

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

**The Clerk called the roll and the following Commissioners responded: Kate Vargo, Dave Waddington, Dick Brady, Steve Poggiali, Richard Koonce, and Jeff Krabill, 6. Upon motion of Mr. Waddington, and a second by Mr. Krabill, the commission voted to excuse Mr. Murray.**

City staff present: Stewart Hastings – Law Director, Michelle Reeder – Finance Director, Josh Snyder – Public Works Engineer, Colleen Gilson – Community Development Director, Jared Oliver – Police Chief, Mario D’Amico – Fire Chief, Cody Browning – IT Manager, Don Rumbutis – IT Technician, Arin Blair – Chief Planner, Nicole Grohe – CDBG Program Administrator, Tom Horsman – Communications Manager, and Cathy Myers – Commission Clerk.

**Upon motion of Mr. Koonce, and a second by Ms. Vargo, the commission voted to approve the minutes of the March 11, regular meeting and suspend the reading. President Brady declared the motion passed.**

**PUBLIC HEARING: CDBG 2024-2028 Consolidated Plan & 2024 Action Plan, Nicole Grohe**

Ms. Grohe stated that the Consolidated Plan is a five-year planning document that governs the use of federal housing and community development funds for 2024-2025 through 2028-2029. The application is for federal grant funding from HUD. We utilize documentation of public input and community needs in this strategic plan for carrying out community goals. The action plan implements projects and measures progress. Funds covered by the Consolidated Plan include the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) which covers housing, homelessness, special needs, and community development. CDBG funds can be used for housing (rehabilitation), public infrastructure and facility improvements and public services. The City of Sandusky received \$708,428 from HUD in 2023. Funds are subject to 15% public service cap and 20% administration cap. We anticipate the 2024 allocation announcement on February 23, 2024. Project eligibility includes funds to assist low to moderate income individuals and families, prevention or elimination of slum or blight, and to meet community development needs having a particular urgency. The area median income is determined by 80% is \$86,600. The 2023 low median income is \$66,300 for a family of four. The area benefits are less than 51% being low and moderate income. The commonly eligible activities include public facilities and improvements, demolition/clearance, public services, home rehabilitation and code enforcement. The goals for 2019-2024 were to improve the quality and accessibility of affordable housing, prevent and reduce homelessness, enhance the quality of life for people living in low and moderate income neighborhoods, promote access to public services for special needs populations, and to provide funds to help prevent, prepare, and respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The schedule for this program is a 30-day public comment period April 4 – May 4, 2024. The second public hearing is April 22, 2024. The draft document is available on April 4, 2024. The plan will be adopted at the City Commission meeting on May 13, 2024. The plan will be sent to HUD dependent on budget release on May 16, 2024. On July 1, 2024, the program year starts. If you have questions about the CDBG program, please contact Nicole Grohe, Community Development Program Administrator at 419-627-5730 or by email at: [ngrohe@cityofsandusky.com](mailto:ngrohe@cityofsandusky.com).

**Comments:**

Mr. Waddington asked who the contact in the City was for homeless people. There have been numerous homeless people sleeping in the gazebo and at Care and Share outside. Chief Oliver stated that his staff work with Care and Share for services for these people, but sometimes they do not want the services. President Brady asked Ms. Grohe if these funds were suitable uses for homeless people. Ms. Grohe stated it was certainly a suitable use, we do not directly provide services. Ms. Grohe stated this suggestion would be added to the program scope. Ms. Gilson stated we do provide grant funding for the homeless shelter in New Jerusalem, and people can call our office to arrange for services for individuals. President Brady wanted to see something that bridged the gap between individuals and services provided for them. Mr. Krabill stated he has seen this at well at Facer Park. President Brady asked Ms. Grohe to be sure to set aside funds for this in the plan. Mr. Koonce asked if there were any initiatives or partnerships between the

City and the County related to homelessness. Mr. Orzech stated we utilize the VOA quite frequently. There is also the issue of people who do not want to use the services, and mental health does plan a factor into that. Mr. Poggiali stated he knows the County and the City both contribute to the homeless shelter. Mr. Poggiali asked what the process would be for someone to suggest programming for these funds. Ms. Grohe stated the public hearings are one way and calling or emailing her is another. Mr. Poggiali inquired if 20% was for administrative costs. Ms. Grohe stated it can be but is not necessarily spent. **Without further comment, President Brady declared this public hearing closed.**

#### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

None.

#### **CURRENT BUSINESS**

**Upon motion of Mr. Waddington, and a second by Ms. Vargo, 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 Michelle Reeder, Finance Director**

#### **APPROVAL OF BUDGET APPROPRIATION AMENDMENT**

**Budgetary Information:** Appropriation amendments are required to update the 2024 budget for these funds:

- General Fund
- State Grant Funds
- Capital Projects Funds

**ORDINANCE NO. 24-063:** It is requested an ordinance be passed adopting amendment no. 1 to ordinance no. 24-017 passed by this City Commission on January 22, 2024, making general appropriations for the fiscal year 2024; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with section 14 of the city charter.

##### **ITEM B – Submitted by Michelle Reeder, Finance Director**

#### **APPROVAL OF PAYMENT FOR CHESAPEAKE LOFTS SUBMERGED LAND LEASE TO ODNR**

**Budgetary Information:** This submerged land lease is payable by the City of Sandusky as the lease holder. The Chesapeake Lofts Condo Association will reimburse the City for the cost of the lease. ODNR does not allow a sub-lease holder to make a Submerged Land Lease payment on the City's behalf.

**ORDINANCE NO. 24-064:** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to make payment to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Office of Coastal Management for rental payment on submerged lands lease file no. SUB-2119B-ER for the period of April 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with section 14 of the city charter.

##### **ITEM C – Submitted by Josh Snyder, Public Works Engineer**

#### **APPROVAL OF C/O #2 FOR EAST MONROE STREET RESURFACING PROJECT WITH ERIE BLACKTOP**

**Budgetary Information:** Change Order 2 shall decrease the contract by \$9,200.00, making the final contract cost for the project \$746,462.09 of which \$581,704.35 will be paid with ODOT funds and \$164,757.74 paid for with Capital Projects funds (Issue 8).

**ORDINANCE NO. 24-065:** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to approve the second & 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 D – Submitted by Arin Blair, Chief Planner**

#### **APPROVAL TO ADOPT THE SANDUSKY PRESERVATION DESIGN GUIDELINES 2024**

**Budgetary Information:** There is no budgetary impact to adopt the updated guidelines.

**ORDINANCE NO. 24-066:** It is requested an ordinance be passed approving and adopting the updated Sandusky Preservation Design Guidelines; 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 accept the Consent Agenda A-D and declare all ordinances as drafted and presented to the City Commission under the Consent Agenda shall take effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.**

**Comments:**

Mr. Krabill stated he was fine with what is before us, but on item D one of the recent items that has gone through the Landmark Commission has dealt with a national chain, although someone may be able to describe it as something else as well. He stated he believes there needs to be some consideration made for national chains that may decide that they want to be in downtown Sandusky. It is not the typical place where you find a chain. It is a situation that has caught his attention whereby you have the potential of having a national chain come in, identify the location where they would like to be located, worked out everything with the building owner, or purchased the property themselves. The existing guidelines are very restrictive for them being able to use their own brand, their own identity. He would like to have some input, not now, but after with staff, to come up with some language that is a little more understanding of that. What he does not want to see is us as a community so stiff, so structured in what our guidelines are, that we literally prevent certain types of businesses coming into our downtown. He wanted to make the commission aware of that. He would be interested if other commissioners have thoughts on these matters, please share them with staff. He hopes to bring this to the table in the future. President Brady stated he asked Arin Blair to provide information to new commissioners on the Landmark and how that committee works, where those guidelines come from, and how and if we can change those or modify them. He appreciates Mr. Krabill's comments, and he looks forward to each getting a primer on that and getting up to speed on what we can and cannot do to make that a more palatable program.

**Roll call on the motion: Ms. Vargo, Mr. Waddington, Mr. Brady, Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Koonce, and Mr. Krabill, 6. Roll call on the ordinances: Ms. Vargo, Mr. Waddington, Mr. Brady, Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Koonce, and Mr. Krabill, 6. President Brady declared these ordinances passed.**

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**ITEM 1 – Submitted by Aaron Klein, Public Works Director**

**CONSENT FOR THE RESURFACING OF STATE ROUTE 2 TO ODOT**

**Budgetary Information:** No funds are required from the City. However, if the City requests to add construction items to the project, 100% of those costs would be the responsibility of the City. The City does not anticipate requesting any additional items at this time.

**RESOLUTION NO. 016-24R:** It is requested a resolution be passed adopting the consent legislation submitted by the Director of the Ohio Department of Transportation for the State Route 2 Pavement Repairs in Sandusky Project, PID No. 115168; authorizing and directing the City Manager to sign the consent legislation and to execute any necessary contracts with the Director of Transportation for this project; and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with section 14 of the city charter. **Upon motion of Mr. Koonce, and a second by Mr. Poggiali, the commission voted to pass this resolution under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

**Comments:**

Mr. Snyder stated that this was a customary piece of legislation when ODOT comes into a city. Although they are fully funding the project, it is more of an acknowledgment from us that they are doing work on State Route 2, and in this case, it is within the city limits. Mr. Poggiali inquired what section of SR 2 it was. Mr. Snyder stated it starts at Ottawa County and he presumes they are resurfacing SR 2, he was not sure how far east it extends, but will run through the southeast corner of our corporation limits.

**Roll call on the motion: Ms. Vargo, Mr. Waddington, Mr. Brady, Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Koonce, and Mr. Krabill, 6. Roll call on the resolution: Ms. Vargo, Mr. Waddington, Mr. Brady, Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Koonce, and Mr. Krabill, 6. President Brady declared this resolution passed.**

**ITEM 2 – Submitted by Megan Stookey, Project Manager**

**PERMISSION TO AWARD MEADOWOOD SIDEWALK PROJECT TO SMITH PAVING**

**Budgetary Information:** The total contract price shall not exceed \$134,481.30 and shall be split with ODOT funding 80% of the project in an amount of \$107,585.04 and the City covering the remaining 20% in an amount of \$26,896.26 being paid for with Capital Projects Funds (issue 8 Infrastructure).

**ORDINANCE NO. 24-067:** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Smith Paving and Excavating, Inc. of Norwalk, Ohio, for the Meadowood Subdivision Sidewalk Project; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with section 14 of the city charter. **Upon motion of Mr. Poggiali, and a second by Mr. Koonce, the commission voted to pass this ordinance under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Ms. Vargo, Mr. Waddington, Mr. Brady, Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Koonce, and Mr. Krabill, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Ms. Vargo, Mr. Waddington, Mr. Brady, Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Koonce, and Mr. Krabill, 6. President Brady declared this ordinance passed.**

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

**APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER #1 & FINAL FOR 2023 WEST MONROE STREET OUTFALL PROJECT WITH GREAT LAKES**

**Budgetary Information:** This original contract was not to exceed \$553,951.00. The final contract amount will be \$651,832.15, which is an increase of \$97,881.15, and shall be paid with Sewer Funds.

**ORDINANCE NO. 24-068:** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to approve the first & final change order for work performed by Great Lakes Demolition Company LLC of Clyde, Ohio, for the 2023 West Monroe Street Outfall Project in the amount of \$97,881.15; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with section 14 of the city charter. **Upon motion of Ms. Vargo, and a second by Mr. Poggiali, the commission voted to pass this ordinance under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

**Comments:**

Mr. Snyder explained that we came into some unforeseen items through excavation on the south side, the south half of Monroe Street. Had we not addressed that it was washing out and we addressed that with piping. As we went east there were two layers of pavement, two layers of brick, near where the train crossing is by Toft’s Dairy, where it ate away at the road, and we had to make repairs to the pavement and curb. In the long term it is probably one of the best sections of road we have out there. President Brady asked it we used per unit costs to fallback onto. Mr. Snyder stated yes, it is the fairest way to do it for the contractor and us. We have to address problems as they are uncovered, we cannot turn a blind eye to these things. This is the right fix for this situation.

**Roll call on the motion: Ms. Vargo, Mr. Waddington, Mr. Brady, Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Koonce, and Mr. Krabill, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Ms. Vargo, Mr. Waddington, Mr. Brady, Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Koonce, and Mr. Krabill, 6. President Brady declared this ordinance passed.**

**ITEM 4 – Submitted by Josh Snyder, Public Works Engineer**

**APPROVAL OF PROPERTY APPROPRIATIONS FOR CLEVELAND ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

**Budgetary Information:** At time of filing the funds identified in the Notice of Intent to Acquire and Good Faith Offer shall be deposited with the Court in an amount not to exceed \$204,052.00, being paid for by the City and then reimbursed by Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). The funding split is \$10,202.60 (5%) City of Sandusky, Major Infrastructure Funds (Streets) and \$193,849.40 (95%) ODOT through the Safety funds.

57-03457.000 57-04107.000	54-WD, T 52-T	\$ 10,085.00	Vtanium Inc.
57-01477.000	53-WD, T	\$ 38,180.00	Yang Properties, LLC, an Ohio limited liability company
57-04915.000	55-WD, T	\$ 2,020.00	Robert G Schoen

57-00871.000	105-WD	\$ 1,946.00	LLLL Investments LTD
57-06003.000	18-T		
57-01378.000	51-WD, T	\$ 151,821.00	S & S Realty LTD
57-01379.000			
57-01380.000			
57-01381.000			

**1. ORDINANCE NO. 24-069:** It is requested an ordinance be passed appropriating property interest described as parcel 54-WD, 54-T & 52-T and now owned by Vtanium Inc. for the purpose of making or repairing roads which are open to the public without charge; authorizing the appropriation of funds for deposit with the Clerk of Courts; authorizing the City Law Director and/or his designee to file a complaint for appropriation in the Court of Common Pleas, Erie County, Ohio; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with section 14 of the city charter. **Upon motion of Mr. Waddington, and a second by Mr. Poggiali, the commission voted to pass this ordinance under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

**Comments:**

President Brady asked that Mr. Snyder give an overview for these ordinances. Mr. Snyder stated that all the properties except for the LLLL Investments parcel, are for the Cleveland Road Safety Project which involves various intersections. Most of these properties are adjacent to Cleveland Road and Cedar Point Drive for the roundabout project that we have been working on for about three years. Widening of those intersections requires taking slivers of parcel to make the geometry work.

**Roll call on the motion: Ms. Vargo, Mr. Waddington, Mr. Brady, Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Koonce, and Mr. Krabill, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Ms. Vargo, Mr. Waddington, Mr. Brady, Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Koonce, and Mr. Krabill, 6. President Brady declared this ordinance passed.**

**2. ORDINANCE NO. 24-070:** It is requested an ordinance be passed appropriating property interest described as parcel 53-WD & 53-T and now owned by Yang Properties, LLC, for the purpose of making or repairing roads which are open to the public without charge; authorizing the appropriation of funds for deposit with the Clerk of Courts; authorizing the City Law Director and/or his designee to file a complaint for appropriation in the Court of Common Pleas, Erie County, Ohio; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with section 14 of the city charter. **Upon motion of Mr. Koonce, and a second by Ms. Vargo, the commission voted to pass this ordinance under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Ms. Vargo, Mr. Waddington, Mr. Brady, Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Koonce, and Mr. Krabill, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Ms. Vargo, Mr. Waddington, Mr. Brady, Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Koonce, and Mr. Krabill, 6. President Brady declared this ordinance passed.**

**3. ORDINANCE NO. 24-071:** It is requested an ordinance be passed appropriating property interest described as parcel 55-WD & 55-T and now owned by Robert G. Schoen and Helen M. Schoen, Trustees of the Robert G. Schoen Trust for the purpose of making or repairing roads which are open to the public without charge; authorizing the appropriation of funds for deposit with the Clerk of Courts; authorizing the City Law Director and/or his designee to file a complaint for appropriation in the Court of Common Pleas, Erie County, Ohio; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with section 14 of the city charter. **Upon motion of Mr. Poggiali, and a second by Mr. Waddington, the commission voted to pass this ordinance under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Ms. Vargo, Mr. Waddington, Mr. Brady, Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Koonce, and Mr. Krabill, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Ms. Vargo, Mr. Waddington, Mr. Brady, Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Koonce, and Mr. Krabill, 6. President Brady declared this ordinance passed.**

**4. ORDINANCE NO. 24-072:** It is requested an ordinance be passed appropriating property interest described as parcel 105-WD and now owned by LLLL Investments LTD for the purpose of making or repairing roads which are open to the public without charge; authorizing the appropriation of funds for deposit with the Clerk of Courts; authorizing the City Law Director and/or his designee to file a complaint for appropriation in the Court of Common Pleas, Erie

County, Ohio; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with section 14 of the city charter. **Upon motion of Mr. Vargo, and a second by Mr. Poggiali, the commission voted to pass this ordinance under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Ms. Vargo, Mr. Waddington, Mr. Brady, Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Koonce, and Mr. Krabill, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Ms. Vargo, Mr. Waddington, Mr. Brady, Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Koonce, and Mr. Krabill, 6. President Brady declared this ordinance passed.**

**5. ORDINANCE NO. 24-073:** It is requested an ordinance be passed appropriating property interest described as parcel 51-WD & 51-T & 18-T and now owned by S & S Realty LTD for the purpose of making or repairing roads which are open to the public without charge; authorizing the appropriation of funds for deposit with the Clerk of Courts; authorizing the City Law Director and/or his designee to file a complaint for appropriation in the Court of Common Pleas, Erie County, Ohio; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with section 14 of the city charter. **Upon motion of Mr. Waddington, and a second by Ms. Vargo, the commission voted to pass this ordinance under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Ms. Vargo, Mr. Waddington, Mr. Brady-abstain, Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Koonce, and Mr. Krabill, 5. Roll call on the ordinance: Ms. Vargo, Mr. Waddington, Mr. Brady-abstain, Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Koonce, and Mr. Krabill, 5. President Brady declared this ordinance passed.**

## **CITY MANAGER REPORT**

### **DONATIONS**

- Parks and Recreation would like to thank Janie Thompson for her donation of 2 seats (\$60) and Kristie Ruffin for her donation of 1 seat (\$30) for Midtown Supper Club.
- Parks and Recreation would like to thank Travelers Baseball for their generous donation of \$500 toward the upkeep of the baseball field at Jaycee Park.
- Parks and Recreation would like to thank Jennifer Ashburn for her donation of books and time for installing the Reading 'Riting Room at Sandusky Rec. This room is a space for children who attend Mills Out of School to read books and can also take books home. **Upon motion of Mr. Poggiali, and a second by Ms. Vargo, the commission accepted these donations. President Brady declared these donations accepted.**

## **NEW & OLD BUSINESS**

### **ADMINISTRATION**

- On April 8, 2024, the day of the Eclipse, City Hall will be closed to the public beginning at noon, for the remainder of the day. Although the building will be closed to the public, city staff will continue to be in the building and available via phone and email.

### **FINANCE**

- The deadline to file 2023 municipal income tax returns is April 15, 2024. All individuals and businesses can utilize the Regional Income Tax Agency's website at [www.ritaohio.com](http://www.ritaohio.com) to file their taxes.

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

- All contractors on City projects are expected not to work April 8 or will only work partial days in anticipation of the eclipse. Construction sites are to be secured for safety reasons.
- City staff will begin the annual spring cleanup of Oakland Cemetery & Memorial Park on April 15. ALL decorative items throughout the cemetery will be removed and disposed of regardless of their perceived value. Residents and patrons are asked to remove anything they wish to keep prior to this date. To allow sufficient time for cleanup, new cemetery decorations can be placed starting April 20.

- Due to all bids exceeding 10% of the engineer's estimate, the Wheels Park project will be rebid in April. Revised legislation will be presented at the April 9 City Commission meeting.

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

- The City received six (6) proposals for the final design of the Recreation Center. The top three (3) firms were interviewed on Tuesday March 19. The department will bring a recommendation and request to enter into a professional services agreement for design and engineering to the City Commission in late Spring.
- The housing development and beautification program continues to be a great success. The program has received over 80 applications and funding is still available.
- The Land Bank Committee has recently recommended approval for the sale of 4 vacant lots for new home construction. 3 owner occupied residential structures are proposed for the lots and preliminary site plans are being reviewed for compliance. A purchase and sale agreement should come before the City Commission in April. Once approved, the total of land bank lots sold for new construction in the past 3 years will be 71.

### **RECREATION**

- The Sandusky Parks & Recreation Division entered into an MOU with the Ohio State University SNAP-Ed program for programming at the Sandusky Rec @ Mills building for healthy living participants for the Out-of-School and seasonal break programs throughout the year in 2024.
- The Sandusky Parks & Recreation Division was notified by the Erie County Community Foundation of being selected to host a summer intern through the 2024 Community Links Internship Program. Ashlyn Legando of Sandusky, a Perkins High School graduate, and current Ohio State University student, will be spending the summer working with Parks & Rec. Her internship will be focused on marketing and special events throughout the summer season. We are looking forward to having Ashlyn join the city to help further her educational journey in her hometown.
- The Downtown Sandusky Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, March 30 at 10 a.m. SHARP in Washington Park with the arrival of the Easter Bunny on a fire truck at 9:45 a.m. The Merry-Go-Round Museum will also open early that day for free admission and \$1 Carousel rides from 10 am to Noon. The Easter Bunny will be available for photo opportunities as well.

#### **Comments:**

Mr. Waddington inquired is we know what the design will be for the new Rec Center. Mr. Orzech stated once the score of work is determined and we get an architect under contract then we will work with them on programming on what was decided by the community input to design the new facility. There are two basketball/volleyball courts, a workout room, and a walking track. After design and costs are determined it will be brought back to commission for approval. Ms. Gilson stated it will probably be less than six months. Mr. Orzech stated he will send out the programming again for the Rec Center. President Brady stated we will give them the input to design it on our ideas and budget. Ms. Vargo stated she would like to see that programming plan again.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. Vargo wanted to go back to two weeks ago and thank Colleen Gilson and Aaron Blair, Tom Horsman, and the City Manager; they are working very hard on a parking management plan that will benefit our residents and visitors, as well as our employers and employees downtown.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Vargo also wanted to thank the commissioners and staff for meeting with them on housing. That is a major issue in our community. There are very many kinds of housing and affordable

housing is a term to encompass them. They are working hard on that as well, and she looks forward to work again with them on this issue.

### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Tom Lamarca, 206 48<sup>th</sup> Street, stated his only comment was the cost overruns of nearly 20% of the Monroe Street Project. It is a great example of what his concerns are with the Columbus Avenue Streetscape Project. Once you go down with the shovel you find things that you did not expect. Here a double layer of brick was found. What will we find out here? He does not want to come to a meeting and find out we are twenty-five, thirty, forty percent over on the Streetscape Project. There are a lot of people who love it and a lot of people who don't. He is looking forward to seeing the change, however, let's keep within budget for a change. That would be unique in itself.

Kathryn Carter, 5309 Columbus Avenue, stated several years ago she brought to the commission's attention about a house on Central Avenue that was going to be condemned to be torn down. She did not understand why, because the inside was in beautiful shape. Someone bid on it, they did some work on it, there was a line repaired from the street to the house. The outside looks great. They tore down the three car garage. It looks empty like no one lives there. There are no cars in the driveway, there are no lights on in the evenings, this has been for many years. Did they get money from the city to do the work, were there stipulations that they had to occupy the house and not rent it out, did it become abandoned. There are two recliners in the front window – one wrapped in plastic – for a long time. Could anyone get information about it.

She also stated between Shelby and Meigs Street and Monroe and Shoreline Drive there are between sixty-five and seventy empty storefronts. Some are questionable. Are they able to be updated and get someone in them. She has heard comments on television channels that transient rentals are turning into a big problem with human trafficking. What is the plan to be sure we are not getting that here? Are any of these pieces of art that have been brought in purchased from the owners? The government used to give low interest loans to someone who wanted to rebuild a building or something specifically for homeless veterans. Is that still available?

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Upon motion of Mr. Krabill the Commission moved to adjourn at 5:50 p.m.**

Cathleen A. Myers  
Commission Clerk

Richard R. Brady  
President of the City Commission