

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

The Clerk called the roll and the following Commissioners responded: Dave Waddington, Blake Harris, Mike Meinzer (unable to speak because of medical procedure-using yes/no paddles), Wesley Poole, Mr. Murray, Dick Brady, and Steve Poggiali, 7.

City staff present: 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, Tiffany Rufo – GIS Analyst, Don Rumbutis – IT Technician, 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. Murray, the commission voted to approve the minutes of the December 10, regular meeting and suspend the reading. President Brady declared the motion passed.

SWEARING IN: Commissioners-Elect: Richard Koonce & Jeff Krabill

I, Dr. Richard S. Koonce, do solemnly swear that I will support, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States and the State of Ohio and the Charter and Ordinances of the City of Sandusky; That I will honestly, faithfully, and impartially discharge the duties of my office as a City Commissioner and not be influenced by any consideration except that of merit and fitness in the appointment or discharge of employees; That I am currently qualified to hold the office and will maintain all of the qualifications throughout my term in office in compliance with Section 4, Section 6, and Section 43 of the City Charter; So help me God.

I, Jeff Krabill, do solemnly swear that I will support, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States and the State of Ohio and the Charter and Ordinances of the City of Sandusky; That I will honestly, faithfully, and impartially discharge the duties of my office as a City Commissioner and not be influenced by any consideration except that of merit and fitness in the appointment or discharge of employees; That I am currently qualified to hold the office and will maintain all of the qualifications throughout my term in office in compliance with Section 4, Section 6, and Section 43 of the City Charter; So help me God.

PUBLIC HEARING: Rezoning of 920 W. Osborne Street, Arin Blair, Chief Planner

Ms. Blair stated that she welcomed incoming commissioners and looked forward to working with and learning from them. She stated she was here to conduct the public hearing for the rezoning of 920 West Osborne Street, Parcel 58-65001.000 formerly known as the Osborne School building and the surrounding property. On October 23, 2023, the City Commission approved the City to purchase the former school building. The school board authorized that sale. The Planning Commission had a meeting that week and there was a conversation about the goals for that project of which it is to become a residential project for seniors. The Planning Commission initiated a rezoning of that property from Public Facilities (PF) to Residential Multi-Family (RMF). If that rezoning were not in place that project could not move forward.

Comments:

Sue Daugherty, 1016 Third Street, also the Director of Serving Our Seniors, stated she was here to thank and support the City Commission for their efforts to rezone this neighborhood to support senior housing and to transition Osborne School into affordable housing for older adults. Thank you very much for your work on this project.

With no further comments, **President Brady declared this public hearing closed.**

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

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**ITEM A – Submitted by Cathy Myers, Commission Clerk****APPROVAL OF 2023 REPLACEMENT PAGES TO CODIFIED ORDINANCES BY WALTER DRANE**

Budgetary Information: The cost of the revisions for the Codification supplements and updating the Code on the internet for 2023 is \$8,771.59 and will be taken from the contractual services line item in the Commission's/Commission Clerk Funds (50%), Sewer Funds (25%), and Water Funds (25%). This item is appropriated each year.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-258: It is requested an ordinance be passed to approve current replacement pages to the Sandusky Codified Ordinances; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

ITEM B – Submitted by Aaron Klein, Public Works Director**APPROVAL TO PURCHASE CARBON FOR BIWW**

Budgetary Information: This purchase will be paid out of the Water Fund.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-259: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to purchase an additional 80 pounds, more or less, of powdered activated carbon from Bonded Chemicals, Inc., of Columbus, Ohio, for use at the Big Island Water Works plant during the calendar year 2023; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

ITEM C – Submitted by Michelle Reeder, Finance Director (Walked In)**APPROVAL OF 2023 AMENDMENT #8 TO GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS**

Budgetary Information: This action will cover anticipated expenditures through December 31, 2023. The agenda deadline occurs before the final payroll costs can be determined. The amendment needs to cover final payroll and other projected costs through December 31, 2023.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-260: It is requested an ordinance be passed adopting Amendment No. 8 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 Michelle Reeder, Finance Director**APPROVAL OF TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2024**

Budgetary Information: This action will establish a budget for operations until the annual appropriations can be approved after the second Monday in January 2024. The City Charter prohibits the City from enacting the 2024 budget before January 8, 2024.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-261: It is requested an ordinance be passed to make temporary appropriations for 2024 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 accept the Consent Agenda and declare all ordinances 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. Waddington, Mr. Harris, Mr. Meinzer, Mr. Poole, Mr. Murray, Mr. Brady, and Mr. Poggiali, 7. Roll call on the ordinances: Mr. Waddington, Mr. Harris, Mr. Meinzer, Mr. Poole, Mr. Murray, Mr. Brady, and Mr. Poggiali, 7. President Brady declared these ordinances passed.

REGULAR AGENDA**ITEM 1 – Submitted by Colleen Gilson, Community Development Director****APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE #23-248 FOR THE 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. 23-262: It is requested an ordinance be passed amending Ordinance No. 23-248, passed on December 11, 2023; 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 immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

Comments:

President Brady added that prior to asking for a motion on this ordinance, he wanted to provide some explanation as to why we are receiving this tonight under Section 14. At the last meeting we heard this ordinance under Section 13, and had they had a second reading of that at this meeting, this ordinance would not have taken effect for thirty days. That would have proved to be a violation of our charter in that no legislation can be enacted by a different set of commissioners. Because of that, he has asked staff to present this legislation as if it is a new piece of legislation under Section 14.

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. Waddington stated he wanted to thank Colleen Gilson, the Community Development Director, this was a lot of work.

Mr. Poole stated he had a couple questions. There were some things the public needs to be aware of. In terms of funding – why are we doing it this way?

Ms. Gilson stated that if these funds were approved today, they will cover the expenses of the Greater Sandusky Partnership, as well as provide direct programming such as Party at the Pier, for Sandusky residents. The GSP has committed that at least fifty percent of the grant would go towards programming or \$150,000. Today's request is in line with the 2022 commitment made to the GSP. The funds as presented in the communication are \$150,000 from Capital Funds – or programming funds that already go into programming such as Party at the Pier that will now be under the guidance of the GSP. \$30,000 from General Funds from Community Development – or previous ECEDC funding, was also provided to GSP in the past. \$50,000 from the General Fund that are earmarked for marketing, and \$70,000 from Capital Projects Fund or Issue 8 Economic Development Grant Funding.

Mr. Poole stated, so that everyone understands, the \$150,000 is money we were spending anyways for Pier projects, now headed by GSP.

Ms. Gilson replied absolutely.

Mr. Poole asked if these monies would impact Bike Week or any other type of events.

Ms. Gilson replied no she did not believe so.

Mr. Poole asked about the \$70,000., what projects was that funding going to before, what are we giving up?

Ms. Reeder, Finance Director, stated that the \$70,000 from Capital Projects Funds are the Issue 8 Economic Development Funds. Typically, we have \$500,000 annually that we implement and administer for Economic Development grants - \$70,000 of those funds will be used for GSP.

Mr. Poole stated the metrics for success for GSP, now called “deliverables”. Are we talking about the same thing.

Ms. Gilson stated the metrics for success are the measurements that we will use to grade the GSP deliverables for the year. She will be meeting with them quarterly.

Mr. Poole asked if all Pier programming will be taken over by GSP.

Ms. Gilson stated GSP will be leading those events and we will be partners with them, and GSP will be in contract with the providers to produce those events.

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

ITEM 2 – Submitted by Arin Blair, Chief Planner (FIRST READING)

APPROVAL OF ZONE MAP AMENDMENT FOR 920 W. OSBORNE STREET

Budgetary Information: The rezoning has no direct budgetary impact.

ORDINANCE NO. _____: It is requested an ordinance be passed amending the Official Zone Map of the City of Sandusky to rezone parcel no. 58-65001.000 from “PF” Public Facilities District to “RMF” Residential Multi-Family District; 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. Poggiali, 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:

President Brady asked for direction from the Law Director to see if this meets the specifics of the City Charter, because this will be passed under a new Commission and will take effect thirty days after that.

Mr. Hastings stated this is not the final reading.

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

ITEM 3 – Submitted by Michelle Reeder, Finance Director (Walked In)

APPROVAL OF ADVANCEMENT OF GENERAL FUNDS TO STATE GRANTS FUNDS

RESOLUTION NO. 061-23R: It is requested a resolution be passed authorizing the advancement of funds from the general fund to the state grants fund: and declaring that this resolution 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 resolution as drafted under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

Comments:

Ms. Reeder stated this is a resolution to allow a transfer from the General Fund to the State Grants Fund. We received a grant award from the Ohio Department of Development late this year to help with expenses of the Perkins Avenue Waterline and Resurfacing Project. We made the expenditures and the improvements on Perkins Avenue and expected the State to have already reimbursed us for those funds, as of this afternoon we still have not received those funds. Therefore, she is asking for a resolution to transfer funds from the General Fund to the State Grant Funds if we need to between now and the end of the year to cover those expenses that we have incurred. Once we are reimbursed by the State of Ohio, those funds will be reimbursed to the General Fund.

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

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**DONATIONS**

- Commissioner Waddington has donated \$300 this year through payroll deductions to the Parks and Recreation Division. We would like to thank him for his continued support of Sandusky Recreation. **Upon motion of Mr. Murray, and a second by Mr. Harris, to accept that donation. President Brady declared that donation accepted.**
- The Parks and Recreation Division would like to thank Margaret Murray for her donation of a pair of hockey ice skates to the Civista Bank Ice Rink. **Upon motion of Mr. Waddington, and a second by Mr. Harris, to accept that donation. President Brady declared that donation accepted.**
- The Parks and Recreation Division would like to thank Gwen Steven, Luke Swartzmiller, Margie Hershiser, and Carol Wank for decorating the pine tree in East Park with holiday lights. The cost of the lights and batteries was \$65, donated by the residents. **Upon motion of Mr. Waddington, and a second by Mr. Poggiali, to accept that donation. President Brady declared that donation accepted.**
- A donation of four voting paddles with a value of \$75 was received from Brady Sign Company to be used by Commission Meinzer who is temporarily unable to speak following a medical procedure. **Upon motion of Mr. Waddington, and a second by Mr. Poggiali, to accept that donation. President Brady declared that donation accepted.**

NEW & OLD BUSINESS**ADMINISTRATION**

- I would like to request a motion to affirm Marguerite Irby to the Tax Incentive Review Council. **Upon motion by Mr. Waddington, and a second by Mr. Poggiali, this appointment is accepted. President Brady declared this appointment approved.**

FIRE

- Congratulations to Lieutenant Kevin McGraw on his recent appointment as the Assistant Fire Chief for the City of Norwalk. Lieutenant McGraw was an integral part in many Sandusky Fire Department operations during his 17 years with the city. We wish him the best of luck in his new position. Lieutenant McGraw's work ethic and dedication to the citizens of Sandusky will be greatly missed.

FINANCE

- General reminder for property owners of vacant dwellings – 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.

PUBLIC WORKS

- All new signals on Hayes Avenue between Columbus and Perkins are operational as the last set at Columbus and Hayes were placed in service last week. Please use caution as signal timings and operation have changed.
- The City has been awarded the grant application for Camp St from Frantz to Perkins Avenue through the Ohio Public Works Commission. Resurfacing will begin in the spring of 2025, but staff are working with Strand, the MacArthur Park consultant, to expedite a sewer relocation project on Camp Street in 2024 to accommodate resurfacing.
- The Forestry division recently completed their fall planting of 91 trees with a total of 147 trees planted this year. They will also be performing Christmas tree collection

throughout the City during the week of January 8th. Residents may also drop-off trees from January 8th to the 12th 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 419.627.5829 or visit www.CityofSandusky.com/ChristmasTrees.

- This year's leaf collection program is now complete. 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 19th. Leaves must be bagged in paper bags.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

President Brady asked for a motion to set a public hearing for the 2024 Budget on January 8, 2024. **Upon motion of Mr. Poggiali, and a second by Mr. Harris, to schedule this public hearing. President Brady declared the public hearing set.**

President Brady asked for a motion to appoint Joseph Ramey to the Audit/Finance Committee to replace former Commissioner Twine who is leaving the state. **Upon motion of Mr. Murray, and a second by Mr. Poggiali, to accept this appointment. President Brady declared this appointment approved.**

President Brady asked for motion to appoint the Commission Clerk as Public Records Designee for the 2024 Commission. **Upon motion of Mr. Poole, and a second by Mr. Poggiali, to accept this appointment. President Brady declared this appointment approved.**

Mr. Poole stated he wished to take a moment to thank the community for giving him the opportunity to serve for the past twelve years as Commissioner. He stated it has been a great learning experience. He stated he appreciated all the support he received. He also appreciated the people that disagreed with him and came forward and told him. The only growth you get in this job is when people come and tell you that you do not know what you are talking about and are prepared to engage and give you something else to think about. He thrives and has grown through that process. He thanks everyone for allowing him to get through the first term, because as he looks back he recognizes he was a disaster. He hopes the new three incoming commissioners have the same support of the community to grow into the job. The commissioners that did not agree with me, maybe you will learn after I am gone. Thank you all, it has been a good experience.

Mr. Harris stated he wished to share; ladies and gentlemen, fellow citizens, friends, as he stands before you today he is filled with a profound sense of gratitude and reflection on the journey we have shared the past few years. On November 19, by a narrow margin, you bestowed upon me the honor of serving as one of seven commissioners, making himself the youngest in our City's two-hundred year history. This journey with all its challenges, criticism, and triumphs, has been nothing short of extraordinary. He vividly recalls the days of his youth strolling downtown and envisioning the potential within each building and sharing those dreams with his parents. Little did he know that those dreams would lead him to become a City Commissioner – a role he embraced with unwavering dedication. He stated titles never define me, in fact, the only two that matter most now are husband and father. Speaking of titles, he is reminded that God has a way of taking unqualified people and placing them in rooms that too many never look the part. As he leaves this role, he stated he is a testament to the divine orchestration that guides our respective paths. It is crucial to not let others thoughts and opinions impose limitations upon your path. Embracing a life of purpose involves staying true to your values and aspirations, being respectful of external judgements, recognizing that God values progress over perfection and encourages continuous growth and learning. However, Sandusky, our beloved city, has been the other silent architect of his growth. He entered this role with his hat backward, symbolizing a readiness to face the challenges ahead. Today he leaves with it forward, not just as a change in style, but as a

representation of the direction we are heading. They say it takes a village and this city has been his village, nurturing a young dreamer who still at thirty-five holds on to those big dreams, as he knows he still has so far to go. The diversity of our city has been our strength. Proving that leaders can emerge from any background or age. Through this experience we have demonstrated that passion and dedication transcend titles and stereotypes. To each one of you, whether you stood in his corner or not, he expresses nothing but love. Every interaction, every challenge, every word, has contributed to the growth we have witnessed. As he steps away from this role, he carries with him the lessons learned, the friendships forged, and the unwavering belief in the potential of this city. Here is to Sandusky, a city of dreams, a city of diversity, and a city that has allowed a young kid with big dreams to step into the arena and make a difference. The hat, once symbolized a readiness, now points forward signifying not just where he has been, but more importantly, where we are headed together. Thank you for the honor, for the challenges, and for the love. It has been an incredible chapter and he is excited for the next adventure that awaits us all.

Mr. Murray stated he did not believe Mr. Meinzer was going to speak, but he simply wanted to say thank you to all three outgoing commissioners – they have been delightful colleagues. We have not always agreed on everything and that is how it should be. We have all made our own contribution and noise. His experience in being their colleague has been special and invaluable, and wished all of them good luck and engaged in the City's future.

Mr. Waddington wished to say thank you to Mike, Wes, and Blake, he realizes the time involved that they have put in. A lot of people look at two meetings a month – and it is much more than that. He wished them the best.

Mr. Poggiali wished to say that he appreciated working with his three outgoing colleagues. He has enjoyed his two years on the Commission and they have all been part of that. He knows they all have bright futures. He hopes their paths cross again soon. To the incoming commissioners; he looks forward to working with them and he is sure they will make a big contribution to the commission.

President Brady wished to echo all his fellow commissioners' thoughts. To the three leaving-this is so much more than community service. You show up twice a month for four years, Wes for twelve years. He asked Wes earlier tonight if it seemed that he came to three hundred of these meetings. Some days it seems like three thousand. We do not always agree on things. We dig in oftentimes unnecessarily but sometimes necessarily. It is community service; but it is so much more than that. He knows none of the three will ever stop cheering for the city. Thank you.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

McKenzie Spriggs, 616 Superior Street, stated having had the privilege to work for all our outgoing commissioners she wanted to say thank you, and thank you for your service to our community. And on a personal level thank you for always being kind and fair. And to the incoming commissioners, welcome on behalf of the entire community and we look forward to getting started.

Craig Hecht, 222 46th Street and owner of the Manor Motel, wished to offer a thank you for the improvement that was made by the city and Mr. Klein. There is an embankment on the Perkins Avenue side where the water project was done. He had no expectations, but they made a nice improvement there with the curb. Thank you for the extra effort.

Mr. Poggiali stated as a footnote to Mr. Hecht's comments; he does not recall ever seeing so much construction going on in the city. He applauds Mr. Klein and his staff for all their work.

Eric Wobser, 221 E. Jefferson Street, wished to thank the outgoing commissioners. Commissioner Poole interviewed him almost ten years ago almost three hours in Cleveland, walking throughout the city where he was working then. It is the only time where a person interviewing him traveled to conduct the interview. As Mr. Poole stated he respects people

who come to him with tough questions, he started with tough questions on that day and it never stopped over the next decade. So, thank you for that. He stated he got to know Blake and Mike before they ran for commission, their passion for the city has been demonstrated through their efforts to activate the community and as former Fire Chief and helping to revitalize his neighborhood - the Cove district. To those coming in, he looks forward to working with you in this new partnership, it is an exciting time for Sandusky. Hopefully the best is yet to come.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Mr. Harris the Commission moved to adjourn at 5:40 p.m. President Brady declared the meeting adjourned.



Cathleen A. Myers
Commission Clerk



Richard R. Brady
President of the City Commission