We have no idea what they are doing. She stated she asked for the invoice last time they were paid, and the invoice stated \$125,000.00 for six months of their work. It was not detailed. We have no idea what they spent that money on. We only have a general idea. If we had our own contracted out consultant it would be for all the people, not just for the businesspeople. She stated she had six questions. In Section 39, is this not a violation of the Charter, because this is being passed and we have three new commissioners sitting here that cannot weigh in on this issue. Is this a coincidence? This should have waited until these commissioners were seated. Her second question is about the grant to GSP, is some of this money to pay for salaries. There are some heavy hitter salaries listed for GSP: the CEO, the Chairman, and the Destination Manager. She would like to know if Joe Roman has a development

consulting firm under contract as a third party for GSP. She would like to see invoice details and she would like Ms. Reeder, Finance Director, if the invoice will be detailed as to what they spent this money for. She also asked Ms. Reeder how the City promises money three years in advance when the budget is yearly? How can she certify money like that? She stated that GSP is a powerful non-profit with a lot of non-profits under their umbrella. She is concerned they will become a shadow government with Mr. Wobser as a Co-City Manager. We elect seven City Commissioners; we do not elect GSP to run this City.

Robert Resley, Subway owner on Wayne Street, stated he has been involved in businesses in the City of Sandusky since 1984. There is an issue on the Subway, with the new color. Colors mean a lot, especially to smaller businesses like his. He stated they go to work every day and do the best they can. Corporate came up with the color and we painted the building that. He did the same in Huron, Monroeville, Bellevue, and different cities. It was a hit, everyone seemed to like it. He was informed at one of his meetings that the shade is not the right shade, it is too bright. It does what it was meant to do. He stated he is being asked to change the color and to go backwards on something that is working. How does he know this? We have over one hundred names on a petition of people saying they like the color. For him to be asked to put more money into the building, of which he takes care of, and go backwards and darken the color, seems very contrary to the reason he is there to attract customers. He has seen throughout the City, and they have done a great job, with murals that draw attention. All he is asking for is a reconsideration for us on this color that is very positive.

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. Upon motion of Mr. Murray, and a second by Mr. Poggiali, the commission voted to untable Item 1 of the Regular Agenda. Roll call – All. President Brady declared this motion passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

ITEM A – Submitted by John Orzech, City Manager

PERMISSION TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERNET SALES IN CY 2024

Budgetary Information: The City is responsible for the disposal of unneeded property to promote operational efficiency. Using public internet auction for the disposal of unneeded items will generate more revenue and make items available to a larger community of potential buyers. Proceeds from sales will be deposited into the account of the department financially responsible for the assets.

RESOLUTION NO. 054-23R: It is requested a resolution be passed declaring the intent of the City of Sandusky to dispose of personal property and equipment as having become obsolete, unnecessary, or unfit for City use through internet auctions during the calendar year 2024, making general appropriations for the fiscal year 2023; and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

ITEM B – Submitted by Aaron Klein, Public Works Director

APPROVAL TO PAY THE OHIO EPA LICENSE TO OPERATE FEE FOR BIWW CY 2024

Budgetary Information: The total amount of \$12,180.00 shall be paid with Water funds and has been appropriated in the O & M Budget for 2023.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-229: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the Finance Director to make payment to the State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for the renewal of the license to operate a public water system for the calendar year 2024; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

ITEM C – Submitted by Aaron Klein, Public Works Director

APPROVAL TO PAY THE OHIO EPA ANNUAL DISCHARGE FEE FOR WWTP CY 2023

Budgetary Information: The total amount of \$15,550.00 shall be paid with Sewer funds and has been appropriated in the O & M Budget for 2023.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-230: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the Finance Director to make payment to the State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for the

annual discharge fee for NPDES permit number 2PF00001 for the Wastewater Treatment Plant for the CY 2023; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

ITEM D – Submitted by Aaron Klein, Public Works Director

APPROVAL TO SUBMIT TO OHIO'S URBAN FORESTRY GRANT PROGRAM 2023

Budgetary Information: No funds will be expended for submitting a grant application. The estimated cost of the project is \$125,000. Projects funded through this opportunity will receive a full match waiver, with the requirement that 100% of the program benefits are delivered to disadvantaged communities.

RESOLUTION NO. 055-23R: It is requested a resolution be passed approving the submission of a grant application to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, for financial assistance through the Urban Forestry Grant Program for a tree planting project as part of the MacArthur Park Roadway and Utility Improvements Project; and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

ITEM E – Submitted by Aaron Klein, Public Works Director

APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT #1 TO PDSA FOR E. PERKINS AVENUE WATERLINE PROJECT WITH BRAMHALL

Budgetary Information: The not-to-exceeded cost for professional design services is \$3,351.00 to be paid with City Water Funds, increasing the total contract amount to \$22,251.00.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-231: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into an amendment to the agreement for Professional Design Services with Bramhall Engineering & Surveying Company of Avon, Ohio, for the East Perkins Avenue Waterline Replacement Project in conjunction with the East Perkins Avenue Resurfacing Project; 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 2024 CHEMICAL CONTRACTS FOR BIWW AND THE WWTP

Budgetary Information: Funds for the purchase of these items are routinely included in the operating budgets of the Water and Sewer Plants.

1. **ORDINANCE NO. 23-232:** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to purchase 12,000 gallons, more or less, of liquid sodium permanganate from Bonded Chemicals Inc. of Columbus, Ohio, for use at the Big Island Water Works Plant during the calendar year 2024; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

2. **ORDINANCE NO. 23-233:** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to purchase 17,000 gallons, more or less, of hydrofluosilicic acid from Bonded Chemicals Inc. of Columbus, Ohio, for use at the Big Island Water Works Plant during the calendar year 2024; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

3. **ORDINANCE NO. 23-234:** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to purchase 50,000 gallons, more or less, of sodium hydroxide liquid from Univar USA Inc. of Cincinnati, Ohio, for use at the Big Island Water Works Plant during the calendar year 2024; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

4. **ORDINANCE NO. 23-235:** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to purchase 90,000 gallons, more or less, of sodium hypochlorite from Bonded Chemicals Inc. of Columbus, Ohio, for use at the Big Island Water Works Plant during the calendar year 2024; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

5. **ORDINANCE NO. 23-236:** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to purchase 110,500 gallons, more or less, of aluminum sulfate polymer blend from Applied Specialties, Inc., of Avon Lake, Ohio, for use at the Big Island Water Works Plant during the calendar year 2024; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

6. **ORDINANCE NO. 23-237:** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to purchase 155,000 pounds, more or less, of powdered activated carbon from Chemrite Inc. of Buford, Georgia, for use at the Big Island Water Works Plant during the calendar

year 2024; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

7. ORDINANCE NO. 23-238: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to purchase 350,000 pounds, more or less, of ferrous chloride solution from Kemira Water Solutions, Inc., of Lawrence, Kansas, for use at the Wastewater Treatment Plant during the calendar year 2024; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

8. ORDINANCE NO. 23-239: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to purchase 88,000 pounds, more or less, of polymer liquid from SNF Polydyne Inc. of Riceboro, Georgia, for use at the Wastewater Treatment Plant during the calendar year 2024; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

ITEM G – Submitted by Josh Snyder, Public Works Engineer

APPROVAL TO AMEND ORDINANCE 21-082 FOR ENCROACHMENT LICENSE FOR 426 WARREN STREET

Budgetary Information: The cost of the recording is estimated to be \$90.00 and will be paid for using Capital Funds.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-240: It is requested an ordinance be passed amending Ordinance No. 21-082, passed on June 14, 2021; authorizing the City Manager to enter into a license agreement with Scott and Dawn Gallagher, to provide for the use of a certain portion of the City's right-of-way, as described in the grant of a license for encroachment, for purposes of retaining an existing brick planter and building; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

ITEM H – Submitted by Josh Snyder, Public Works Engineer

APPROVAL TO SUBMIT SYSTEMIC SAFETY IMPROVEMENT GRANT APPLICATIONS TO ODOT

Budgetary Information: There is no financial obligation to apply for said grant(s). Any further project development (planning, design, construction, etc.) requiring expenditures over \$10,000 will be forthcoming to the City Commission for approval.

1. RESOLUTION NO. 056-23R: It is requested a resolution be passed authorizing the filing of a grant application with the Ohio Department of Transportation for financial assistance through the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Systemic Safety Improvement Program for the Washington Parks Pedestrian Improvements Project; and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

2. RESOLUTION NO. 057-23R: It is requested a resolution be passed authorizing the filing of a grant application with the Ohio Department of Transportation for financial assistance through the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Systemic Safety Improvement Program for the East Cleveland Road (US Rte 6) Sidewalk, Curb & Drainage Project; and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

3. RESOLUTION NO. 058-23R: It is requested a resolution be passed authorizing the filing of a grant application with the Ohio Department of Transportation for financial assistance through the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Systemic Safety Improvement Program for the Cleveland Road Revetment Project; and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

ITEM I – Submitted by Josh Snyder, Public Works Engineer

APPROVAL OF C/O #1 & FINAL DEDUCT FOR E. MONROE STREET PROJECT WITH ERIE BLACKTOP

Budgetary Information: The original contract with Erie Blacktop Inc. of Sandusky, Ohio was \$769,134.27, Change Order 1 is a decrease of \$13,472.18, making the final cost of the project \$755,662.09 of which \$589,064.35 will be paid with ODOT funds and \$166,597.74 paid for with Capital Projects funds (Issue 8).

ORDINANCE NO. 23-241: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to approve the first & final change order for work performed by Erie Blacktop, Inc. of Sandusky, Ohio, for the East Monroe Street Resurfacing Project; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

ITEM J – Submitted by Megan Stookey, Project Manager

APPROVAL OF C/O #1 & FINAL DEDUCT FOR 2023 SIDEWALK REPAIR PROJECT WITH HULA CONSTRUCTION

Budgetary Information: The original contract with JMJ Incorporated, LTD d.b.a Hula Construction of Castalia, Ohio, was \$153,628.70, Change Order 1 is a decrease of \$12,483.81, making the final cost of the project \$141,144.89 of which \$75,752.11 will be paid with Capital Projects Funds (Issue 8 Infrastructure), \$18,075.68 paid with American Rescue Act Funds and the remaining balance of \$47,317.10 paid with Capital Improvement Funds.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-242: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to approve the first & final change order for work performed by JMJ Incorporated LTD, d.b.a. Hula Construction of Castalia, Ohio, for the 2023 Sidewalk Repair & Replacement Project; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

ITEM K – Submitted by Scott Thom, Chief Building Official

APPROVAL OF 2024 CONSULTING CONTRACT WITH GEORGE POULOS

Budgetary Information: Mr. Poulos will be paid at the rate of \$2,500 per month for work performed for a total of \$30,000.00. The cost of this contract will be paid with the Building Division operating budget. The plan review expense will be paid by the collection of plan review fees by the Building Division. This contract can be terminated at any time, by either party, with thirty (30) day notice to the other party.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-243: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a consulting contract with George J. Poulos for CY 2024; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

ITEM L – Submitted by Scott Thom, Chief Building Official

APPROVAL OF 2024 CONSULTING CONTRACT WITH ROBERT STADLER

Budgetary Information: Mr. Stadler will be paid at the rate of \$55.00 per hour for work performed up to a maximum of \$7,500.00. The cost of this contract will be paid with the Building Division operating budget. The plan review expense will be paid by the collection of plan review fees by the Building Division. This contract can be terminated at any time, by either party, with thirty (30) day notice to the other party.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-244: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a consulting contract with Robert G. Stadler for CY 2024; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

ITEM M – Submitted by Colleen Gilson, Community Development Director

APPROVAL TO SUBMIT ODNR COASTAL MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Budgetary Information: There is no impact on the City of Sandusky budget. The estimated cost of the project is \$89,870.00 of which \$39,870.00 will initially be paid with City funds and then, if awarded, reimbursed through the program. The required match of \$50,000.00 (at least 50% match) will be paid with funds from the joint Structural Maintenance Fund in accordance with the terms of the Battery Park Lease Agreement.

RESOLUTION NO. 059-23R: It is requested a resolution be passed approving the submission of a grant application to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Office of Coastal Management for financial assistance through the FY 2024 Coastal Management Assistance Grant Program for field exploration and geotechnical assistance at the Meigs Street Pier and Battery Park Marina; and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

ITEM N – Submitted by Nicole Grohe, CDBG Program Administrator

APPROVAL OF CONTRACT FOR HUD FY 24-29 CONSOLIDATED PLAN & 2024 ACTION PLAN WITH WADE TRIM

Budgetary Information: The cost for the professional services for the coordination, administration, development, and implementation of the City's CDBG 2024-2029 Consolidated Plan and 2024 One-Year Action Plan is \$27,000 and if requested, the cost of the AIFH study is \$11,900 for a total cost of \$38,900. There is no impact to the City's General Fund. All funds will be allocated out of the FY 2023 CDBG funds.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-245: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Wade Trim Associates, Inc., of Detroit, Michigan, for professional services for the preparation of the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) 2024-2029 Consolidated Plan, 2024 One-Year Action Plan, and update to the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing (AIFH); and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

ITEM O – Submitted by Michelle Reeder, Finance Director**APPROVAL OF 2024 ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEES 2% WAGE INCREASE**

Budgetary Information: The amount needed for this salary increase in 2024 is \$64,868.23. This amount will be paid from the appropriate fund based on the employee's job duties.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-246: It is requested an ordinance be passed approving a wage increase for the City's non-probationary administrative employees; authorizing the Finance Director to expend the necessary funds; 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. Waddington, the commission voted to accept the Consent Agenda and declare all ordinances and resolutions as drafted and presented to the City Commission under the Consent Agenda shall take effect in accordance with the Section 14 of the City Charter.

Comments:

Mr. Murray wanted to tip the hat to the incoming commissioners, this is something borrowed from the school board, the consent agenda. There were some members who resisted this who loved to hear the clerk pronounce words such as sodium permanganate. We have been working with the Consent Agenda now for eight years and we have judiciously not put things on there to slide them under the table, if it needs to be discussed it is on the regular agenda.

Roll call on the motion: Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Waddington, Mr. Harris, Mr. Poole, Mr. Murray, and Mr. Brady, 6. Roll call on the ordinances and resolutions: Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Waddington, Mr. Harris, Mr. Poole, Mr. Murray, and Mr. Brady, 6. President Brady declared these ordinances and resolutions passed.

REGULAR AGENDA**ITEM 1 – Submitted by Colleen Gilson, Community Development Director (TABLED)****APPROVAL OF ED FUND GRANT AGREEMENT WITH WTF-R2 INVESTMENTS**

Budgetary Information: The City will be responsible for providing \$15,000 in grant proceeds from the Economic Development Capital Projects Fund on a reimbursement basis.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-247: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and approving a grant in the amount of \$15,000.00 through the Economic Development Fund Program to WTF-R2 Investments LLC (d.b.a. What the Fried Rice) in relation to the property located at 186 East Market Street; 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 commented that he after further consideration and discussions with some colleges, he believes this grant is appropriate, and he is satisfied more importantly that Ms. Gilson already has in the works a series of modifications to our grant program for the commission to consider going forward. We can be a bit more stingy in terms of grant awards and some conditions we put on grants or loans.

Mr. Poole stated he also met with Ms. Gilson and the City Manager, and they are well on their way to writing a much better document for our grants going forward. He is comfortable with this.

Roll call on the motion: Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Waddington, Mr. Harris, Mr. Poole, Mr. Murray, and Mr. Brady, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Waddington, Mr. Harris, Mr. Poole, Mr. Murray, and Mr. Brady, 6. President Brady declared this ordinance passed.

ITEM 2 – Submitted by Colleen Gilson, Community Development Director**APPROVAL OF GREATER SANDUSKY PARTNERSHIP GRANT**

Budgetary Information: The City will be responsible for providing \$300,000 per year in grant proceeds for a period of three years from sources as follows:

- \$150k from Capital Projects Funds (Programming Funds)
- \$30k from General Fund (Community Development, old ECEDC funding)
- \$50k From General Fund (Marketing fund)
- \$70k from Capital Projects Funds (Issue 8 ED Grants)

The grant will be subject to annual renewal based on performance and deliverables met.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-248: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and approving a grant in the amount of \$900,000.00 to the Greater Sandusky Partnership for the purpose of furthering community and economic development and providing services to the City; and declaring that this ordinance shall take effect under suspension of the rules as contained in and in accordance with Section 13 of the City Charter.

Upon motion of Mr. Waddington, and second by Mr. Murray, the commission voted to adopt this ordinance as drafted under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 13 of the City Charter.

Comments:

Ms. Gilson stated that today we ask permission for a grant in the amount of \$300,000.00 per year for three years to the Great Sandusky Partnership. This investment is an expression of support in the creation of a regional comprehensive vision for improving quality of life and economic vibrancy for our residents and for attracting newcomers and visitors to the greatest destination of the Great Lakes. If approved, the funds will be used to cover expenses related to operations of the Greater Sandusky Partnership as well as direct programming coordinated in offer by the organization. The Great Sandusky Partnership has committed that at least fifty percent of the grant, \$150,000.00 or more, will be used to cover special events, project and program implementation, and planning advocacy efforts. In 2022 this body supported the Greater Sandusky Partnership with a grant in the amount of \$150,000.00. She noted a portion of that grant was earmarked for the Erie County Economic Development Corporation. Today's request is consistent with the 2022 commitment. The additional funds you are being asked to consider will cover programming such as Party at the Pier and a variety of other special events designed to continue the momentum in making Sandusky a year-round special and unique place for residents and visitors. With us today to speak more about the organization and its areas of focus is Greater Sandusky Partnership's Executive Director, Eric Wobser. Mr. Wobser will share with you the scope of work submitted by the Greater Sandusky Partnership which details the four areas the partnership will carry out and grow over the course of this grant term. These areas include placemaking through Destination Sandusky, housing production, advocacy and planning, and regional economic development. Mr. Wobser and his staff have worked closely with Ms. Gilson and the Community Development Department to develop benchmarks related to the request. The Greater Sandusky Partnership will present year-end progress on an annual basis on their progress toward achievement of those stated metrics for success. Beyond the close collaboration we have with the Greater Sandusky Partnership and their affiliate organizations, ECEDC, the Erie County Chamber of Commerce, and Destination Sandusky staff will also meet quarterly to track progress realizing these goals. At this time, she invited Mr. Wobser to address the City Commission, staff, residents and stakeholders on this request.

Mr. Wobser stated that Ms. Gilson gave a thorough report. He stated he wanted to thank the commission and the City Manager. He introduced members of his organization. He stated this is a comprehensive opportunity for our region to build on the success that it has had under the leadership of this commission and will have under the leadership of a future commission. The conversation for the need of a scaled up economic development partner that took the smaller organizations is a twenty-year conversation. He stated he cannot take any credit for having brought this finally together, it was Duff Mielke's leadership with the partnership of many others who came together based on commitments just like the one the City made in 2022, that we are asking the City to make again tonight, a three-year commitment from the City's largest employers: the City, Civista, Cedar Fair, Firelands Health, Shores and Islands Ohio, all of which are made under the idea that we can go further together than we can individually. He stated to be responsive to the comment from the audience, the last thing they report to be or would ever be is a shadow government or co-partner to the City. We have a strong city manager and a strong commission. We respect and hope to be a responsive partner who can pool the city's resources with other private resources, philanthropic resources and other local government partners, as well as state and federal government. The Greater Sandusky Partnership (GSP) is a regional economic development organization created from the consolidation of existing organizations including Erie County Economic Development Corporation (ECEDC), Firelands Forward, Erie

County Chamber of Commerce, and Destination Sandusky. Their mission: The GSP's mission is to enhance the quality of life and economic vibrancy of the region, and position it as the greatest destination on the Great Lakes. And there are other programs that are looking at becoming affiliated with GSP as well. And while this all has a regional footprint, the largest part of this contract is for the work we will do under Destination Sandusky which was the case in 2021 when the City first committed to be a partner of GSP, because Destination Sandusky specifically has a focus on the place-based redevelopment marketing and programming of downtown Sandusky. Through special events like Party at the Pier, that is part of that contract. The commitment through contract with GSP does with a private-public partnership is it gives us the opportunity to go to our base of four-hundred members and raise additional private sponsors to leverage the City's dollars further. There is a rebranding process that McKenzie led with a group of stakeholders of which the City participated in for a brand for the Destination Sandusky organization, but also a brand for Sandusky. That group of stakeholders from the public and private sector in the downtown community, in the neighborhood community, Cedar Point, many others were represented, but the idea is we can help push that brand to market us a destination for new residents, new visitors, and for those who want to invest in business here. Merchant services and retail included the Farmer's Market, this is the first year of management by Destination Sandusky. As we focus on large scale projects for the region, it is the way to attract investment and jobs and there are those great investment happening. Part of this is waking up every day and providing the critical services to each part of this city that create a magnet for people. In housing production: we are working to create an affordable housing project at Osborne School, through Firelands Forward the housing study shows that we need thousands of units of housing in Sandusky and Erie County, ranging from affordable to market rate. Simply put, we are not building enough housing, part of this contract is for us to work in the City, working with the City Commission and staff to identify the types of housing are appropriate for the City. Creating a pipeline of sites and a pipeline of potential interested builders to make the connections between those two things will upscale housing production which is part of this agreement. In advocacy and planning: a great example is Mr. Klein attracting a twenty-four and a half million dollar federal grant to the Route Six and Pathway Project. That is exactly the type of investment that we can use the weight of the private sector to combine the public's priorities. How do we bring more resources from the state and federal government back to our community for our regional priorities as established by our City Commission. We think we can do that. A part of conversations as it relates to the transit system, he stated he knows they can be a voice to help bring onboard additional partners to priorities that emerge from that plan. Once we identify local priorities from the democratic process and make sure we rally around those and all of us are going in the right direction to attract more resources into the community. In regional economic development: you have seen investments through places such as American Quality Stripping, Okimoto, Loris Printing and several other investments have flowed from the state to businesses located right in Sandusky equaling millions of dollars. ECEDC has historically been a conduit of those funds to the local community. We believe we can scale that work up. We are also the administrator to the Erie County Port Authority. That is a tool that can be used to attract more financing for projects that make it easier to do development in Sandusky and Erie County. The RISE Program has been a long-standing program that the City has supported that supports people who are trying to start businesses. They layered in the MBET proponent which has helped twenty minority businesses, the majority which are based in Sandusky, we will continue that work. There is a very detailed proposal that was developed through five or six meetings with Ms. Gilson. We specifically developed how we can deliver and track our success through regular meetings and reports. The reason for asking for a three-year commitment is because as we all know a strong foundation for growth does not happen overnight. We will have short-term wins, we had one Friday night – The Winter Wonderland was a great event. Metrics for Success: over 100 events yearly, 10% annual reduction in empty storefronts, create a pipeline of housing developers and increase housing starts by 10% within term of contract, increase state and federal investment in priority projects, create at least \$10 M in annual private business investment in Sandusky, support the creation of an average of thirty jobs annually, and to provide technical resources and support to over one-hundred-fifty small businesses.

Mr. Murry stated he wanted to give a bit of history; when he first joined the commission eighteen years ago, we were at odds with ourselves and every other community in the area. We were not getting anywhere. We were falling behind. All these wars took a toll on the City. We were not a partner that we should have been to economic growth in a larger community. That changed ten years ago, Mr. Wobser had a lot to do with that. It also had a lot to do with the Commission's resolve to put ourselves in a better place. We developed a strategic plan, and we began executing upon it. Having the plan was critical, having the ability to execute on it was critical, having the political will to execute on it was also essential. But somewhere along the way five or six years ago, it began to occur to me that we just lacked the right platform in order to be able to tackle some of these larger problems. Economic development needs to be handled on a larger basis not just in the city or county, but regional. It needs to occur in the context of conversation with businesses and other communities. We need the investment and the expertise of the folks. Participating in a public forum versus having conversations among themselves provides for a different result. He stated he understands the transparency issues, but transparency sometimes is counter productive to economic development. Some of those conversations must occur in private, and those decisions are well supported by Ohio law. We have got ourselves to this point, we are about five to six years into the City's transformation – and a wonderful thing happened that Duff Mielke had started, along with many others, an effort to develop something like GSP. He had watched what had been happening in Cuyahoga County and Cleveland, they had a partnership for growth which was very successful. He thought that model made a lot of sense for Sandusky, and he has been talking about it ever since. This is the most important thing to come along since the Bicentennial Plan and the work that we have done in the last ten years, in his opinion. This is what is necessary in order to be able to ramp up the success of the last ten years and to take that to the next level. The City does not by itself have the ability to address the housing needs that are evident in the area, it does not have the ability to address the workforce development needs alone. If we do not have something like GSP and the efforts that it will be able to make, he does not think we will sustain the trajectory that we have in the area. There is always the question about the incoming commission, do you vote on the legislation that you have been working on for a long period of time, or do you kick that down the road to the next commission. He has seen this question six times, when an old commission is wrapping up business and a new commission in the wings, his opinion on that is we have been looking at this for years. It is time to make this happen and vote. He very much supports making the decision today and continuing the conversation into the future with his incoming comrades.

Mr. Poggiali stated that one of the reasons he is going to vote yes is because we have got all these other entities' funding mechanisms that are willing to back this effort. One thing about Mr. Wobser is, love him or hate him, he can bring some development and deals to the table. Then it is inherent on us to analyze those deals and to either approve them or deny them. He believes we have the right man for the job. And if these other entities are willing to back him, we have got to give him a chance. There is a clause that says the grant will be subject to annual renewal for the new commission to look at next year when we move forward.

Mr. Poole stated between now and next week he would like some information about the financing in terms of why capital projects funds were chosen as opposed to other funds. The funds from Issue Eight, how much of that is going into economic development. Likewise, the Admissions Tax funds. He is not sure he wants us to do fewer projects such as Transit and sewer flooding. It would be nice to know all the members in this and what they are contributing. He believes that yes this is probably necessary for our region to progress. If we can accomplish what has been put before us, it is a good thing.

Mr. Wobser stated just to clarify, while it is listed under capital projects, the programming and marketing funds are funds that we set aside specifically for programming and marketing as part of Issue Eight. There was always a transfer, it is not taking any funds that were to be spent on infrastructure. It is just how the funds are set up by the state.

Mr. Poole stated it may be a lot of duplicating in marketing and things that we have already started, and he needs to be sure that the funds we give GSP are the funds we were already spending. He wants to be sure some other line item it not shorted. The folks that own the

businesses that get the customers to make the money, those that ride the bus are still cold out standing in the cold.

President Brady stated he perceives this as much more than economic development – it is growing the population, which is essential to a vibrant city. There are so many of our strategic partners that are already onboard and they are onboard for long commitments. He stated he believes we have talented economic development people on our staff. But this is so much more than that. Our bandwidth to accomplish things like this can never be done in a city our size. We are blessed to have this idea come to fruition at this point in time. And we have metrics to measure its success and we will. He stated he is a firm believer as he was in ECEDC eleven years ago when we first put thirty thousand dollars into it. Now we are investing three hundred thousand dollars. This is bread cast on the water that will return more than tenfold. He knows it is a big ask, but he is counting on it.

Roll call on the motion: Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Waddington, Mr. Harris-abstain, Mr. Poole, Mr. Murray, and Mr. Brady, 5. Roll call on the ordinance: Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Waddington, Mr. Harris-abstain, Mr. Poole, Mr. Murray, and Mr. Brady, 5. President Brady declared this ordinance passed.

ITEM 3 – Submitted by Colleen Gilson, Community Development Director

APPROVAL OF 2ND AMENDMENT TO FEICK BUILDING ENTERPRISE ZONE AGREEMENT

Budgetary Information: The percentage and number of years of real property tax abatement provided to the project will remain the same. The project will have an ongoing positive impact on the general fund due to increased income and property taxes.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-249: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a second amendment to the Enterprise Zone Agreement with Feick Building LLC, relating to property located at 158-160 East Market Street; 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. 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 Feick Building Project was completed in the fall of 2023, and rental of the units is underway. On October 19th of this year the City was notified by the Chief Deputy of the County Auditor that a commercial appraiser will not post any value for the new improvements at the Feick Building until the tax year 2024 for the collection in 2025, requiring a second amendment to this agreement. The enterprise zone second amendment is needed to reflect that no exemption under the enterprise zone agreement shall commence after 2024 or extend beyond 2033.

Mr. Murray stated that we have had this come up several times over the years that we have had a tax abatement that we have approved for a project that was interrupted. This is the best excuse we have ever seen. The offices they envisioned were turned into apartments which will serve our community well. He believes it is appropriate to approve this as well.

Roll call on the motion: Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Waddington, Mr. Harris, Mr. Poole, Mr. Murray, and Mr. Brady, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Waddington, Mr. Harris, Mr. Poole, Mr. Murray, and Mr. Brady, 6. President Brady declared this ordinance passed.

ITEM 4 – Submitted by Arin Blair, Chief Planner

APPROVAL OF LANDMARK COMMISSION APPEAL FOR 160 WAYNE STREET

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

RESOLUTION NO. 060-23R: It is requested a resolution be passed remanding MRE Development Co. LLC's, d.b.a. Subway®, appeal of the Sandusky Landmark Commission decision to deny the Certificate of Appropriateness for exterior paint color alternations of the building located at 160 Wayne Street to the Landmark Commission in order to hold a *de novo* hearing; 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. Murray, the commission voted to adopt this resolution #1 as drafted under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

Comments:

Mr. Poole asked if no motion is made on a resolution, then it dies, correct? Yes, you are correct, replied President Brady.

Mr. Hastings stated that was correct but a motion could be revisited if it was wanted and that the clerk should read all three options for the commission to choose which one they wished to motion on.

Mr. Murray stated that he understood the owner did not have an opportunity to present at the Landmark Commission meeting, and it was a miscommunication. He believes it would be best if the Landmark Commission had the opportunity to consider the arguments the gentleman presented tonight.

Mr. Poole stated he cannot support this resolution. The Landmark Commission had the information that this gentleman presented to us tonight, he simply did not have the opportunity to present it personally, it was included in their agenda packet. Making him wait since Landmark has already cancelled their next meeting, which means he is going to have to wait until they decide to have another meeting and he then has to go through the process and come back here to talk to them, of which he spent forty seconds talking about, and giving him a second no and sending him back to us, is unreasonable. This commission should decide tonight. Unless he is saying he wants to go back and make a presentation to them in person, otherwise he cannot support this.

Mr. Poggiali stated he thinks there is a term in law they refer to as “the case is not ripe yet”. Then they send it back to the lower court to reconsider and they make a decision. He does not think it is ripe yet, and it would be proper to send it back and give the owner a chance to speak at the hearing and maybe come up with a compromise or solution.

Roll call on the motion: Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Waddington, Mr. Harris, Mr. Poole-nay, Mr. Murray, and Mr. Brady, 5. Roll call on the resolution: Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Waddington, Mr. Harris, Mr. Poole-nay, Mr. Murray, and Mr. Brady, 5. President Brady declared this resolution passed.

ITEM 5 – Submitted by Jason Werling, Recreation Superintendent

APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT FOR PAPER MARINA DISTRICT WITH TOWBOAT MARINE

Budgetary Information: The agreement will not result in any additional budgetary expenses. The City will benefit from Lake Erie Towing management and operation of the Marina, as well as the agreed upon first \$10,000.00 revenue each year going to the City of Sandusky, with an additional 50% split after revenues received meets \$45,000.00 for the season.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-250: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a three (3) year agreement with Towboat Marine, LLC (d.b.a. Lake Erie Towing) of Sandusky, Ohio, for the operation & management of the Paper District Marina; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

Upon motion of Mr. Poggiali, 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. Roll call on the motion: Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Waddington, Mr. Harris, Mr. Poole, Mr. Murray-abstain, and Mr. Brady, 5. Roll call on the ordinance: Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Waddington, Mr. Harris, Mr. Poole, Mr. Murray-abstain, and Mr. Brady, 5. President Brady declared this ordinance passed.

ITEM 6 – Submitted by Jason Werling, Recreation Superintendent

APPROVAL OF 1ST AMENDMENT TO THE HOST VENUE AGREEMENT WITH WORLD TRIATHLON

Budgetary Information: The annual host fee of \$25,000 is paid each year and will be paid out of Recreation or Capital Funds.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-251: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a first amendment to the Host Venue Agreement with World Triathlon Corporation and Lake Erie Shores & Islands for services related to hosting Ironman 70.3® Ohio Triathlon events for the Division of Parks and Recreation; 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. 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. Waddington stated he was glad that we are going to continue this program as it is great for the City.

Mr. Murray stated this is one of the best investments we have ever made of \$25,000 support that we provide. The exposure of the City to those around the state and around the world is priceless.

President Brady stated that he was there at six in the morning watching the sixteen-hundred swimmers entering the water four at a time. It was a spectacular sight. These people come to our city, they rent a hotel room, they buy their meals here, it is a great economic boom for us.

Roll call on the motion: Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Waddington, Mr. Harris, Mr. Poole, Mr. Murray, and Mr. Brady, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Waddington, Mr. Harris, Mr. Poole, Mr. Murray, and Mr. Brady, 6. President Brady declared this ordinance passed.

ITEM 7 – Submitted by Jason Werling, Recreation Superintendent

APPROVAL OF CHEMICAL SPRAYING CONTRACT AT MILLS CREEK GOLF COURSE WITH BAY AREA

Budgetary Information: The contract calls for \$13,085 in 2024 and \$13,085 in 2025 for a total amount of \$26,170 and will be budgeted and paid from the Mills Creek Golf Course contractual services account.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-252: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a two (2) year agreement with Pisarsky Enterprises, LLC (d.b.a. Bay Area Lawn Care) for lawn spraying services at the Mills Creek Golf Course for the seasons in CY 2024 and CY 2025; 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. 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. Roll call on the motion: Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Waddington-abstain, Mr. Harris, Mr. Poole, Mr. Murray, and Mr. Brady, 5. Roll call on the ordinance: Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Waddington-abstain, Mr. Harris, Mr. Poole, Mr. Murray, and Mr. Brady, 5. President Brady declared this ordinance passed.

ITEM 8 – Submitted by Jason Werling, Recreation Superintendent

APPROVAL OF SHELBY STREET BOAT LAUNCH AGREEMENT WITH SANDUSKY BAIT

Budgetary Information: The agreement will not result in any additional budgetary expenses. The City will benefit from the agreed upon rental fee income of \$100 per month during the peak season and \$50 per month during the off-season.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-253: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a three (3) year agreement with Sandusky Bait Company of Flatrock, Ohio, for the operation of a retail business for the sale of bait and tackle, convenience items, food, beverages, and fishing equipment and supplies at the building located at the Shelby Street Boat Launch Ramp Facility for the period of January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2026; 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. Waddington stated he thinks they do a great job and keep the trash picked up and tidy.

Roll call on the motion: Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Waddington, Mr. Harris, Mr. Poole, Mr. Murray, and Mr. Brady, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Waddington, Mr. Harris, Mr. Poole, Mr. Murray, and Mr. Brady, 6. President Brady declared this ordinance passed.

ITEM 9 – Submitted by Jason Werling, Recreation Superintendent

APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH GARNER SANITATION FOR PORTABLE RESTROOMS

Budgetary Information: The total cost of this contract for the years 2024-2026 is \$56,429.25. The cost of the rental and service of the portable restrooms will be paid with General Funds and Recreation Funds based on the usage (number of service times and the restroom size) and location. All costs have been included in the Contractual Services portions of the Operations and Maintenance budgets for the respective departments. This agreement may be amended if additional units are needed in the future.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-254: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a three (3) year agreement with Garner Sanitation Service Inc. of Sandusky, Ohio, for the rental and service of portable restrooms in City parks; 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. Poggiali, Mr. Waddington, Mr. Harris, Mr. Poole, Mr. Murray, and Mr. Brady, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Waddington, Mr. Harris, Mr. Poole, Mr. Murray, and Mr. Brady, 6. President Brady declared this ordinance passed.

ITEM 10 – Submitted by Aaron Klein, Public Works Director

APPROVAL OF C/O #1 ON JUSTICE CENTER PROJECT WITH MOSSER

Budgetary Information: The original contract with Mosser was \$10,623,800.00 and the architect's opinion of probable cost was \$13,177,301.00. Change Order 1 would be an overall increase of \$483,730.70 of the original contract, increasing the contract total to \$11,107,530.70. Staff still anticipates issuing debt for this project with debt service payments being paid from Capital Projects and General Bond Retirement funds. Sandusky Municipal Court will be responsible for 40% and SPD for 60% of total project costs.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-255: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to approve the first change order for work performed by Mosser Construction, Inc. of Fremont, Ohio, for the Sandusky Justice Center Project in the amount of \$483,730.70; 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. 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 that this is something he does not come to commission with lightly. We certainly negotiate these things with the contractors moving forward with the project. We did save quite a bit of money with those negotiations, but what happened was when we go to bid on a project we included in the report from 2019. When EPA showed up on site, just to look at the work, they decided to sample a few more that came up as positive. These items were visible at the time, ceilings, and floor tiles. WE immediately went into a delay and sampled phase two of the project that came back with some positive readings as well. We negotiated with the contractor and ordered that they do the work, making sure the site would be safe for the employees. Additionally, as they were removing some of the walls there was some pipe insulation and other materials that came back as positive as well. We removed all the asbestos and moved forward with phase two. There may be a couple other items that may pop up. There was a floor cutout that we did not see until demo was started, it was where the HVAC came from the first floor to the second floor and through the roof. We had the structural engineer look at it and they made some recommendations that we felt were absolutely necessary. The old commission chambers became apparent that when it was constructed it was not built internally to the other sections of the building that were older. As the contractor was going thru they stated they did not feel comfortable as it was designed, so we re-engaged our structural engineer and architect came up

with some structural members that would be sure we could hold to the original design that span the grand lobby in the front of the building. Those members will be secure. One thing we did find is that the original plan drawings were accurate and we can feel confident that the beams will be supporting the roof. We avoided some severe problems to the structure by making these adjustments now and may have delayed the project by months. The contractor has done the majority of the work. We are taking as many photos as we can to avoid this in the future.

President Brady remarked that this change order was less than five percent of the build and he understands that there will be additional charges for extending the contract a couple more months. Mr. Klein has great negotiation skills to get those numbers down and we hope he can do it again.

Mr. Klein stated there was a huge delay at the start of the project receiving the top HVAC units. Production in Mexico delayed things and shipping to the US by several months. The contractor did a good job of trying to minimize any delays by getting other work done. One thing we did per the contractor and architect's recommendation is combine phases two and three into phase two which should significantly reduce the duration of the project. We are estimating a two-to-three-month improvement, which should equate to dollar savings on the project. We are hoping to get a better timeline of the project completion based on the asbestos removal, the subcontractor estimated it takes six weeks or more to do it.

Mr. Murray stated after knowing Mr. Klein for ten plus years he is confident that he would not spend a single dollar of public treasury if he would not spend it himself. He is very careful with funding and does it right and that our records will be good in the future. The whole project came in under estimation at the start, this is an increase, but we are getting a good product in the end.
Roll call on the motion: Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Waddington, Mr. Harris, Mr. Poole, Mr. Murray, and Mr. Brady, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Waddington, Mr. Harris, Mr. Poole, Mr. Murray, and Mr. Brady, 6. President Brady declared this ordinance passed.

ITEM 11 – Submitted by Jared Oliver, Police Chief

PERMISSION TO SUBMIT 2024 MARINE PATROL ASSISTANCE GRANT FOR SPD

Budgetary Information: The estimated cost for the Marine Patrol in 2024 is \$30,000 and if awarded, 75% will be paid with grant funds and the required match of 25% will be paid with funds from the Police Department's operating budget.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-256: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing the submission of a grant application to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Parks and Watercraft for the participation in the 2024 Marine Patrol Assistance Grant Program for the Police Department; 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. 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 wanted to remind everyone that we were able to acquire the Boston Whaler from Kellys Island, that were no longer using it, and it was a good deal for us.

Roll call on the motion: Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Waddington, Mr. Harris, Mr. Poole, Mr. Murray, and Mr. Brady, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Waddington, Mr. Harris, Mr. Poole, Mr. Murray, and Mr. Brady, 6. President Brady declared this ordinance passed.

ITEM 12 – Submitted by Submitted by Jared Oliver, Police Chief & Mario D'Amico, Fire Chief

APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT FOR DISPATCHING SERVICES WITH ERIE COUNTY SHERIFF

Budgetary Information: The city agrees to reimburse the Erie County Sheriff's Department in 2024 for the dispatching services at an amount not to exceed **\$312,479.00** which **\$156,239.50 (50%)** will be taken from the 2024 Fire Department Proposed Budget (110-1310-53001 at 22% and 431-1330-53001 at 28%) and **\$156,239.50 (50%)** will be taken from the 2024 Police Department Proposed Budget, (110-1020-53001).

ORDINANCE NO. 23-257: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a contract with the Erie County Sheriff for the provision of public safety dispatching services for the City of Sandusky Police, Fire and Service Departments commencing on January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024; 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.

Comments:

Mr. Murray shared a little history stating we have had conversations since 2001 about having coordinated regional dispatch. This has been a marquee success of intergovernmental cooperation with substantial savings for all the governments involved. We would be paying a much higher premium than what we are paying with this agreement. It was tough early on getting people on the same page, as there always is when you try to make a change. That cooperation continues to provide dividends and benefits to us all these years later. He stated he does support this.

President Brady stated we do complain every few years when the number goes up, but the reality is the cost of doing it on our own is about twice this amount. It is still a value. Chief Oliver sits on this board, and he represents us well.

Roll call on the motion: Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Waddington, Mr. Harris, Mr. Poole, Mr. Murray, and Mr. Brady, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Waddington, Mr. Harris, Mr. Poole, Mr. Murray, and Mr. Brady, 6. President Brady declared this ordinance passed.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

DONATIONS

- A donation of \$2,000 for the K-9 account was received from the American Legion Post #83. **Upon motion of Mr. Waddington, and a second by Mr. Poggiali, this donation was accepted. President Brady declared this donation accepted.**
- A donation of \$125 for youth scholarships was received from Chubby Bargain Bins. **Upon motion of Mr. Poggiali, and a second by Mr. Waddington, this donation was accepted. President Brady declared this donation accepted.**
- The Center for Peace through Understanding donated a peace pole in memory of Talon Flohr for installation in the park named in his honor at Cleveland Road and Erie Blvd. The pole was installed by city staff and dedicated on Monday, December 4 wither over 30 people in attendance. **Upon motion of Mr. Waddington, and a second by Mr. Poggiali, this donation was accepted. President Brady declared this donation accepted.**
- Nanette Guss of the Friends of the Greenhouse donated Scooby Doo and Snoopy figurines to be a part of the Washington Park Holiday Lights display. The figurines are riding a kayak in a new water with blue lights feature by the lighthouse mound. **Upon motion of Mr. Poggiali, and a second by Mr. Murray, this donation was accepted. President Brady declared this donation accepted.**
- A donation of \$5,000 was made under the Trust of Paulette Porter for the purchase of holiday lights in Washington Park. **Upon motion of Mr. Poggiali, and a second by Mr. Waddington, this donation was accepted. President Brady declared this donation accepted.**
- The City of Sandusky Parks & Recreation division, in collaboration with Destination Sandusky, received \$5,376 from the Erie County Community Foundation and \$4,624 from the Randolph & Estelle Dorn Foundation, for a total of \$10,000 to support educational programming for the 2024 Total Eclipse of Sundusky Festival. The three-day festival from April 6-8 will offer free music and education for area residents and visitors

as we celebrate this once-in-a-generation phenomenon. The Jackson Street Pier will be the main location for the festivities with Shores & Islands Ohio providing a regional landing page and promotion for the Total Eclipse of Sundusky Festival and other area events at their website www.shoresandislands.com/eclipse .

NEW & OLD BUSINESS

PUBLIC WORKS

- Butler Street is open to traffic. There will be some concrete work performed on the Frontage Road in the Spring, but otherwise the project is done.
- Superior Street is slated to be paved concrete by the end of the week ending 12/8.
- The leaf collection program will be wrapping-up this week. For any residents with additional leaves, the drop-off area near the Marquette Drive entrance to the City Service Center will remain open seven days a week until January 19. Leaves must be bagged in paper bags.
- The Forestry division will be performing Christmas tree collection throughout the City during the week of January 8 and will distribute further details through our website and social media. Residents may also drop-off trees from January 8 to the 12 at two locations: the Shelby Street Boat Launch overflow parking lot or the Kiwanis Park parking lot. For questions regarding Christmas tree collection, please call 419.627.5884.
- With winter on the way, we would like to remind residents of a few extra steps to take to avoid frozen water lines inside and outside the house, including setting thermostats at 55 degrees minimum, insulating exposed pipes and letting the cold-water faucet trickle continuously during extreme cold weather. If your dwelling is expected to remain vacant and unoccupied during the winter months, we highly recommend that you contact the City to turn off the water. This will help prevent your water lines from freezing and breaking, which would lead to costly repairs for the property owner. The Customer Accounting Office can be reached at 419-627-5893 to arrange for the water to be turned off.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

- A public hearing will be conducted on January 22, 2024 to invite public comment on an appeal of a Planning Commission decision to deny a re-zoning change on Cleveland Rd. The case was evaluated by the Planning Commission on May 23, 2023. The subject addresses include all parcels on the south side of Cleveland Road from address numbers 2050 through 2068. The request denied by the Planning Commission was to rezone these parcels from residential (R2F and R1-75) to residential-business (RRB). **Upon motion of Mr. Poggiali, and a second by Mr. Poole, the commission voted to schedule this Public Hearing.**

Comments:

Mr. Poole inquired if this was for an Air B- N- B. President Brady stated yes it was.

Roll call on motion – All. President Brady declared this Public Hearing set.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

President Brady stated each commissioner was sent a list of reappointments for the Boards & Commissions, each have been contacted and asked if they wish to continue to serve. **Upon motion of Mr. Waddington, and a second by Mr. Poggiali, the commission accepted these reappointments. Roll call on motion – All. President Brady declared these appointments set.**

Upon motion of Mr. Waddington, and a second by Mr. Murray, for a one time only donation to Care and Share in the amount of \$2000.00 for the Christmas Toy Drive. Mr. Waddington stated the need is there in the community, especially at this time of year.

Comments:

President Brady stated that Mr. Waddington has spearheaded this participation for these organizations for as long as he can remember, and they are very worth-while. He stated if they are given a dollar, they get three dollars of value from it. They serve seven hundred people monthly in our community. Hunger is year-round, not just on the holidays.

Mr. Murray stated he was happy to support this motion, there were five commissioners, the City Manager, the Police and Fire Chiefs and several staff at the drive this past weekend and at no time was anyone discussing City business. **Roll call on the motion – All. President Brady declared this motion passed.**

Mr. Poole wished to past this on to subsequent commissions; as we appoint Boards and Commissions and sometimes we have a hard time filling positions, perhaps since we count on surrounding areas to spend money here, we could open positions to surrounding areas as well. By opening the talent pool and opportunities to the surrounding areas it may give us more insight that will make our region and City better. He stated he was sure there are people on the other side of Perkins Avenue that have expertise we could benefit from. Something to consider going forward.

Mr. Murray stated he did not want to make a motion now, but if there were an opportunity to call forward legislation in the new year, he would be supportive of that. He wanted to be sure that the Law Department would have an opportunity to research if there are Boards and Commissions that must be a City resident. We have seen on many occasions over the years that the twenty-five thousand people here often have but do not always have the expertise necessary to fill every single one of these positions.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street, stated her questions were not answered on GSP. She stated she guesses there will not be any transparency of what they are doing for us. As far as she is concerned we pay top dollar for our staff and our City Manager, and what Mr. Wobser stood up here and said – staff should be doing. The City should be responsible for those duties. We are farming them out to GSP, and they are closed off for transparency. That is counterproductive. She stated she was thoroughly disgusted with it. When you look at the top salaries we pay here, John is just an Operations Manager. GSP is taking over the rest. It is duplication. We just gave GSP's top three people their jobs with this money. They said the first \$125,000 we gave them was for operations, do you know what operations are? It is salaries. She believes we should lay off the Development Department. What are we paying them for?

Mr. Poole stated to Mrs. Johnson that he had wrestled with this and had gone back and forth. But at the end of the day, we have not progressed as well as we would like to. We have lost 2.3 percent according to the Census Bureau from 2020-2022. He stated he was not an expert, but it seems to him our downtown is surviving but not thriving. What has been presented, although it seems very aspirational, the goals they have at least take us in the right direction. Adding more people to the game to make this happen is the only option we have at this point. He recognizes it is a lot of money. We have actually spent money worse than this, if they reach half of the goals set it will be impressive for our community. It is up to the next commission to decide if these goals are met and where to go forward. He stated he understood her reservations, but he sees no other options they we should not take a chance on GSP. He believes this is a good idea at this point.

Mr. Poggiali stated he also wrestled with GSP. He is not taking it lightly. They have Civista, Firelands Health, Cedar Fair, Erie County, Erie Shores & Islands all invested in this. He believes it is worth a chance to be part of it. As Mr. Poole pointed out, at the end of next year we can reconsider if they meet their benchmarks and proceed.

Mrs. Johnson inquired what are the benchmarks? No one told us.

Mr. Poole suggested that the benchmarks were there. Mr. Wobser speaks rapidly, and this format is not good for remembering specifics. Ms. Gilson can point out to you in the contract the specific benchmarks. He suggested that Mrs. Johnson write down her specific questions and in two weeks she could get a definitive answer. This format does not lend itself to the detailed information that she wants.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Mr. Poggiali the Commission moved to adjourn at 6:38 p.m. President Brady declared the meeting adjourned.



Cathleen A. Myers
Commission Clerk



Richard R. Brady
President of the City Commission