

Dennis Murray called the meeting to order at 5 p.m. after a moment of silence for former City Commissioner Lee Silvani, city employee Ken Jensen and Recreation Board member Jackie Collins, the Invocation, given by Wes Poole, and the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Clerk called the roll and the following Commissioners responded: Greg Lockhart, Naomi Twine, Wes Poole, Dennis Murray, Dave Waddington, Nikki Lloyd and Dick Brady.

City staff present: Aaron Klein – Public Works Director, John Orzech – Police Chief, Rick Wilcox – Fire Chief, Matt Lasko – Chief Development Officer, Angela Byington – Planning Director, Stuart Hamilton – IT Manager, Don Rumbutis – IT, Hank Solowiej – Finance Director, Justin Harris – Law Director, Eric Wobser – City Manager and Kelly Kresser – Commission Clerk.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to approve the minutes of the January 8 meeting and suspend the formal reading. The President declared the motion passed.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Tim Schwanger, 362 Sheffield Way, representing Save Our Shoreline Parks, asked about the reduction in the funded amount for the East Bay study (Consent Item A) as he understood this was to be done at no cost to the city. The Lions Park Retrofit project (Consent Item E) included the removal of concrete debris from the Shoreline rather than using it for erosion control. Dennis Murray said this part of the communication was in error and there is no intent to go back to this practice. Tim Schwanger said he does not understand how someone could have put in a concrete pad in May of last year and are just now getting approval for it (Consent Item D).

Tim Berkey, 1305 Columbus Avenue, said he is speaking both as the Treasurer of the Old House Guild and as a resident who did an 18-month renovation of a historical home in the city. Last spring, the Board members became aware of issues with the Johnson House (Item #1) and the board President, Dr. Keller, wrote a letter to the Sandusky Library's Board of Directors offering financial assistance to take care of this issue and support preservation of this structure but this offer was not taken. The architectural reports submitted to the library are of concern as this does not have to be an "all or nothing" repair or renovation. When renovating his own property, there were a lot of decisions made and if similar estimates were obtained, they would have come in at about half a million dollars. This is a difficult decision for the commissioners and asked for the decision of the Landmark Commission to be upheld because it was the right one. Tim Berkey said he is very proud of the work done by the city to take care of its historic buildings and the Sandusky Library Board owns this property, but the city owns the historical significance of the Johnson house and it should be protected.

Ed Stout, 1222 Marlboro Street, said he is a member of the Old House Guild, and complimented the Sandusky Library for the many things they have done to bring our library into the 21st century. When it comes to the Johnson house, this structure has Ohio and national recognition as it is on the National Registry of historic buildings. This is a decent structure, can be turned into something great and understands the Library Board has stated their only option left is to tear this building down, but thinks another option would be to sell it for preservation.

Erline Trsek, 119 Greenbriar, said overturning the Landmark Commission's ruling to deny demolition would eliminate the possibility of any future dialogue and could forever tarnish the Follett House and Library Foundation's position as local historic preservation champions. This Foundation has a plan in place for development of the parcel and asked for more thought to be given because any plan that includes removal of this home is flawed. From a historic standpoint and value to the community, the benefits of preserving the Johnson House are immense and far-reaching. Any notion demolition would be positively received is incorrect, misleading and shortsighted as once it is gone, it is gone, and all we would have left would be regrets. The public library in Sandusky can trace its roots back to 1825, less than a decade after Sandusky was founded. Prior to the establishment of the Library Association of Sandusky, there was a young

men's Christian Library Association and Lester Lathum was its president. Mr. Lathum served as secretary and treasurer of the Sandusky Dayton and Cincinnati Railroad and 417 Columbus Avenue was his personal residence having purchased the home from John Godfrey. At the time, Mr. Lathum was a leader in the community and focused on developing a literary institution of Sandusky through a circulating library and reading room on the third floor of the First National Bank. Unfortunately, this was not very successful and some people thought the word Christian meant all of the books within the collection were theological in content. In 1870, the Christian Library Association offered their 400 books to 12 ladies who comprised the Library Association so they could be added to their growing collection of books resulting in the Carnegie Library we have today. Mr. Lathum moved to Baltimore and began renting his home to Leonard Johnson who later purchased it. This building is a place-making piece of Sandusky history worth promoting and preserving. The house has direct connections to persons and institutions of significance with the Sandusky community. To think of all Mr. Lathum attempted to do only to have this same institution involved in tearing it down feels tragic. This is not an ideal message for demolishing this building as the city celebrates its Bicentennial and has made historic preservation a keystone of Sandusky's Comprehensive Plan. The parking problem is perceived and we are becoming less and less dependent upon cars to access information. Forecasting additional parking is inconsistent with contemporary urban design principles and asked if a collaborative parking plan could be developed through a partnership with First Congregational Church. If ongoing maintenance is a financial burden and the building serves no relevant function, a lot split and sale should be done. The portion of the parcel critical for the library has already been developed as an access drive. If a Children's Reading Garden is desired, part of Washington Park should be considered through partnership with the city. The building has historic tax credit eligibility and needs someone with the right vision. All involved have good intentions, but mutually beneficial, community-minded options have not been considered; successful economic redevelopment can be accomplished, but not at the loss of this historic house.

Nanette Guss, 428 East Jefferson Street, said she is a member of the Old House Guild Board of Directors. Mr. Johnson purchased the home at 417 Columbus Avenue in 1893 and owned and named Johnson's Island which played an important role during the Civil War. In 1861, the government leased 48 acres on the island to house confederate officers as prisoners. The Johnson House was constructed with architectural elements found in several periods of time beginning in 1853. It is a wonderful example for future generations to acquire a sense of how their forefathers lived. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places for these historic reasons. In this Bicentennial year, we will reflect upon the history of our city and how we will address our future and should not raze part of our past.

PRESENTATION

Maria Muratori, Economic Development Specialist, said she would like to provide a review of the **city's 2017 outcomes for its economic development programs**. Funding for these programs comes from part of the admissions tax increase passed as a result of Issue 8. These funds provide dollars for economic development programming and marketing efforts. Programming includes substantial redevelopment (over \$500,000, excluding acquisition), building façade and signage improvements, small business assistance and marketing for both new or existing business. Marketing efforts are administered by the Bicentennial Coordinator, McKenzie Spriggs, and have included videos. This program also designed and created signage for housing and economic development programs, promoted various community events and contributed to the "Greetings from Sandusky" mural. Over \$600,000 was committed in 2017 with program funds including a \$200,000 carryover from 2016. This money assisted with 27 projects for 20 separate applicants. The total project cost amounted to almost \$11 million leveraging grant funds eighteen times. In 2016, we committed almost \$200,000 in funds for 20 projects with 16 applicants leveraging city funds about three times. In 2016, there were no funds dedicated to the category of substantial development, but over \$325,000 was allotted in this category in 2017. The signage and façade category decreased in 2017 from 2016, and \$100,000 was committed. Small business assistance increased from 2016 to 2017 with over \$150,000 committed. According to estimates, projected job creation in 2016 included approximately 40 jobs, while this number was almost 90 jobs for

2017; for every \$6,000 committed, one job was created. When using RLF monies previously, there was a requirement one job be created for every \$25,000 lent. Projects in 2017 included Ohio Truck Sales, American Colors, Kasper Collision Center, Derrick's Diner, Cross Fit Sandusky, Tim Dorsey Fitness, Bait House Brewery, Zeller Gaming dba Barra, Halo Live, Manny's Car Wash, Sandusky Segwave, Harborview, Steinemann-Hafner, Sandusky Wine Merchant and Shore House Tavern. Looking ahead, approximately \$450,000 is being set aside for economic development programming and \$50,000 for marketing in 2018. We have already received several applications and expect projects in all available categories. Dennis Murray said Maria Muratori has taken a brand new program and nurtured it extraordinarily well and has heard from several folks about the level of professional interaction and engagement. This has helped to retain good jobs in the community and is making Sandusky a more attractive place for investment. Wes Poole asked if there is a way to determine the difference between actual jobs created versus the estimates for job creation.

Chuck Layman with Invoice Cloud said this is an electronic bill payment company headquartered in Boston and the city reached out to them last summer to look at their solution for the citizens of Sandusky and for the city. The city was looking for a feature-rich solution with tight integration for its utility billing program, SSI, and Invoice Cloud is a premiere partner with them. One big difference between Invoice Cloud and other platforms is it reaches out to citizens with reminders for payments. This active engagement is done through emails or text notifications giving the customer multiple options for making payment and this will give the city a lower delinquency rate and a higher collection level. Email notifications will provide gentle reminders when invoices are due as the vast majority of delinquencies are because customers forget to pay a bill. The customers will begin to pay a service fee as they do in nine other states and this is becoming the norm. The increased savings will be approximately \$40,000 annually. Invoice Cloud is PCI Level 1 compliant and has double data encryption which makes data unreadable to hackers. With data breaches going on across the country, it is paramount to have the best security measures in place. The company doing all of the auditing is Trustwave, and this is the most secure site they have ever seen for payments. Three email notifications will be sent out every time a bill is due on a specific timeframe based on the utility billing software. Once payment is made, the emails stop so customers will not be inundated with useless emails. Citizens will be able to make payment on a standalone computer, laptop, tablet or from a cell phone. The system is mobile optimized rather than through an app and will fit the screen to any android or Apple device. There have already been discussions about the installation of a kiosk for people to make payments once City Hall is relocated; this would be for any type of payment to the city (taxes, permits, etc.). Invoice Cloud has only one platform version and all customers use the same exact system; when upgrades or enhancements are made, all of the customers get them automatically. Dennis Murray said customers will still have the option of receiving a paper bill if this is preferred and asked about the convenience fee which shifts to the customer. He is not sure he wants to inundate people with three emails per month and asked if there is data which could help to understand why this is necessary. Wes Poole asked about the time sequence for email notifications and Chuck Layman said they will go out on the timeframes decided by the city and as soon as a payment is made, the emails will stop. Dennis Murray said he does get a lot of questions about why the city does not utilize electronic bill pay and is glad we are talking about this. Nikki Lloyd asked if residents who choose to pay their bill online will be charged a convenience fee only when using a credit card and Chuck Layman said there is also a nominal fee for other payments which are passed on to the customers. Nikki Lloyd asked if other payments can be received by the city through this process and Chuck Layman said they can facilitate a number of different invoice types for city business. Hank Solowiej asked for a motion to proceed in this direction with ICloud.

Upon motion of Nikki Lloyd and second of Dave Waddington, the commission voted to proceed with looking into a contract with ICloud.

Discussion: Dennis Murray asked if this would allow for legislation to come back to the commission for approval and Justin Harris indicated it would. Wes Poole asked what is projected

as the benefit and how many people might take advantage of this and Hank Solowiej said it is projected about ten percent would sign up immediately and ultimately, about twenty percent would venture into online payments. Hank Solowiej said customers ask about having the ability to do this frequently and is the last upgrade the city should do. Naomi Twine asked how the convenience fee is determined and Chuck Layman said this can be determined by looking at the average monthly bill(s) and should be around twenty percent. There is also a savings to the city for those invoices which will not have to be sent via U.S. mail service. The convenience fee might be reconsidered if people are not utilizing this system to pay their invoices.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Greg Lockhart, Naomi Twine, Wes Poole, Dennis Murray, Dave Waddington, Nikki Lloyd and Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the motion passed.

CURRENT BUSINESS

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to accept all communications. The President declared the motion passed.

Dennis Murray said Item #4 will be postponed until the next meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

SECOND READING

A. Submitted by Angela Byington, Planning Director

FUNDING FOR DOWNTOWN EAST BAY PLAN

Budgetary Information: There will be a \$3,122 impact on the Issue 8 capital projects fund.

ORDINANCE NO. 18-007: It is requested an ordinance be passed amending Ordinance No. 17-095, passed on May 8, 2017; approving an amendment to the cooperative agreement between the City of Sandusky and the Trust for Public Land for professional services for the Sandusky Downtown East Bay plan.

SECOND READING

B. Submitted by Victoria Schaefer, Recreation Superintendent

LEASE AGREEMENT AMENDMENT WITH RON HILE DBA GREAT LAKES GRINDERS AT SHORELINE PARK

Budgetary Information: The agreement will not result in any additional budgetary expenses. The city will benefit from the agreed upon rental fee income of \$70 per month and electric service reimbursement of \$30 per month.

ORDINANCE NO. 18-008: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into an amendment to the lease agreement with Ron Hile II dba Great Lakes Grinders for the operation of the Shoreline Park concession area to extend the term an additional five years.

SECOND READING

C. Submitted by Trevor Hayberger, Assistant Law Director

AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 145, PAY CLASSIFICATIONS AND SALARY RANGES

Budgetary Information: There is no budgetary impact to the general fund.

ORDINANCE NO. 18-009: It is requested an ordinance be passed amending Part One (Administrative Code), Title Five (Officers and Departments), Chapter 145 (Employment Provisions) of the codified ordinances of the City of Sandusky, in the manner and way specifically set forth hereinbelow.

D. Submitted by Jeffrey Keefe, Project Engineer

ENCROACHMENT AGREEMENT FOR 402 COVE STREET

Budgetary Information: There is no budgetary impact with this item and the licensee must maintain liability insurance for this use. The property owner is responsible for recording fees to the Erie County Recorder's Office.

ORDINANCE NO. 18-010: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing the City Manager to enter into a license agreement with Steven and Vanessa Marks to provide for the use of a

certain portion of the city's rights-of-way, as described in the grant of a license for encroachment, for purposes of installing a concrete parking area; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

E. Submitted by Jeffrey Keefe, Project Engineer

LIONS PARK RETROFIT PROJECT CHANGE ORDER (TIME EXTENSION ONLY)

Budgetary Information: Change order #1 will not impact the contract amount. The contract amount will remain as \$571,258.57 at this time.

ORDINANCE NO. 18-011: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to approve the first change order for work being performed by Precision Paving, Inc., of Milan, Ohio, for the Lions Park retrofit project; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

F. Submitted by Rick Wilcox, Fire Chief

DISPOSAL OF BALLISTIC VESTS BEYOND THEIR USEFUL LIFE BY SFD

Budgetary Information: There is no budgetary impact from the disposal of 24 ballistic vests.

ORDINANCE NO. 18-012: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to dispose of ballistic vests from the Fire Department as having become unnecessary and unfit for city use pursuant to Section 25 of the city charter; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

G. Submitted by Scott Kromer, Streets & Utilities Superintendent

AUTHORIZATION TO DISPOSE OF PROPERTY VIA INTERNET SALES FOR CY 2018

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

RESOLUTION NO. 002-18R: It is requested a resolution be passed declaring the intent of the City of Sandusky to dispose of personal property and equipment as having become obsolete, unnecessary or unfit for city use through internet auctions during the calendar year 2018; and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

H. Submitted by Victoria Schaefer, Recreation Superintendent

PRIORITY USE LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH XAVIER'S BASEBALL ACADEMY FOR 2018

Budgetary Information: The agreement will not result in any additional budgetary expenses. The city will benefit from the agreed upon ballfield maintenance performed by the leagues.

ORDINANCE NO. 18-013: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a license agreement with Xavier Baseball Academy for priority use of Rather Field located at Jaycee Park South for their baseball program beginning April 1, 2018, through October 31, 2018; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

I. Submitted by Victoria Schaefer, Recreation Superintendent

PRIORITY USE LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH SANDUSKY MEN'S SOFTBALL LEAGUE FOR 2018

Budgetary Information: The agreement will not result in any additional budgetary expenses. The city will benefit from the agreed upon ballfield maintenance performed by the leagues.

ORDINANCE NO. 18-014: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a license agreement with the Sandusky Men's Softball League for priority use of the Kiwanis Park ballfield located at 2227 First Street, Sandusky, for their softball program beginning April 4, 2018, through October 31, 2018; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

J. Submitted by Victoria Schaefer, Recreation Superintendent**PRIORITY USE LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH AMVETS BASEBALL LEAGUE FOR 2018**

Budgetary Information: The agreement will not result in any additional budgetary expenses. The city will benefit from the agreed upon ballfield maintenance performed by the leagues.

ORDINANCE NO. 18-015: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a license agreement with Sandusky Amvets Baseball League for priority use of Erie Blacktop Field and the concession stand located at Amvets Park and Fields #1, #2, #3, #4 and the concession stand and storage shed located at Sprau Park for the Sandusky Amvets Baseball League program beginning March 1, 2018 through August 31, 2018; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

K. Submitted by Victoria Schaefer, Recreation Superintendent**PRIORITY USE LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH SANDUSKY CENTRAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR 2018**

Budgetary Information: The agreements will not result in any additional budgetary expenses. The city will benefit from the agreed upon ballfield maintenance performed by the leagues.

ORDINANCE NO. 18-016: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a license agreement with Sandusky Central Catholic School for priority use of Field #5 and Field #9 located at Dorn Community Park for the Sandusky Central Catholic High School baseball and softball programs beginning March 1, 2018 through May 30, 2018; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

L. Submitted by Victoria Schaefer, Recreation Superintendent**PRIORITY USE LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH SANDUSKY CITY SCHOOLS FOR 2018**

Budgetary Information: The agreements will not result in any additional budgetary expenses. The city will benefit from the agreed upon ballfield maintenance performed by the leagues.

ORDINANCE NO. 18-017: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a license agreement with Sandusky City Schools for priority use of Field #6 located at Dorn Community Park for the Sandusky High School girls varsity and junior varsity softball programs beginning March 1, 2018; through May 30, 2018; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

M. Submitted Jeffrey Keefe, Project Engineer**LPA AGREEMENT FOR COLUMBUS/SCOTT/CAMPBELL STREET PROJECT**

Budgetary Information: Due to timing of other improvements within this project, this agreement applies to only the final signals and final improvements, which is only a portion of the total project. The estimated cost of this portion of the project is \$150,000, with this grant covering 90% of the eligible costs, up to a maximum of \$125,000. Any matching or additional funding will come from the capital projects fund (Issue 8). Final estimated costs will be updated when we request authorization to bid that portion of the project.

ORDINANCE NO. 18-018: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into the LPA federal local-LET project agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation for a portion of the Columbus-Scott-Campbell intersection improvements project; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

N. Submitted by Aaron Klein, Director of Public Works**ANNUAL COST SHARING PAYMENT TO ERIE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Budgetary Information: The annual amount for continuing to participate with the Erie County NPDES Phase II program is \$10,000. The annual cost will be paid with storm water funds.

ORDINANCE NO. 18-019: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the Finance Director to make payment to the Erie Soil & Water Conservation District to continue participation in the Erie County National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Phase II program; and declaring that this ordinance take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Nikki Lloyd and second of Dave Waddington, the Commission voted to accept the Consent Agenda and declare all ordinances and/or resolutions as drafted and presented to the City Commission under the Consent Agenda shall take effect in full accordance with the Section reflected in the ordinances and/or resolutions, whether it be in full accordance with Section 13 or Section 14 of the City Charter. Roll call on the motion: Greg Lockhart, Naomi Twine, Wes Poole, Dennis Murray, Dave Waddington, Nikki Lloyd and Dick Brady, 7. Roll call on the ordinances and resolutions: Yeas: Greg Lockhart, Naomi Twine, Wes Poole, Dennis Murray, Dave Waddington, Nikki Lloyd and Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the ordinances and resolutions contained in the Consent Agenda passed in full accordance with the City Charter.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Submitted by Casey Sparks, Chief Planner

APPEAL WITH LANDMARK COMMISSION DECISION BY SANDUSKY LIBRARY RE: 417 COLUMBUS AVENUE

Budgetary Information: There are costs associated with this legislation.

RESOLUTION NO. 003-18R: It is requested a resolution be passed denying the Sandusky Library and Follett Museum Foundation's appeal of the Sandusky Landmark Commission decision to deny the Certificate of Appropriateness for the demolition of 417 Columbus Avenue; and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Nikki Lloyd, the Commission voted to approve this resolution under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Anthony Cummings, Vice President of the Sandusky Library Board and member of the Sandusky Library Foundation, thanked the city for hearing this appeal regarding the split decision made by the Sandusky Landmark Commission for demolition of 417 Columbus Avenue. The decision to demolish this structure was not an easy one and understands the sensitivity of requesting demolition of a building on the National Register. It has taken 18 years of discussion to get here and is asking the city to concur with the decision to demolish the property. The Sandusky Library is a public entity with a mission of giving all people opportunities to enrich their lives. The Board members are entrusted with a fiduciary responsibility with the burden of being good stewards of public money. The Foundation and Library Boards both acknowledge this building does not fit their mission; however, the land does serve a purpose now and in the future for the continued improvement and advancement of services to the community. Because this property is on the National Registry, the Landmark Commission implied the intent to save the building but this is not accurate. While saving the building has been discussed for the last 18 years, the main reason is to ensure access for library patrons, additional parking and space for the book drop. The easement was also needed to eliminate the alley between the library and the jail from the Carroll building. The area is now where the sorting room and circulation desk is located. The Foundations have not requested grants or any other federal, state or local funding to preserve the property because this would imply intent to save the building. After many discussions over the years, the building does not meet the litmus test of furthering the foundation or library's missions and spending additional public money would be irresponsible. Other buildings have been saved furthering the purpose of their mission and all options, including selling this property, have been discussed including offering the building to anyone willing to move the structure to a different location. There has never been any interest by either board to give up ownership of the land the building sits on and the library must determine where to use its unlimited funds. Board members of the library and the foundation have spent hours discussing this property and spent money in trying to determine how the property could be used which has taken them away from more valuable projects fitting the library's mission. After 18 years, there have been no viable proposals to utilize the building for the library or its foundation. In a good faith effort to listen to the opposition, the foundation took steps to get an outside estimate and make it habitable again and the results were shared with representatives of the opposition. This

would require a huge amount of capital and future costs to maintain the property. These costs could be debated, but extending the conversation beyond two decades would be an unwise use of time and public funds. Being a landlord does not fit either of the boards' missions. Doing so in the past created issues with tax returns, the library's 501-C-3 status, and created additional expenses with outside services required to perform landlord duties (collecting rent, advertising vacancies, etc.). The property is now in the stage of draining other resources; on December 13, a squatter was discovered living in the upstairs room and this property has now been added to the Police Department's "community watch list". With the heroin epidemic ravaging the country and Ohio, the Library Board is concerned an empty house could become a target for others looking to get out of the elements without having to worry about rent or utilities. This has happened in other empty houses in the county and the library does not have the resources to provide 24-hour security or to defend against recurrences. They do not have the resources to extend their fiduciary responsibilities to provide security or renovation for real estate beyond-use real estate. The boards will not accept additional public or private funds to maintain or refurbish the building as doing so would give an outside entity control of what they can or cannot do with the property while also continuing to place future financial burdens on the foundation. This does not make short- or long-term financial sense for the library, the foundation or their patrons, nor does it make practical sense if the library is to uphold its mission. The land itself is valued and does serve a purpose and it has been determined by both boards the building will remain vacant and the only viable solution is either demolition or moving the structure to another location.

John Hildebrandt, Vice President of the Sandusky Library Foundation, said he is a native of Cleveland but has lived and worked in the Sandusky area since 1974 since starting a forty-year career at Cedar Point. Prior to this, he spent many summers here in a family vacation home and proudly considers himself half a native. With a longtime interest in the history of the community, John Hildebrandt said he is currently President of the Erie County Historical Society and a Trustee of the Sandusky Area Maritime Museum. Lou Schultz, Maggie Marconi and he led the effort to create three historic walking tours of downtown Sandusky as part of the city's Bicentennial celebration. In the process of creating these tours, they all learned a lot about the buildings, homes, churches, stores, hotels, factories and people which make up the center of our community with great stories to tell. The constant in their stories is change. The city is not colonial Williamsburg, is not about freezing an era of time and cannot return to the Sandusky of 1818, 1863, 1903 or 1953 so preservation is about choice. Very often, choices are not easy, nor are they popular about what is preserved and protected, what is given over to new uses and ultimately to new stories. The effort to provide for the Sandusky Library and Follett House Museum will require all of the library's financial resources and then some. From the foundation's perspective, and the community's perspective as well, the preservation of the Library and the Follett House are a much higher priority than 417 Columbus Avenue. An editorial from the November 14, 2017, [Sandusky Register](#), talks about the future promise for Sandusky and stated: "The Bicentennial celebration next year kicks off soon in 2018 with the opening of a new City Hall downtown at Columbus Avenue and Washington Row. By then, construction of a new justice center will be underway. The city is changing. Not only in that physical sense of buildings and businesses, but it is growing and becoming something new, as good as our best memories." The building at 417 Columbus Avenue should become something new.

Lee McDermond, 2408 Deerpath Drive, member and Secretary of the Sandusky Library's Board of Directors/member and President of the Sandusky Library and Follett House Foundation, said he moved here in 1970 and spent close to forty years practicing law in the community. The decision has been made to demolish 417 Columbus Avenue and is the last resort in fulfilling a duty to support the library in its mission of giving all people opportunities to enrich their lives. The intent is not to take this structure down to make room for expansion of the reading garden. The cost of restoration far exceeds any reasonable amount and the library is not willing to spend money they do not have to save a building they do not need at the expense of other buildings they own which have a far greater part of its heritage. The expansion of the reading garden is meant solely to lessen the aesthetic effect of moving this building. The vote to approve the

library's request at the Landmark Commission was three to three; two of those who voted no said the application would be more worthy of consideration after demonstrating an effort to sell the building to a person or entity willing to restore or maintain it. Finding another owner was also mentioned in a communication from a dedicated member of the Old House Guild. The Library Board is not interested or willing to consider selling the property. When the library renovated and expanded Carnegie Library and incorporated and restored the former Erie County Jail, it was determined they needed the property at 417 Columbus Avenue to provide access and to expand the library's parking. They cannot sell this property without diminishing the crucial Columbus Avenue frontage, access and parking space. They have offered to give the house to the Old House Guild or to anyone else who would relocate it to another location and this should not be dismissed. The Cooke-Dorn House at 1415 Columbus Avenue (home of the Old House Guild) was moved from its original location decades ago. The library purchased 417 Columbus Avenue in 2001 with the intention of demolishing it; however, a longtime and local benefactor provided the money to shrink the size of the apartment building and did not go along with the notion of keeping it for residential apartments. In the following years, until 2012, rent was collected and money was spent on taxes, insurance, utilities and an extensive series of repairs including wiring, plumbing, HVAC, brick and chimney work and a new roof. At that point, the board decided the building was not fit for a residence and did not have the resources to deal with the problems. The board realized at that time the decision made would not be a popular one and reached out in a number of directions to those identified as having a concern and primary effort was made with the Old House Guild because they respected and encouraged preservation. In 2015, the library was ready to take the difficult step of actually demolishing the building and the original benefactor was asked for a professional estimate of the cost for restoration. This was done by going back to the preservationists and architects who previously renovated and expanded the library. Their estimate came back in a range of \$460,000 to just over \$1 million to restore the exterior and to gut and reconstruct the interior and this is where consideration for restoration ceased. The library and the foundation owns three buildings and in protecting these properties, they work from a list which prioritizes preserving and protecting them. The total of this list approaches \$2 million and the library simply cannot justify the kind of money it would take to restore 417 Columbus Avenue and jeopardize the preservation and protection of the true gems. The library does not think the cost of this restoration is justified, especially when there is no use for the building on the property. Grants come with strings, control or perceived control by others; the board's responsibility is how to best preserve, protect and improve the library and is precisely what they are doing in making this difficult decision. Over the last ten years or so, no less than 30 persons have served either on the Library or the Foundation Boards or in the senior staff management of the library; each one of these persons care deeply about the library and its treasures and have taken the same oath as the city commissioners have taken to uphold the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Ohio, and to work to the best of their abilities in the performance of their duties. They have also faced the difficult question about this property but have, at one time or another, agreed the point of last resort has been reached. The library believes in preservation just as members of the Old House Guild and have acted in this regard. The library has worked on some of the most significant, historic, architectural and beautiful buildings in our city and are dedicated to this. Tough decisions have been made and large sums of money are spent every month to keep the gems they have shining. When listening to members of the Old House Guild, Lee McDermond said he was impressed with their sincerity and shares their feelings to preserve our past, but being actively involved in preservation involves a stewardship of our heritage. Part of good stewardship is making tough choices; everything cannot be saved and we must choose carefully those which we wish to save and what will be done with them. It is one thing to undertake a \$750,000 to \$1 million project to restore and preserve this house if there is a purpose in mind and others have done so including properties owned by Nikki Lloyd and his former law firm on Wayne Street. We must look at how to best serve the things we care about and members of the library board have decided it is time to take this step. This has not been an easy, quick or cavalier decision; it was made methodically over the past several years and asks this commission to recognize the number of people who have worked on this problem, the time, effort and thought given the difficult decision which has been made. The Landmark Commission did not vote this down; it was a three to three vote to approve the

demolition. At least two of these votes implied if the library had tried to sell the building it might be more worthy. The library is not asking for a historical arm of the city to be chopped off; they are asking to recognize the difficulty of preserving and protecting what is perhaps more of a gem than this.

Dennis Murray said both arguments have been presented very well and thanked the library for the tremendous work they do to distinguish Sandusky from other communities. It is a great institution and all who serve on the board do so without compensation and they do it because they love Sandusky. By the same token, members of the Old House Guild have given well-presented arguments about this difficult decision.

Casey Sparks, Chief Planner, said this is an appeal to the Landmark Commission decision and the property at 417 Columbus is zoned general business. The Landmark Commission denied the application for the Certificate of Appropriateness to demolish this structure and the applicant submitted an appeal. The Sandusky Library and the Follett House Museum believes it is critical to retain the land the building sits on for the purposes of expansion, access for parking or a reading garden. The Library and the Museum have three properties on the National Register of Historic Places. This structure was built in 1854, is currently on the National Register and is unique with Italianate Victorian architecture and has a wrought iron porch which is only one of two in Sandusky. The historical significance is in regard to Leonard B. Johnson who once resided in the building and has a relationship with Johnson's Island. The library purchased the building in 1899 and in 2001 the property was renovated to include five apartments and rented out; in 2012, the library foundation decided the building was not fit for habitation or rehabilitation. The library had provided an estimate in their application for the Certificate of Appropriateness for the renovations and the range was from \$700,000 to \$1 million. More importantly, from a staffing perspective, Sandusky has a rich history of historic buildings and has taken great steps to preserve these historic buildings including being granted a Certified Local Government status. We have established a Landmark Commission and recently have expanded the city's historic district to preserve these structures and to allow opportunities for economic development in these buildings. The Secretary of the Interior standards for rehabilitation are what the Landmark Commission uses to review these applications. The purpose of the standards is to preserve the buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Historical characteristics of a property shall be retained and preserved and any removal of these materials or alterations of these features or spaces should be avoided at all costs. The commission has the task to uphold or repeal the decision of the Landmark Commission and Planning staff recommends upholding the decision to assist in preservation of a very important and historic structure.

Dennis Murray asked if there are any facts which Lee McDermond would like to be corrected; Lee McDermond thanked the city for assistance given in providing records. Although he may differ with some of the interpretations, he does not think this is what the city wants to hear at this time.

Nikki Lloyd said everything is changing right now, City Hall is moving and is proud this move will be helping to rehabilitate three buildings. When she spoke with Angela Byington and learned this was going before the Landmark Commission, Nikki Lloyd said she was astonished but appreciates all of the work put into this by the library, but wants to make sure our youth knows we should not just be throwing things away. There is an offer to relocate but asked how well this has been marketed. It is irresponsible to take down an old building and it was not her intention to come back to Sandusky and end up renovating and maintaining three properties and now is working on a fourth. Not everything has a purpose right now, but in order to save these buildings and keep the character of the community, a purpose must be found and is now watching work being done on a property which previously had no purpose. Although she is not financing this project, she was able to find someone to finance it and save it. She would like to see the city, the foundation and the Old House Guild boards to repurpose this building so as not to lose any of its character and/or history and will support upholding the decision made by the Landmark Commission and following the National Historic Register recommendations.

Naomi Twine said this is a very difficult decision and knows a lot of heart and passion was put in by both sides. Naomi Twine said she will be voting yes to uphold maintaining the property and does not want to see a historic building like this torn down; rather, she would like to see how it can be utilized. This is difficult, but supports maintaining this structure and trying to find a use or a way to utilize it.

Dennis Murray said this is a ‘Rockwell’ moment and if Washington or Columbus could operate this way, having respectful and civil discussion, the interest of our country would be further advanced. Because they are not doing this, we are having these kinds of conversations locally and expects they will remain civil. This is a difficult decision and there are friends over many years on both sides of this issue, but must recuse himself from voting on this as his wife is on the Library Board.

Wes Poole said he listened carefully to what has been said and it seems to hinge on the belief this property is critical to the library’s mission in some fashion. From his perspective, the fence can be taken down which the library owns to make additional parking. He understands the library did not want to create additional space for the reading garden but did not talk about parking during their presentation. Wes Poole said he is not convinced this piece of property is all that critical. In addition, there is an empty lot near the corner of Jackson and Jefferson Streets. There is also property behind the church at the corner of Jefferson Street and Columbus Avenue which appears to be owned by the library and does not see why this property is so critical. More importantly, there are options the library can take to fulfill their mission to the community without tearing this building down. Repurposing this property for something else is much better as a gateway to our downtown than it would be as grass or a parking lot. The community will not be better off by removing this building and replacing it with grass or gravel. The Library Board members, if replaced by other individuals, may have come to a different conclusion and would like to see the community come up with a way to spend the money to fix this building. The city does not benefit in any way from tearing it down. Wes Poole asked if it will be the end of the story if this is not allowed to be torn down or repurposed or if there is an alternative. Justin Harris said the library has the right to file a lawsuit in civil court to force the city’s hand regarding the Certificate of Appropriateness. It may be good for the city, the Old House Guild and the Library Board to put their collective heads together and figure out a solution for all involved parties. Wes Poole asked if the community can work toward having a discussion about saving this building as he is not convinced all of the possibilities have been exhausted.

Dave Waddington said Sandusky was a very different place in 1999 to 2000 and the downtown was basically dead but things are turning around now and buildings are being repurposed and hopes something might be able to fill this space to identify its connection with Johnson’s Island and its historical value. Dave Waddington said he will vote to uphold this decision. City Hall is relocating downtown and perhaps the Police Department and Municipal Court.

Nikki Lloyd said based on the comments made, we should look at this as an opportunity for everyone to work together rather than just saying no.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Greg Lockhart, Naomi Twine, Wes Poole, Dave Waddington, Nikki Lloyd and Dick Brady, 6. Abstain: Dennis Murray, 1. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the resolution: Yeas: Greg Lockhart, Naomi Twine, Wes Poole, Dave Waddington, Nikki Lloyd and Dick Brady, 6. Abstain: Dennis Murray, 1. The President declared the resolution passed under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

2. Submitted by Maria Muratori, Economic Development Specialist

GRANT TO BSL HOLDINGS FOR EXPANSION PROJECT

Budgetary Information: The city will be responsible for providing a total of \$15,000 in grant proceeds from the economic development capital projects fund on a reimbursable basis at the completion of the project.

ORDINANCE NO. 18-020: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and approving a grant in the amount of \$15,000 through the small business assistance grant program to BSL Holdings, Ltd., in relation to the property located at 1517 Fifth Street; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Dave Waddington, the Commission voted to approve this ordinance under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Dick Brady said this legislation is going to save 29 jobs in this city. Maria Muratori said BSL Holdings is solely owned by Robert Waldock and includes a 32,000 SF warehouse and offices. This property has been renovated and improved from a former Brownfield site and currently provides space for storage and for Home Brew Ohio. AVI Food Systems will be relocating from another location within Sandusky as its lease has expired and the landlord is not renewing their lease. It is estimated AVI employs approximately 29 persons and it is important to retain this business within the city and the income taxes associated with the employees. The city and the Erie County Economic Development Corporation has worked with Bob Waldock to find a solution for AVI in a timely fashion and if this space did not work, they may have relocated out of the city and likely out of Erie County; this grant was a motivating factor for completion of the project. Funding will provide improvements to the loading docks, installation of a dividing wall, electrical upgrades and installation of a new entrance. The total project cost is just under \$30,000, not including an additional \$30,000 of other improvements which will be made by the property owner. The Economic Development Incentive Committee approved a \$15,000 small business assistance grant at its January 9 meeting which is approximately fifty percent of the project cost and will leverage private funds two times. Per the grant agreement, the project will be completed no later than April 30, 2018. Dave Waddington said he lives on McKinley Street which is nearby and is glad to see something going in which will provide activity because of safety issues. Dick Brady said this project dramatically increases the batting average for costs per job by retaining 29 jobs at about \$500 per job (with this grant) and is a great opportunity for us. Maria Muratori said for 2016 and 2017, on average, this was about \$6,000 in comparison to the revolving loan fund used previously which required about one job per \$25,000. Dennis Murray commended Bob Waldock for cleaning up this property and said it has been a long-time effort and they have been a great partner to this neighborhood.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Greg Lockhart, Naomi Twine, Wes Poole, Dennis Murray, Dave Waddington, Nikki Lloyd and Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Greg Lockhart, Naomi Twine, Wes Poole, Dennis Murray, Dave Waddington, Nikki Lloyd and Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

**3. Submitted by Aaron Klein, Public Works Director
PURCHASE OF PLAY EQUIPMENT FOR CENTRAL PARK**

Budgetary Information: This purchase in the amount of \$83,660.44 will be paid from CDBG funds and Neighborhood Initiative funds; \$80,000 will be paid for out of CDBG and \$3,660.44 will be paid out of neighborhood initiative funds.

ORDINANCE NO. 18-021: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to purchase playground equipment and associated surfacing from David Williams & Associates/Gametime of Alliance, Ohio, for Central Park; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Nikki Lloyd, the Commission voted to approve this ordinance under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Dave Waddington said there have been a couple of meetings about Central Park with nearby residents and loves the idea of enhancing this park. Dennis Murray said this is a great example of public engagement and getting input from the community before proceeding.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Greg Lockhart, Naomi Twine, Wes Poole, Dennis Murray, Dave Waddington, Nikki Lloyd and Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Greg Lockhart, Naomi Twine, Wes Poole, Dennis Murray, Dave Waddington, Nikki Lloyd and Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

4. Submitted by Jeff Meinert, WWTP Superintendent

~~WWTP EMERGENCY POWER REPAIRS~~

~~**Budgetary Information:** The cost of \$10,612 for equipment purchase and \$11,325 for contractual services, totaling \$21,937 will be paid with sewer funds.~~

~~**ORDINANCE NO. _____:** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager and/or the Finance Director to expend funds for the emergency purchase and installation of a transfer switch at the Waste Water Treatment Plant in the amount of \$21,937; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.~~

5. Submitted by Jane Cullen, Project Engineer

CONTRACT AWARD FOR GARTLAND AVENUE PROJECT

Budgetary Information: The estimated cost of the project based on bids, including engineering, inspection, advertising and miscellaneous costs is \$994,167.68 with \$544,129.16 to be paid with sewer funds and \$302,244.93 to be paid with water funds and \$147,793.59 with capital projects funds (Issue 8).

ORDINANCE NO. 18-022: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Underground Utilities, Inc. of Monroeville, Ohio, for the Gartland Avenue reconstruction project; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Nikki Lloyd and second of Dave Waddington, the Commission voted to approve this ordinance under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Dennis Murray said the residents are looking forward to this and said there has been great communication between the city and the residents.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Greg Lockhart, Naomi Twine, Wes Poole, Dennis Murray, Dave Waddington, Nikki Lloyd and Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Greg Lockhart, Naomi Twine, Wes Poole, Dennis Murray, Dave Waddington, Nikki Lloyd and Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

6. Submitted by Matt Lasko, Chief Development Officer

DEMOLITION AND ASBESTOS ABATEMENT FOR STRUCTURE AT 1702 CAMPBELL STREET

Budgetary Information: The total estimated cost for this project including advertising and miscellaneous expenses will exceed \$10,000. After receipt and review of bids, staff will present to City Commission in the future with a recommendation to enter into a contract with the firm that provided the lowest and best bid for the demolition and asbestos abatement. The proposed funding source for the demolition and asbestos abatement is the EMS fund.

RESOLUTION NO. 004-18R: It is requested a resolution be passed declaring the necessity for the city to proceed with the proposed demolition and asbestos abatement of the 1702 Campbell Street project; 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 Naomi Twine and second of Nikki Lloyd, the Commission voted to approve this resolution under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Greg Lockhart, Naomi Twine, Wes Poole, Dennis Murray, Dave Waddington, Nikki Lloyd and Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the resolution: Yeas: Greg Lockhart, Naomi Twine, Wes Poole, Dennis Murray, Dave Waddington, Nikki Lloyd and Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the resolution passed under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

7. Submitted by Aaron Klein, Director of Public Works

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE LANDING PROJECT

Budgetary Information: There is no cost to provide support of the Landing Park project and conceptual plan.

RESOLUTION NO. 005-18R: It is requested a resolution be passed in support of the Landing Park project; and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Nikki Lloyd and second of Wes Poole, the Commission voted to approve this resolution under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Greg Lockhart, Naomi Twine, Wes Poole, Dennis Murray, Dave Waddington, Nikki Lloyd and Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the resolution: Yeas: Greg Lockhart, Naomi Twine, Wes Poole, Dennis Murray, Dave Waddington, Nikki Lloyd and Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the resolution passed under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

8. Submitted by Hank Solowiej, Finance Director

REVISION TO CHAPTER 192 – MUNICIPAL INCOME TAXES

Budgetary Information: There is no cost associated with adopting this ordinance. The Regional Income Tax Agency has reviewed and approved the amended chapter.

ORDINANCE NO. 18-023: It is requested an ordinance be passed amending Part One (Administrative Code), Title Nine (Taxation), Chapter 192 (Income Tax), specifically Sections 192.02, 192.04, 192.05, 192.07 and 192.18 of the codified ordinances in the manner and way specifically set forth hereinbelow; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Nikki Lloyd and second of Naomi Twine, the Commission voted to approve this ordinance under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Hank Solowiej said this is a language change as the State of Ohio had all municipalities get on the same page with their ordinances. When changes are made at the state level, they impact our ordinances which must be brought into in compliance. Dennis Murray said this has a negative impact on the amount of income taxes we will collect. A lot of Sandusky businesses are already using the Ohio Gateway but we are concerned that with these filings, the money goes to the state and we do not yet know the timeliness of how they will distribute these funds back; previously they came back to us through the Regional Income Tax Agency (R.I.T.A.). Dennis Murray said this is a legal requirement and the city does not have a choice. Hank Solowiej said previously the state passed a budget bill and the city did its first revision to update our code. There are two ordinances for income tax purposes and the first is for periods after January 1, 2017; prior years still follow the old ordinance. New income tax provisions allow businesses to file through the State and there are not procedures in place as to how long they can hold this money or how it will be distributed. Absent this, the new House Bill passed made changes to municipal income tax ordinances and all municipalities have to go through the process to update their language to be in compliance with the changes. The changes are not major and do not change anything the state has already done. Wes Poole said businesses will now pay the State of Ohio and the State of Ohio will give this money back to the municipality and we may potentially get less money because the state will charge a fee. Justin Harris said entities like R.I.T.A. are

reaching out to communities and believes there may be litigation between some municipalities and the State of Ohio to iron out whether this is appropriate. Dennis Murray said there is a cost associated with this as our Charter requires we publish the ordinance in its entirety although this is probably not the wisest expenditure of city funds.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Greg Lockhart, Naomi Twine, Wes Poole, Dennis Murray, Dave Waddington, Nikki Lloyd and Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Greg Lockhart, Naomi Twine, Wes Poole, Dennis Murray, Dave Waddington, Nikki Lloyd and Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- Eric Wobser welcomed **Tondra Frisby, the city's new Youth Program Supervisor**. Through her work at the Nehemiah Center, she will help implement the Bicentennial visioning component to engage youth in the community through recreation programming in the summer and ultimately during the school year.
- **Upon motion of Nikki Lloyd and second of Dick Brady, the commission voted to accept a \$600 donation from Dave Waddington to be used for the public and cultural art and acquisition fund. The President declared the motion passed.**
- **Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Nikki Lloyd, the commission voted to accept a \$100 donation from Nanette Guss for a future security system at Oakland Cemetery. The President declared the motion passed.**
- **Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Nikki Lloyd, the commission voted to make the following appointments:**

Dru Meredith on the CRA Housing Council through 12.31.20; Joe Ann Bonner & Dru Meredith on the Tax Incentive Review Council; Abbey Bemis on the Economic Development Incentive Committee through 12.31.20; Dr. Richard Keller on the Erie County Board of Health through 12.31.22; Dan Fresch on the Fire Prevention Code Board of Appeals through 12.31.20; Gary Guendelsberger (regular member) on the Housing Appeals Board through 12.31.20 and Mike Meinzer, (alternate member) through 12.31.20; Keri May on the Income Tax Board of Review through 12.31.19; and, John Feick on the Residential Building Code Board of Appeals through 12.31.20.

The President declared the motion passed.

- **The Erie County Veterans Memorial Park Committee is partnering with the Friends of the Greenhouse to request a grant from the Erie County Community Foundation - and possibly one other local foundation - for Veterans Park. The project would entail the purchase and installation of a Gold Star Family Memorial in the park. Gold Star Memorials honor families who have sacrificed a loved one who gave their life to protect our freedom and to give freedom to many who have not experienced it. If their grant request is successful, the money would be used for the purchase and installation of a concrete foundation, curb and slab, brick pavers, monument and base. The city's Horticultural Services/Greenhouse Division would take care of all plantings and landscaping. John Feick with Feick Design Group is a member of the Erie County Veterans Park Committee and has donated all of the architectural design work for the project. If funded (and when complete) the materials would be formally gifted to the City of Sandusky through the City Commission.**
- **Toft Dairy created a new ice cream for the city's Bicentennial year called Bicentennial Butterscotch Toffee. This flavor will be available at Toft Dairy and we are grateful for their partnership.**

- The **Bicentennial Ball** is officially sold out and a waiting list is being offered by the State Theatre. Numerous historic activities are being offered during the next few weeks including the Bicentennial Banter Series featuring: Prohibition in Ohio at the Sandusky Library, the Underground Railroad Conductor being reenacted at the Sandusky Library and Sandusky's NAACP at the State Theatre.
- In lieu of Commissioner Waddington's advocacy for Care and Share, it was determined **officers in the Police Department who wanted to continue to have beards/facial hair** for the month of February would be permitted to have facial hair through making a donation to this organization. A donation to Care and Share has been given to Commissioner Waddington for this cause. This will be the last month of facial hair until November, 2018. Dennis Murray said the commission voted to accept funds in the amount of \$505 for this cause and thanked all of the Police Officers for this contribution.
- Members of the Police and Fire Departments participated in **the Parent Summit at Sandusky High School** on January 20 from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m.
- The next **Audit/Finance Committee meeting** is Friday, February 23 at 7:45 a.m.
- The Division of Engineering is applying for a grant for the first phase of work to be done for the **Landing Park project**, located north of Cedar Fair Sports Force and Sports Center. The grant application is due the first week of February.
- The Division of Water Distribution has **purchased new drinking fountains** to replace old fountains in several locations, as well as to be installed in a few additional locations throughout the city.
- We would like to welcome **Curtis Lofties as a full-time employee in the Division of Water Distribution.**
- The consultant for the **west end utility and connectivity** project plans to initiate field and drone surveys this week and may be in the field for several weeks. Please be careful when driving and do not remove their stakes.
- The city is currently accepting **Requests for Qualifications for multiple projects related to the new City Hall administrative facility.** These requests are related to:
 1. seeking qualified signage design and fabrication companies to undertake the design, fabrication and installation of exterior & interior signage;
 2. seeking qualified commercial moving companies to provide commercial moving services to move office furniture intended to be brought to the new facility; and
 3. seeking qualified office furniture suppliers to undertake the design consultation, purchase, delivery and installation of a limited amount of new office furniture.
- The regular **Planning Commission meeting** scheduled for Wednesday January 24 has been canceled.
- The regular **Board of Zoning Appeals meeting** will be held Thursday February 15 at 4:30 p.m. in the first floor conference room.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Dave Waddington, the commission voted to set a Public Hearing on February 26 regarding the CDBG annual Action Plan for 2018. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Nikki Lloyd, the commission voted to appoint Brian Stanley to the ADA/Fair Housing Board.

Discussion: Dennis Murray said Brian Stanley is an architect, is well-skilled and able to provide the Board with some technical advice.

The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Dick Brady and second of Wes Poole, the commission voted to appoint Bernie Seiler to the Recreation Board.

Discussion: Dennis Murray said Bernie Seiler is a long-time coach for Sandusky City Schools.

The President declared the motion passed.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Kathryn Carter, 5309 Columbus Avenue, said it sounds as if the library did not want the house at 417 Columbus Avenue in the first place or they would have charged enough rent to keep it and hopes they can find someone in this country to make it a beautiful Bed and Breakfast. The commission voted to put money aside for public art and suggested having a meeting for two hours and invite every art and design teacher from every high school in this county to discuss how to bring art into Sandusky and this will not cost the city anything.

At 7:05 p.m., upon motion of Dick Brady and second of Dave Waddington, the commission voted to adjourn. The President declared the motion passed.

Kelly L. Kresser, CMC
Commission Clerk

Dennis E. Murray, Jr.
President of the City Commission