

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

The Clerk called the roll and the following Commissioners responded: Dave Waddington, Dick Brady, Dennis Murray, Steve Poggiali, Richard Koonce, Jeff Krabill, and Kate Vargo, 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, Cody Browning – IT Manager, Arin Blair – Chief Planner, 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 March 25, regular meeting and suspend the reading. President Brady declared the motion passed.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

CURRENT BUSINESS

Upon motion of Mr. Murray, 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

LIQUOR LICENSE FOR DOCKSIDE HOSPITALITY LLC

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

Notice to Legislative Authority for D5J Liquor License: Spirituous liquor for on premises consumption only, beer, wine, and mixed beverages for on premises, or off premises in original sealed containers, until 2:30 a.m. Community Entertainment District.

For: Dockside Hospitality LLC, dba Dockside Café, 611 W. Shoreline Drive N/End & Patio

ITEM B – Submitted by Debi Eversole, Housing Development Specialist

CONSENT FOR LAND BANK PURCHASE & SALE AGREEMENT FOR TWO PARCELS ON W. MARKET STREET

Budgetary Information: Any proceeds of the sale shall be dispersed in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 5722 of the Ohio Revised Code. The taxing districts will begin collecting real estate taxes on the land value, which will increase after the structure is built.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-074: It is requested an ordinance be passed declaring that certain real property owned by the City as part of the Land Reutilization Program identified as Parcel Nos. 59-00185.000 and 59-00186.000, located on West Market Street, are no longer needed for any municipal purpose and authorizing the execution of a purchase and sale agreement with respect to that real property; 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 OF EASEMENTS FOR SANDUSKY BAY PATHWAY WITH US TSUBAKI

Budgetary Information: Local management at US Tsubaki Power Transmission, as well as corporate UST, Inc. in Illinois, and Japan, have been supportive of the pathway and have agreed to donate the necessary easements at no cost to the City of Sandusky. The combined value of the temporary and permanent easements is \$18,160.00 based on an appraisal signed on January 8, 2024.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-075: It is requested an ordinance be passed approving an easement agreement granting a permanent and temporary easement to the City by U.S. Tsubaki Power Transmission, LLC for the Sandusky Bay Pathway; 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 OF EASEMENTS FOR SANDUSKY BAY PATHWAY WITH WEST SIDE SPORTS CENTER**

Budgetary Information: The cost of the temporary easement is \$835.80, and the total cost of the permanent easement is \$1,715.00 for a total acquisition price of \$2,550.80 that will be paid from Capital Projects Funds. Payment will be made to Philip G. Meyers dba West Side Sports Center LLC.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-076: It is requested an ordinance be passed approving a permanent easement and temporary easement granted to the City by West Side Sports Center LLC for the Sandusky Bay Pathway; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with section 14 of the city charter.

ITEM E – Submitted by Josh Snyder, Public Works Engineer**AMENDING RESOLUTION 009-24R, ACCEPTING BIDS FOR THE 2024 LOCAL STREET RESURFACING PROJECT**

Budgetary Information: There is no budgetary impact.

RESOLUTION NO. 017-24R: It is requested a resolution be passed amending Resolution No. 009-24R, passed on February 26, 2024, to correct a scrivener's error; declaring the necessity for the City to proceed with the proposed 2024 Local Street Resurfacing Project; approving the specifications and engineer's estimate of cost thereof; directing the City Manager to advertise for and receive bids in relation thereto; and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with section 14 of the city charter.

ITEM F – Submitted by Josh Snyder, Public Works Engineer**APPROVAL OF C/O #1 & FINAL FOR 2022 BIWW PROJECT WITH ALL PHASE**

Budgetary Information: The original contract amount was \$271,920.00, and with the deduction of Change Order 1 in the amount of \$50,000, the final cost is \$221,920.00. This is a savings of \$50,000 (18%) that will remain in the Water Fund.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-077: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to approve the first & final change order for work performed by All Phase Power and Lighting, Inc. of Sandusky, Ohio, for the 2022 Big Island Water Works (BIWW) Plant Variable Frequency Drives Replacement Project; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with section 14 of the city charter.

ITEM G – Submitted by Megan Stookey, Project Manager**APPROVAL OF SUBMERGED LAND LEASE FOR 427 CEDAR POINT ROAD**

Budgetary Information: There is no budgetary impact.

RESOLUTION NO. 018-24R: It is requested a resolution be adopted pursuant to Section 1506.11 of the Ohio Revised Code finding and determining that based upon the representations and application filed by John & Terri Welkener for property located at 427 Cedar Point Road, the use and development of the territory so described, a submerged lands lease may be entered into by the State's Director of Natural Resources; and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Mr. Waddington, and second by Mr. Poggiali, the commission voted to accept the Consent Agenda A-G and declare all ordinances, resolutions, and liquor licenses 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:

President Brady wanted it noted that item C is another piece of the puzzle and US Tsubaki donated this piece of land that was appraised at \$18,000-\$20,000. We thank them for that kind gesture in getting the Pathway together. It has been a long road, but we are getting there.

Roll call on the motion: Mr. Waddington, Mr. Brady, Mr. Murray, Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Koonce, Mr. Krabill, and Ms. Vargo, 7. Roll call on the ordinances, resolutions, and liquor license: Mr. Waddington, Mr. Brady, Mr. Murray, Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Koonce, Mr. Krabill, and Ms. Vargo, 7. President Brady declared these ordinances, resolutions, and liquor license passed.

REGULAR AGENDA**ITEM 1 – Submitted by Aaron Klein, Public Works Director****PERMISSION TO RE-BID THE SANDUSKY WHEELS PARK PROJECT**

Budgetary Information: The engineer's estimate for the project is \$887,768.00 and shall be paid for with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. These funds must be encumbered by the end of 2024 and spent by the end of 2026.

RESOLUTION NO. 019-24R: It is requested a resolution be passed repealing Resolution No. 008-24R and declaring the necessity for the City to proceed with the proposed Sandusky Wheels Park Project; approving the specifications and engineer's estimate of cost thereof; and directing the City Manager to advertise for and receive bids in relation thereto; and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Mr. Murray, 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 (amended from Section 13 as stated) of the city charter.

Comments:

Ms. Vargo inquired if it was ever considered to being located where the new Rec Center will be since it is close to the high school and Intermediate school. Ms. Blair stated that that they conducted a six to nine month community engagement process at the Skate Park to ask questions about what was working well, what was not, and learning from other parks. The intention from the beginning was to have a destination park and downtown was always the site selection considered for this. They had considered moving it to Sandusky Bay Pavilion at one time so it would still be close to the water, but everyone seemed to be happy with the present location. There is also an advantage for the Police Department to be located nearby as well. They had not looked at other sites because of the destination intention. We expect it to be part of our tourism and destination draw as well, through this process we have learned that skate park users travel city to city to these parks. It is a multi-generational space and one of the most used parks that we have. It seems to be working very well in that location. Ms. Vargo inquired if all these studies were before the Rec Center construction was intended. These decisions were made before the Rec Center community engagements really started to kickoff, stated Ms. Blair. President Brady inquired because we have the engineering in place for this site, and have had trouble getting bids within our budget, would we have to re-engineer this project for another location? Mr. Klein stated that thinking through the geotechnical and site drainage for this project, and some of the bowl features, we would have to be sure to include those catch basins, pipes, and infrastructure that is already in place at the current site. A different location would take work to make the site suitable for this type of park. Mr. Poggiali stated he pondered why the Skateboard park was not considered for the Rec Center location as well, it seems we would want all the recreation areas in one place to make it more attractive. The study speculates that \$400,000 in membership would make it more attractive for these memberships. He realizes this creates challenges, but maybe there is better use for the space behind the Police Station, maybe it is too difficult at this stage. He mentioned it to Mr. Wobser as well and stated the stakeholders preferred it to stay at the present location.

Roll call on the motion: Mr. Waddington, Mr. Brady, Mr. Murray, Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Koonce, Mr. Krabill, and Ms. Vargo, 7. Roll call on the resolution: Mr. Waddington, Mr. Brady, Mr. Murray, Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Koonce, Mr. Krabill, and Ms. Vargo, 7. President Brady declared this resolution passed.

ITEM 2 – Submitted by Aaron Klein, Public Works Director

APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER #2 TO SANDUSKY JUSTICE CENTER PROJECT TO MOSSER

Budgetary Information: The original contract plus Change Order 1 established the current contract amount of \$11,107,530.70. Change Order 2 would be an overall increase of \$278,143.43, increasing the contract total to \$11,385,674.13. 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. Alternative financing options will be discussed by the Finance Committee on April 19.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-078: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to approve the second change order for work to be performed by Mosser Construction, Inc. of Fremont, Ohio, for the Sandusky Justice Center Project in the amount of \$278,143.43; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Mr. Murray, 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.

Comments:

Ms. Vargo asked if the change order process could be explained. Mr. Klein stated that in any renovation type project it is obvious that we would get into things when we start the demolition. In phase one we found there were some structural issues with concrete masonry, the block issues as well. We were not anticipating anything in the second phase but ran into an even worse situation. There was an area on the plans that showed there were some structural members directly above the grade beams, it turns out those structural members were non-existent whatsoever. It was just block walls and some non-structural glass block walls that were acting as structure walls. The construction crew and architects were surprised that we did not have more damage to the building. Not only were there not structural members on the first floor holding up the second floor, but on the second floor the walls were offset so they were acting kind of like a cantilever edge pulling down on the structure. That is where a lot of cracks were happening, and we had water damage in a walkway that was connecting the old Police portion. That was over \$100,000 just for that fix because we had to remove two walls that were intended to stay to get these new steel members in. When we put these new members in, we needed some columns and needed to drill into the grade beams to be sure that it is not shifting anymore. We also had some IT and Security modifications where we needed cameras moved, for example in the court space there cameras that were in the corners but after more discussion it was decided that the wire needed to be run so the cameras were directly over where the cash transactions were going to take place, to make them very visible. There were some controls on some doors for Police that were on the wrong side of the door, they were needed on the other side of the door where interviews were going to be taking place. When we opened the walls there were obviously pipes running through the walls and through the floors. What we noticed was that instead of removing a small section it was in the \$70,000 range for all the infills and the architect did an exceptionally good job of figuring out what would cause structural issues and what was just an aesthetic item. We got that item down to \$20,000. We wanted those exterior walls filled in to prevent cold air in the building. There were two items we had originally removed from the scope when we were a couple million dollars over budget, in the original design, at the time these two items had life left in them. Now, two years later we would like to replace those water tanks and we have added some pumps as well because we were not getting the amount of hot water that we needed in the Police locker room. The last item was the \$26,000 for the curbs. We added one hundred linear feet of additional curb to be done on the outside on the new parking lot. Some of that is because of plowing, a lot of that curb is inside the fenced secured area for Police and Court staff to park. There are a few remaining items, a concrete floor beneath the plywood floors so we had to jackhammer all that out. We are doing our best to keep the costs down. Mr. Poggiali stated that this project is sixty-four, correct? We pay sixty percent, and the Court pays for forty. Mr. Klein stated yes, that was correct, including the change order costs. Mr. Poggiali stated he thought the Columbus Avenue project may have some of those unforeseen change orders as well. President Brady stated that no one likes to look at a quarter of a million dollar change order. But to put it into perspective; typically, you can expect an eight to ten percent overage with change orders. Currently it is 6.65 percent. Mr. Klein stated typically we expect eight to ten percent in new construction, on reconstruction it most times is ten to fifteen percent range. Mr. Murray stated he would point out that Mr. Klein accounts for a contingency in every project. Obviously with older reconstruction there may be more variables. We saw tonight on the Consent Agenda where that contingency was unneeded where \$50,000 went back to the books. Ms. Vargo thanked Mr. Klein for the explanation for the residents, she has built things for herself, and she knows that those things do occur, and you can expect that. Mr. Krabill inquired if this money was already listed in the project as a contingency or is this new funding being spent. Mr. Klein stated that at the onset of the project when we were very concerned with already being two million over the budget just in the engineer's estimate. He had asked the consultant to dramatically reduce the contingency that was available. So, we lowered it to the four to five percent range. And on a project like this we would like ten to fifteen percent. This would be new funding on top of that contingency. He will be sure when they have the final change order that it is clearly spelled out.

Roll call on the motion: Mr. Waddington, Mr. Brady, Mr. Murray, Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Koonce, Mr. Krabill, and Ms. Vargo, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Mr. Waddington, Mr. Brady, Mr. Murray, Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Koonce, Mr. Krabill, and Ms. Vargo, 7. President Brady declared this ordinance passed.

ITEM 3 – Submitted by Aaron Klein, Public Works Director

APPROVAL OF WETLANDS MITIGATION PURCHASE AGREEMENT

Budgetary Information: The cost is \$68,000 per acre for a total cost of \$95,200 that would be paid from the Capital Projects Fund with proceeds made available from the parking and admissions tax increases. No down payment is required at this location, but full payment will be required upon receipt of permits from USACE and OEPA for Section 404 and 401 permits.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-079: It is requested an ordinance be passed repealing Ordinance No. 23-170, passed on August 28, 2023, and Ordinance No. 24-007, passed on January 8, 2024; authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into an agreement for wetlands mitigation credits with Streams + Wetlands Foundation for The Landing Project; 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 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: Mr. Waddington, Mr. Brady, Mr. Murray, Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Koonce, Mr. Krabill, and Ms. Vargo, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Mr. Waddington, Mr. Brady, Mr. Murray, Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Koonce, Mr. Krabill, and Ms. Vargo, 7. President Brady declared this ordinance passed.

ITEM 4 – Submitted by Aaron Klein, Public Works Director

APPROVAL TO AWARD THE CP CAUSEWAY WETLANDS 2024 TEMPORARY SEEDING PLAN TO LEACH

Budgetary Information: The contract shall not exceed forty-eight thousand, two hundred and eight dollars (\$48,208.00), which shall be paid with grant funds approved in an agreement with the State of Ohio (DNRSHLE07) via Ordinance 21-092. No City funding will be incorporated into this project.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-080: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Leach Excavating of Olmsted Township, Ohio, for the Cedar Point Causeway Wetlands 2024 Temporary Seeding Plan 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. Waddington, 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 how they seed this, is it with a hose or spreader? Mr. Klein stated some have hoses that can spray the seeding material farther from the shore. You cannot go out onto it – it is like quicksand. He would love to see the drone happen for this.

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

ITEM 5 – Submitted by Josh Snyder, Public Works Engineer

APPROVAL TO AWARD CONTRACT FOR 2024 LOCAL STREET RESURFACING PROJECT TO ERIE BLACKTOP **Budgetary Information:** The total contract price shall not exceed \$1,192,076.91 and shall be split with \$1,167,714.28 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Stimulus Funds and \$24,362.63 Capital Projects Funds.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-081: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Erie Blacktop, Inc., of Sandusky, Ohio, for the 2024 Local Street Resurfacing 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: Mr. Waddington, Mr. Brady, Mr. Murray-abstain, Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Koonce, Mr. Krabill, and Ms. Vargo, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Mr.

Waddington, Mr. Brady, Mr. Murray-abstain, Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Koonce, Mr. Krabill, and Ms. Vargo, 6. President Brady declared this ordinance passed.

ITEM 6 – Submitted by Megan Stookey, Project Manager

APPROVAL TO AWARD CONTRACT A FOR 2024 SIDEWALK REPAIR TO KREIMES

Budgetary Information: The total contract price shall not exceed \$117,545.85 which shall be paid for with \$94,687.85 Capital Projects Funds (Issue 8 Infrastructure), and \$22,858.00 from the Fire Department's operating budget.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-082: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a contract with the Kreimes Co. Inc., of Sandusky, Ohio, for the 2024 Sidewalk Repair, Replacement & Grinding Project - Contract A; 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: Mr. Waddington, Mr. Brady, Mr. Murray, Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Koonce, Mr. Krabill, and Ms. Vargo, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Mr. Waddington, Mr. Brady, Mr. Murray, Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Koonce, Mr. Krabill, and Ms. Vargo, 7. President Brady declared this ordinance passed.

ITEM 7 – Submitted by Megan Stookey, Project Manager

APPROVAL TO AWARD CONTRACT FOR SERVICE CENTER PROJECT TO GUNDLACH

Budgetary Information: The construction cost shall not exceed \$123,100.00, which shall be paid with American Structure Plan Act (ARPA) Stimulus Funds.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-083: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Gundlach Sheet Metal Works, Inc. of Sandusky, Ohio, for the 2024 Replacement of Two Condensing Units and Installation of Control Units for the City of Sandusky Service Center Project; 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 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 stated he was confused when he read the background of this item that it appeared that we authorized bidding this project in 2023 and we just now are getting pricing. Mr. Klein stated this project has been bid on a couple of times already and we finally have a bidder this round of bidding. We did receive permission several months ago to move forward and failed to get bidders before this.

Roll call on the motion: Mr. Waddington, Mr. Brady, Mr. Murray, Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Koonce, Mr. Krabill, and Ms. Vargo, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Mr. Waddington, Mr. Brady, Mr. Murray, Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Koonce, Mr. Krabill, and Ms. Vargo, 7. President Brady declared this ordinance passed.

ITEM 8 – Submitted by Arin Blair, Chief Planner

APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT FOR PUBLIC PARKING WITH BUCKEYE COMMUNITY TWENTY TWO

Budgetary Information: There is no financial obligation from the city to execute the lease agreement.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-084: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a parking lot lease agreement with Buckeye Community Twenty Two, LP, for the use of parking spaces at 202 West Market Street during the construction of the Columbus Avenue Reconstruction and Streetscape Project; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Mr. Murray, and 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.

Comments:

Mr. Poggiali stated that whoever is responsible for this did an excellent job of securing another piece of the parking puzzle for the Columbus Avenue Streetscape.

Roll call on the motion: Mr. Waddington, Mr. Brady, Mr. Murray, Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Koonce, Mr. Krabill, and Ms. Vargo, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Mr. Waddington, Mr. Brady, Mr.

Murray, Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Koonce, Mr. Krabill, and Ms. Vargo, 7. President Brady declared this ordinance passed.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

DONATIONS

- Parks and Recreation would like to thank Vine and Olive and Pelz Lettering Shirt Shack for their donations of gift baskets to giveaway at Midtown Supper Club
- Parks and Recreation would like to thank Isaac and Christiana Hurst for Their donation of two seats (\$55) for Midtown Supper Club. **Upon motion of Mr. Poggiali, and a second by Ms. Vargo, the commission accepted these donations. President Brady declared these donations accepted.**
- Parks and Recreation would like to thank Antwan Hunter, food director for Sandusky City Schools for his efforts and help with Midtown Supper Club. Antwan was key in making sure we had all the food and ingredients we needed to make Midtown Supper Club a success.
- Parks and Recreation would like to thank Nick Anderson, Senior Astronomer at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, for his eclipse presentation for the kids at Spring Break Camp at Mills.

NEW & OLD BUSINESS

ADMINISTRATION

- We encourage residents to sign up for our mailing list to receive the City's monthly e-newsletter. You can sign up online at www.CityofSandusky.com/Newsletter

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 to file their taxes.

PUBLIC WORKS

- The City is currently seeking qualifications for the following projects:
 - Construction inspection for The Landing and Sandusky Bay Pathway
 - Evaluation of the Combined Sewer System
- A reminder that the annual spring cleanup of Oakland Cemetery & Memorial Park starts on April 15th. 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 24th.
- Contractors are expecting to begin placing asphalt for bike paths followed by roadways on Warren and East Water Streets the week of April 15.
- The Spring Yard Waste Drop Off will be Saturday, April 20 from 8 am – 4 pm and Sunday, April 21 from 10 am – 4 pm. Residents are invited to drop off residential yard waste at Barnes Composting located at 1630 Camp Road, Huron. Visit www.barnesnursery.com/composting for more information.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- The Economic Development Assistance Program guidelines have been updated for 2024 and are available at www.cityofsandusky.com/departments/development . A meeting with the department must be scheduled before the application can be submitted. If you are interested in pursuing assistance for your economic development program, please review the guidelines then schedule an appointment by calling 419-627-5891.

Comments:

Mr. Murray stated that the Landing was looking for qualifications for Construction inspection for The Landing and Sandusky Bay Pathway. In broad terms could you outline where we are proceeding with that project? How many pieces and parts that is likely to be. Mr. Orzech stated that the Landing Project is starting to take final shape and we are still waiting for some permitting to move forward with the project. Mr. Klein had hoped to have that bid out in May

or June of this year so we have an engineer's estimate and can go out to bid. That project is getting really close to being brought to Commission for permission to bid. The Pathway (Hemminger ditch to Cedar Point Drive) is coming this summer to be completed by next summer, prior to ODOT doing their project. The evaluation of the combined sewer system is somewhat of a precursor to the negotiations that are going to happen starting next year with the EPA about the next phase of our long term control plan. It is also doing an evaluation of how effective the \$30 to \$40 millions of dollars of work that we have completed has been. Additionally, getting a consultant on board to do an overall analysis of inflow, infiltration, and other similar issues. We want to get a grasp on this so we can have good conversations with EPA and minimize any impact on those discussions and get ahead of it. Mr. Murray we of course do receive please from residents about their basements flooding from time to time such as his daughter and son-in-law's. Will this project look at those issues? Mr. Klein stated that yes it will look at those areas and we are going to do an evaluation as best we can on areas that are still flooding. We also intend to get something out over on the Superior Street neighborhood where there was some flooding last year that caused animals to be displaced. We are trying to get out ahead of those issues now. We want to plan the next phase and the next phase and so on. President Brady stated that we have talked about it before, the eventual price tag of fixing this combined sewer issue is in the hundreds of millions of dollars, hence the phasing idea makes all the sense in the world. We do not have the borrowing capacity nor do our residents support those kinds of rate increases that it would take. Mr. Poggiali inquired that The Landing Project would be completed in a year. Mr. Klein stated that the intent is to complete it by the end of next year. It will take sixteen months, but he is hoping it will be shorter, it will depend on material availability. Mr. Poggiali asked if the estimated was \$22M. Mr. Klein stated the final plan and estimate have not come back yet. There will be a couple of components that will likely be put in as alternates just to be sure we have the flexibility to award those sections that are primary. Mr. Poggiali asked if we have the \$22M in place. Ms. Reeder stated that it is an ongoing conversation. We are waiting for the final numbers and then the second component will see where the bids come in at, then we will figure out the debt service for those numbers. There are a couple of various sources used to fund that project, there are at least three grants on the table that tie into this project also. We will be sure that whatever we do, we can afford. Ms. Vargo stated about the animals being displaced on Monroe Street, and people have asked her about the Landing Project about the preservation of wildlife along their natural habitat. It is important to all of us, we seem to be chipping away at our natural habitat. There is a lot of concern about that. What are we doing to minimize that? Mr. Klein stated we have been extensively evaluating the mussels, the turtles, they have already relocated several mussels they have found. We have fifty-one-ish acres of wetlands on that project site. We have designed it to impact as little as possible. The communication that was presented was about 1.1 acres of wetlands that are impacted on this site. We make sure the contractor uses techniques that minimize the impact on those areas. The phragmites (four species of large perennial reed grasses) are impossible to eradicate, it would have to be done bi-annually. We are designing it so you can engage with the phragmites. We are driving piers rather than doing boardwalks that may get into the water and eliminate the wave action and the shore structures and those variables. Even the crib pier was designed so there would be two sections, so water could still pass through the middle section of it. The environmental documents that we have are many. The items the City Manager mentioned that were going out for qualifications we have written them so that the firm that is selected is required to have a general knowledge or has someone who has knowledge to make sure the contractor is doing the right things.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Poggiali stated about the Omni Fiber Project that he noticed they left behind a lot of flags in the lawns and dug up a lot of areas that he hopes they come back to plant grass. Is there any indication that this is going to happen? Can he pull the flags? Mr. Klein stated he urged the residents to call Omni on any issues, we are working on punch line items with them on a daily basis as we are made aware of issues from our inspectors. He cannot speak to specific locations, but he knows they do have other contractors coming in and doing the private side of it now.

Mr. Waddington stated they dropped a box by the fire plug and by the time he got his shoes on to get outside they were gone. He drug it down about ten feet further down the road.

Mr. Koonce stated that he always tries to respond when he hears from residents. One thing he has always enjoyed about our city is our diversity. When he talked to a couple of citizens it was an issue related to diversity. Maybe from Recreation or Arts & Culture, during the eclipse events there was a band the Daz Band. They were extremely popular in the eighties and nineties. But they were concerned that they were performing in April in forty degree weather in coats. Regardless of how anyone feels about DEI initiatives, this deals with diversity and inclusion. There is a perception that persists when folks see these, should we not host this sort of event when we can get as many people as we can to see this event? Who would be there in that weather for that event? He is willing to work with these committees that book these acts that come in. These residents said it was disappointing to them to see that they were performing in coats. The grass was wet, so they had to change how the stage was set up. He wants these things thought about more in-depth in the future.

NEW BUSINESS

Upon motion of Mr. Poggiali, and a second by Mr. Murray, the Commission set a Public Hearing for a Zoning Map Amendment for 416 Warren Street on May 13, 2024. Roll call on the motion: Mr. Waddington, Mr. Brady, Mr. Murray, Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Koonce, Mr. Krabill, and Ms. Vargo, 7.

President Brady wanted to talk about the eclipse event we had for the last few days. He spent an hour at Sports Force listening to a gifted graduate from Sandusky High School giving an extremely knowledgeable presentation on the eclipse. He spent the next three days on Jackson Street Pier along with a couple thousand other people. It occurred to him that this event has been in the planning stages for over six months, maybe a year, over ten years. What we did these last few days did not happen by accident. It happened because we have a very gifted staff, we have a lot of key players in this community. Police, Fire, Economic Development, Engineering, probably all 241 employees played a role in this event's success. The other piece of this puzzle was Mary Jane Hill was taking a picture of the stage – the Erie County Community Foundation was so generous to donate. Then Dru Meredith, VP of Firelands Hospital, who generously donated the electronic message center that we watched for the countdown. There was Larry Fletcher from Shores & Islands, who played a significant role in making this a success. The point that he was making is that did not just happen I the last six months, those relationships did not just happen. They have happened in the last ten years. This is not a chance for us to bump our chest, but I think most of us can be very proud of how this turned out. How we accommodated so many people, both residents and visitors. The message that was shared with him by most everyone that he engaged with was "Do not take your foot off the gas." We realize how far we have come in the last decade and where we are going. One person said, "You have got it going on here." Sandusky finally has an opportunity to reach their full potential. Let us keep going. The Greater Sandusky Partnership played a crucial role in this, they were all over this Pier. They are a vendor of ours, we pay them a lot of money. They are responsible in part for Economic Development working in unison. It is how we are successful by working with our anchor institutions, the people that are willing to put their money where their mouth is so to speak. That showed this weekend. None of us will be sitting here for the next eclipse, but he would expect the next one to be every bit as good as this last one was.

Upon motion of Mr. Murray, and a second by Mr. Poggiali, the Commission voted to enter Executive Session to discuss pending litigation. Roll call on the motion: Mr. Waddington, Mr. Brady, Mr. Murray, Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Koonce, Mr. Krabill, and Ms. Vargo, 7. President Brady declared this session set.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The Commission moved into Executive Session at 5:56 p.m. The Commission returned from Executive Session by motion of Mr. Poggiali, and a second by Ms. Vargo at 6:25p.m. and adjourned by motion of Ms. Vargo at 6:25 p.m.



Cathleen A. Myers
Commission Clerk



Richard R. Brady
President of the City Commission