

The President called the meeting to order at 5 p.m. after the Invocation, given by Dick Brady, and the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Law Director called the roll and the following Commissioners responded: Wes Poole, Blake Harris, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer and Dave Waddington. Dennis Murray was in attendance via teleconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to excuse Dennis Murray. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Mike Meinzer and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to approve the Minutes of the March 9, 2020, meeting and suspend the formal reading. The President declared the motion passed.

City staff present: Michelle Reeder – Finance Director, Trevor Hayberger – Law Director, Eric Wobser – City Manager, John Orzech – Assistant City Manager & Police Chief and Stuart Hamilton – IT Manager

City staff via telephone: Aaron Klein - Director of Public Works, Angie Byington – Director of Planning, Matt Lasko – Chief Development Officer and Rick Wilcox – Fire Chief

#### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

None.

#### **CURRENT BUSINESS**

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

#### **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

The President asked if the commissioners wished to remove any items from the Consent Agenda. Wes Poole requested Item A be placed on the Regular Agenda (new Item #1 below).

##### **A. Submitted by Michelle Reeder, Finance Director**

#### **ANNUAL PAYMENT TO SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS, INC. FOR FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE**

**Budgetary Impact:** The total cost for the annual support fee is \$31,367.71. Of this amount, \$15,683.85 will be paid by the general fund, \$7,841.93 by the water fund and \$7,841.93 by the sewer fund.

**ORDINANCE NO. 20-055:** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing payment to Software Solutions, Inc. of Dayton, Ohio, for the annual software support fee for the period of April 1, 2020, through March 31, 2021; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

##### **B. Submitted by Aaron Klein, Director of Public Works**

#### **APPLICATION TO ERIE COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION FOR CITY STREET PROJECTS**

**Budgetary Information:** If awarded, the respected matches would be allocated in the five-year capital budget from an account with funds available for infrastructure such as CDBG, Issue 8, sewer fund, storm water fund, street fund, water fund or general fund.

**1. RESOLUTION NO. 009-20R:** It is requested a resolution be passed approving the submission of an application to the Erie Regional Planning Commission Metropolitan Planning Organization for financial assistance for the East Water Street resurfacing project and, if awarded, authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into the LPA Federal Local-LET project agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation; and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

**2. [RESOLUTION NO. 010-20R](#):** It is requested a resolution be passed approving the submission of an application to the Erie Regional Planning Commission Metropolitan Planning Organization for financial assistance for the West Monroe Street resurfacing project and, if awarded, authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into the LPA Federal Local-LET project agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation; and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

**3. [RESOLUTION NO. 011-20R](#):** It is requested a resolution be passed approving the submission of an application to the Erie Regional Planning Commission Metropolitan Planning Organization for financial assistance for the East Perkins Avenue resurfacing project and, if awarded, authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into the LPA Federal Local-LET project agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation; and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

**C. Submitted by Stuart Hamilton, IT Manager**

**PAYMENT TO WONDERWARE NORTH FOR SOFTWARE AND MAINTENANCE OF SCADA SYSTEM FOR WWTP**

**Budgetary Information:** The cost for this support and maintenance agreement for a twelve month period will be \$12,734 and will be paid with funds from the sewer department's operating budget.

**ORDINANCE NO. 20-056:** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing payment to Wonderware North (Q-Mation) of Horsham, Pennsylvania, for the renewal of the customer first support program for the supervisory control and data acquisition software at the Waste Water Treatment Plant for the period of May 23, 2020 through May 22, 2021; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

**D. Submitted by Debi Eversole, Housing Development Specialist**

**SALE OF PARCEL LOCATED IN COLD CREEK CROSSING SUBDIVISION**

**Budgetary Information:** The city will recoup the cost of the expenses from the sale, if any. Out of the remaining proceeds of the sale, \$9,339.32 will be applied to the future assessments on the property and the rest will be applied to debt service on the infrastructure bonds. The taxing district will begin collecting real estate taxes of approximately \$509 per year for the vacant land, plus real property taxes that will be assessed at 35% of the appraised value of the new structure.

**ORDINANCE NO. 20-057:** 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 No. 60-00043.023, located at 515 Cold Creek Crossing Boulevard in the Cold Creek Crossing subdivision is no longer needed for any municipal purpose and authorizing the execution of a purchase 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.

**Upon motion of Mike Meinzer and second of Wes Poole, the Commission voted to accept the Consent Agenda and declare all ordinances and resolutions as drafted and presented to the City Commission under the Consent Agenda shall take effect in full accordance with the Section reflected in the ordinances or resolutions whether they be in accordance with Section 13 or Section 14 of the City Charter. Roll call on the motion: Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Blake Harris and Dick Brady, 6. Roll call on the ordinances: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Blake Harris and Dick Brady, 6. The President declared the ordinances and resolutions contained in the Consent Agenda passed in full accordance with the city charter.**

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**SECOND READING**

**1. Submitted by Greg Voltz, Assistant Planner**

**ADOPTION OF 2020 PUBLIC ART WORK PLAN**

**Budgetary Information:** There is no direct budgetary impact related to the adoption of the 2020 Public Art Work Plan. However, implementation of the projects listed in the Plan will be

completed with Public Art and Cultural Acquisition Fund (PAAAF) dollars, Sandusky Neighborhood Initiative dollars, and grants and donations that may become available. All projects exceeding \$10,000 will require City Commission approval. The PAAAF referenced in the Work Plan was created with the creation of the Public Arts & Culture Commission and shall be funded on an annual basis with the use of general funds, not admissions tax dollars. One percent of the total admissions tax received from the previous year was used to calculate the budget for the PAAAF. **ORDINANCE NO. 20-054**: It is requested an ordinance be passed approving and adopting the 2020 Public Art Work Plan for the City of Sandusky.

**Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to adopt this ordinance at second reading.**

*Discussion:* Wes Poole said he wanted to talk about the current situation and how this expenditure fits into the city's budget. He is not sure we have the money with the budget situation as it is in terms of priority and is not certain we will generate the kind of funds projected in the budget. This is completely discretionary and for someone to say we will make plenty of money and can do this is up to this commission. Since expenditures up to \$10,000 can be made by staff, these can add up and this is money we will have to come up with if the budget is approved as it is now. We should be approving projects one at a time regardless of the amount of money. It seems like a lot of extra work for the commission to look this over, but he is not sure he wants to spend one percent of the admissions tax on art and find out in another year our revenues are down and have to cut something else. We are unable to fully fund the grant for people who need down payment assistance and this is a bigger priority. We need to start looking way ahead to make adjustments in the budget and this can be the start as it is discretionary. Dave Waddington said he sat in on the Audit/Finance Committee meeting on Friday and they supported the 2020 budget. He trusts the City Manager with this and he understands the budget was developed before the crisis hit. We do not know where it is going to go and he is still good with passing this. The members of the Audit/Finance Committee will be meeting to discuss the budget and he would like them to massage the numbers; he still supports this and hopefully this turns sooner rather than later. Mike Meinzer said he read the supporting documents and sees \$30,000 was left over from last year. He asked if this will have to be done during the warmer weather months rather than later and wonders if it can be delayed and still be accomplished. He asked if this money would be placed back into the general fund if necessary. Eric Wobser said there is no direct budgetary impact related to the adoption of the 2020 Public Art Work Plan – this is the Plan for work. We have instructed staff to put a hold on bringing projects forward now whether they will be \$100 or \$10,000 (or more) and requiring legislation because we are doing a complete analysis of projects which are not obligated by contracts currently. We know this pandemic will impact our budget and we will have a larger conversation about this when we get into the budget document. The adoption of this Plan will not lead to the expenditure of any funds without much further scrutiny by his office, the Finance Director and eventually the members of the Public Arts & Culture Commission and City Commissioners. Nearly everything we are doing is to be determined as we understand the financial impact. This is planned art and it is important to have this in place and adopted today. Legislation was passed by this City Commission which set aside a certain amount of funding for public art. We believe there is a workaround with this, but want to make sure we have a legal analysis from the Law Director before redirecting any funds. Hopefully these plans will be redirected without abandoning programs as it strengthens. Mike Meinzer said he is downtown almost every day and sees tourists taking pictures in front of the mural at the State Theatre and public art does add a lot of value and culture to the city and he supports this with the City Manager's advice. Wes Poole said all of the things included in this plan do not require passage today. This Plan removes the City Commission's supervision and input. All of the things suggested by the City Manager which might occur or are going to occur in terms of future negotiations and discussions can also happen. This is as much as sending a message to staff and to the community the Commissioners, from their leadership position, recognize we have a lot of doubt about how much money we are going to get. Cedar Point is going to open late and they represent forty percent of our income and how well they do determines this Plan. He is not sure how the statement "there is no budgetary impact" works or what it means because this is paid for through the general fund. It represents one percent of the

admissions tax from the general fund and we have to spend money from this fund; he wants to be on record as opposing discretionary spending without any knowledge of whether or not we will be able to provide for the fundamental governmental services.

**Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington and Dick Brady, 4. Nays: Wes Poole and Blake Harris, 2. The President declared the ordinance passed at second reading.**

## **SECOND READING**

**ITEM #2 - Submitted by Eric Wobser, City Manager and Michelle Reeder, Finance Director**

### **ADOPTION OF CY 2020 BUDGET**

**ORDINANCE NO. 20-058**: It is requested an ordinance be passed making general appropriations for the fiscal year 2020; 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 at second reading and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

*Discussion:* Wes Poole said with an abundance of caution, he would like to provide thoughts on this budget. Before the COVID-19 dilemma we are now in, he felt this budget and revenues were above and beyond what we could possibly expect. Our 2019 revenues in almost all categories, especially income tax and admissions tax, were less than 2018. They were significantly under what we budgeted which is simply a projection for what we are going to get. He has seen nothing to indicate why projections would increase in 2020 in light of the fact our revenues are headed downward and has seen nothing to indicate why we would project we are going to make all of this extra money. We are in a position where we are going to make even less and less money and his observations about revenues apply, not just to the income tax, but to the individual payments or revenues projected we will get in the Police and Fire Departments and each individual department. He asked this question last year and recognizes the Police Department was projecting significant revenues which were well above what they had ever taken in before. He listened to the answer at the time and they spoke about writing more tickets, as he recalls, and is not sure where the other revenues come from; we did not come anywhere near these proclamations, yet we are again projecting higher. If expenditures are projected based on these revenues without additional reasons to make him believe we will get this money, he cannot support the budget as it is. At the end of last year we hired an Assistant City Manager and he did not believe we needed this position. He asked about this when it came up in December but to date, he has received nothing which indicates a reason to justify adding another \$130,000 salary (with benefits). Additionally, going forward, this budget indicates we will have one less Police Officer next year. He is not, under any circumstances, interested in a budget to reduce the Police Department and this is unacceptable. Spending the money on the front end as we projected for the Arts Commission and then figuring out later what is going to be cut from services for the community does not make any sense. He suggests we not hire a Police Chief and keep the one we have and we do not need an Assistant City Manager until we come up with a reason which justifies having one. We can hire a Police Chief down the road if we need one. Dave Waddington said he shares some of these concerns and asked the City Manager to share the plans going forward. Eric Wobser said COVID-19 has certainly impacted this budget and will absolutely cause many amendments to it over time. We have already begun the process of getting feedback from members of the Audit/Finance Committee and the City Commission as to these changes. Prior to the pandemic, our income and lodging tax collections were both up by 20% through February for a net increase of about \$600,000+ in the general fund budget. Through March, we collected 20% of YTD income tax revenues or \$3.2 million which is very high for this time of year. This is very frustrating because we had a strong economy which has been derailed. A second School Resource Officer position was budgeted which was to be funded through the Sandusky City Schools, but with the COVID-19 pandemic, this will no longer be funded so there is no reduction in the police force. As we look at necessary changes to the budget, we want to impact as little as possible in the Police and Fire Departments and have already set this as a priority. We have begun a process of identifying what we are contractually obligated to do, finding savings in our programs

and capital projects, community consultant projects which have yet to be contracted, and a number of things we can do to control non-staff related costs. We are also evaluating all of our staff-related costs. We have decided to delay or postpone the Police Chief search and John Orzech will continue to be the Chief while providing support in his Assistant City Manager role so currently, this has no impact whatsoever on this year's budget. He wants to make sure everyone knows that we know this budget is going to change dramatically. Today, the Governor said they will have a hiring freeze at the state level and expect the state's budget to be impacted up to as much as 20%. He mentioned they have a rainy-day fund and it is raining; this will also be true at the local level. This is a testament to the leadership of this commission, as well as to the staff and our community partners, that we sit in better financial standing in the history of Sandusky going into this recession. We have a high reserve and a budget which was performing significantly better and have a payroll stabilization account with over \$1 million deposited over the last several years. In switching to a self-insurance program, we had a significantly over-funded healthcare reserve. This does not mean we are not going to have to make deep changes to this year's budget. It is a reminder we do not have to blink an eye or panic in this challenge: we can go forward and we can plan from a position of strength. This strength did not happen by accident, it happened through hard work and decisions made at the top levels. Michelle Reeder said our income tax collections were up by \$240,000 to date as compared to the same time in 2019 and things were looking very good, but we have been hit by a curveball. We will readjust and look at this budget to see where we can make cuts. Dave Waddington said we went through similar times when he served on the commission previously and hopes we transition into something entirely different. Dennis Murray said no one knows what lies ahead; this could be contained in a couple of months, but it could be longer. We do not know what our primary revenue sources will look like. We are in as good of a position as any local government could be. He is very confident we will make good adjustments with our Directors as soon as possible and now is not the time to panic. We need to continue to focus on our core services such as police, fire, water and sewer while other things may have to take a back seat. He does not know exactly when this has to happen or when these cuts have to be made. We need to move forward very quickly to look at an alternative budget, but we do not know what it is going to look like. He is confident the staff is taking every opportunity right now to rein in spending and that they will do the right things and make the appropriate cuts at the appropriate time with input from the commissioners. Mike Meinzer said this budget has to be passed by the end of March for the city to continue to operate. He asked if there is an avenue for the commission to provide and hear budget amendments to reassure there will be time for input at a later date. Eric Wobser said amendments to the budget have to be approved by the City Commissioners. We have sped up the Audit/Finance Committee meetings to be held on a monthly basis so we can get their feedback as well as get feedback from the City Commissioners before making any necessary changes. We have already begun to freeze as much spending as we can, but we also need more information as we do this to understand what the impacts will be to the budget. It will likely be delayed because of the way revenues have fallen. Some of this remains to be seen because we do not know when our challenges which we are going to be facing will end. Dick Brady said the whole world changed four weeks ago and this budget has been worked on by the staff for much longer than that. To depart from it now is like throwing the baby out with the bath water. None of us believe this budget is how we will conduct business for the next twelve months. There are going to be serious trimmings of every piece and part of this budget and we need to be prepared to take these on as the picture becomes clearer; it is not clear today. What is clear today is we have an obligation to pass the budget by April 1. We are all amateurs at this table as far as finance goes; we rely on our Finance Director, staff and unpaid volunteers on the Audit/Finance Committee who have endorsed this budget and this action and this is good enough for him to move forward. Mike Meinzer said when the City Commission discussed the position of Assistant City Manager, they supported this because of the development in Sandusky and this was for approximately two years, not permanently. Eric Wobser said the need for the position was created, in large part, because of larger projects such as the Justice Center; John Orzech has proved invaluable while still serving in both positions during this time and has a lot of great experience. Our goal for this year is to keep him working in both roles as much as possible with primary efforts being related to making sure the position of Police Chief is fulfilled. Anything beyond this we would take on a year-to-year basis when we know more about the health of the budget and our ability to suspend or maintain positions. We



Poole asked if we know where the \$345,000 additional money received during the first quarter came from. Michelle Reeder said through the most recent report from the Regional Income Tax Agency, withholding dollars increased the most. These are dollars coming from the employers when withholding a portion of the city's income tax for remission to the city. This goes toward all of the development and new businesses located within the city which are required to provide it to the city. Eric Wobser said this was specific to only the local income tax; we were up by over \$600,000 in total. Another big reason for this increase was a massive jump in lodging tax collections (20%+). We believe this is heavily due to increased early year activity taking place with the new Sports Center project. Once we are through this recession, their economic development and planning will occur in January through May which is relatively new to the market and will help a lot of our hotels which have only been seasonal. This will certainly be impacted by this recession this year and over the long term and this gives us positive feelings this segment of the market will continue to grow. Wes Poole asked for confirmation we will be maintaining our Police Department at its current level of staffing and that we intend to fill positions as they become vacant and will stay as we are. Eric Wobser said we have instituted a hiring freeze but as positions open and they will be approved on a case-by-case basis. We do not know the depth of what the recession will bring, but our first and foremost goal is to preserve safety services at their current levels. He cannot make any guarantees today because he does not know if our revenues could be down by ten or thirty percent this year. We are heavily prioritizing safety services and our ability to staff those positions. Wes Poole asked how the City Commission will be involved in the decision-making since ultimately, these decisions are theirs to make. Eric Wobser said his understanding is the Audit/Finance Committee has been put into place as the first step before the City Commission as it relates to really important financial matters. They will be meeting on a monthly basis and we will be able to have them help guide us through this process. In addition, he and Michelle Reeder have an open door to the concerns of the commission and will do their best to communicate with them. The last step before any budget amendments can be made is the City Commission and if Wes Poole would like input beyond his role at the table, he is welcome to make an appointment and go over every line of the budget to his satisfaction. Dick Brady said this courtesy can be extended to every commissioner. Wes Poole said the members of the Audit/Finance Committee do not make the kinds of decisions the commissioners do. They look at the numbers presented to them and assume the money will be spent wisely. The issue of looking at this on a case-by-case basis and perhaps cut a Police Officer is a policy decision the commissioners need to have a conversation about. This is not a conversation to be had with members of the Audit/Finance Committee. There are other positions within this organization he thinks are less priority than a Police Officer and what kinds of services we will provide to the community. Cutting a Police Officer to have a Downtown Event Coordinator is not something he supports. He is looking to where this is going to be discussed where it has any value because it certainly has no value with the Audit/Finance Committee. He has spoken to them and they are not interested in city operations. The commissioners are responsible for deciding the services; spending money on art and then running out of money for a Police Officer five months from now is reckless.

**Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Blake Harris and Dick Brady, 5. Nays: Wes Poole, 1. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Blake Harris and Dick Brady, 5. Nays: Wes Poole, 1. The President declared the ordinance passed at second reading and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

**ITEM #3 – Submitted by Debi Eversole, Housing Development Specialist**

**GRANT AGREEMENT WITH CASE DEVELOPMENT, LLC**

**Budgetary Information:** The city will be responsible for providing a total of \$37,500 in grant proceeds from the Community Development capital projects fund on a reimbursable basis in the amount of \$7,500 at a time with the receipt of Certificate of Occupancy for the completion of each of the first five units.

**ORDINANCE NO. 20-059:** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and approving a grant in the amount of \$37,500 through the Housing Development and Beautification grant program to Case Development, LLC, in relation to the property located at 409 West Water Street;

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 Wes Poole, the Commission voted to approve this ordinance under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Blake Harris and Dick Brady, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Blake Harris and Dick Brady, 6. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

**ITEM #4 – Submitted by Aaron Klein, Director of Public Works**

**CONTRACT WITH BROWNING-FERRIS INDUSTRIES DBA REPUBLIC WASTE SERVICES FOR 2020 YARD WASTE COLLECTION PROGRAM**

**Budgetary Information:** Based on service for one day per week pickup at \$12.60 per home, per month, and a contract for nine months, the estimate amount for the 2020 yard waste collection service is \$73,143 based on last year's figure of 645 customers. This amount is subject to change due to additions and deletions of customers to the program. The cost of the service will be charged back to the customers in addition to a charge of \$.50 per month for administrative costs.

**ORDINANCE NO. 20-060:** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Browning-Ferris Industries of Ohio, Inc. dba Republic Waste Services of Sandusky, Ohio, for the 2020 yard waste collection service which is available for the period of April 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020; 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 accordance with Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Blake Harris and Dick Brady, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Blake Harris and Dick Brady, 6. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

**FIRST READING**

**ITEM #5 – Submitted by Josh Snyder, Assistant City Engineer**

**CONTRACT AWARD TO PRECISION PAVING, INC. FOR 2020 LOCAL STREET RESURFACING PROJECT**

**Budgetary Information:** The total cost of the project based on the construction bid is \$1,119,450.79 which will be funded by \$300,000 in street funds, \$699,450.79 in capital projects funds, \$100,000 from the sewer fund and the remaining \$20,000 will come from the water fund.

**PASSED AT FIRST READING:** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Precision Paving, Inc., of Milan, Ohio, for the 2020 local street resurfacing project.

**Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Dave Waddington, the Commission voted to approve this ordinance at first reading. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Blake Harris and Dick Brady, 6. The President declared the ordinance passed at first reading.**

**ITEM #6 – Submitted by Josh Snyder, Assistant City Engineer**

**PROFESSIONAL DESIGN SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH LJB, INC. FOR WARREN STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT**

**Budgetary Information:** The not-to-exceed cost for professional design services is \$299,122, paid with water funds in an amount of \$99,707.33, storm water funds in an amount of \$99,707.33 and the remaining \$99,707.34 from street funds.

**ORDINANCE NO. 20-061:** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into an agreement for professional design services with LJB, Inc. of Fairview

Park, Ohio, for the Warren Street reconstruction project; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

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

*Discussion:* Aaron Klein said this is for the design of Warren Street from Monroe Street to Water Street including new storm sewers and water line improvements from the existing 6" line. It also includes curb, gutter and bike infrastructure to connect Huron Park to the waterfront. Eric Wobser said several years ago, the deplorable condition of Warren Street was brought to the city's attention in this section of roadway. It is, by far, the most unimproved street we have in the entire City of Sandusky. From a pavement/management perspective, we were not able to do this immediately with a new street resurfacing job because it is such a massive reconstruction and involves building a new street and adding storm water management. When we received the new gas tax dollars from the Governor last year, we felt this was the first time we had the resources to tackle the street on a larger scale and bring it up to a higher standard. This project has been recommended as being very necessary and something we should continue to design this year. Dave Waddington said when the city had cleanups in this area, this was a common thread heard about it and this is great news as far as he is concerned. Dick Brady said some accused the city of throwing good money after bad because the fix we provided was a temporary one. It was unfair to leave this in the condition it was in and was one of the rare times he did support - and continues to support this move - and said we have an obligation to do this and do it right. Wes Poole said this is an excellent project and asked the long-term plan for actually doing the project. Aaron Klein said we are hoping to apply for funding at some point later this year with the Ohio Public Works Commission and other resources so construction should begin mid-2021.

**Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Blake Harris and Dick Brady, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Blake Harris and Dick Brady, 6. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

#### **ITEM #7 – Submitted by Matt Lasko, Chief Development Officer**

#### **ADOPTING ANNUAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL & CRA HOUSING COUNCIL**

**Budgetary Information:** Some of the agreements require either annual monitoring fee payments or city compensation payments. For 2019 agreements, the city is to receive an estimated \$4,092.20 in monitoring and compensation payments. All funds are to be deposited into the general fund.

**RESOLUTION NO. 012-20R:** It is requested a resolution be passed accepting and approving the City of Sandusky Tax Incentive Review Council's recommendations regarding current taxation agreements; 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 Mike Meinzer, the Commission voted to approve this resolution under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Blake Harris and Dick Brady, 6. Roll call on the resolution: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Blake Harris and Dick Brady, 6. The President declared the resolution passed under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

#### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

- **Upon motion of Wes Poole and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to accept a donation of \$225 for the Sandusky Transit System's City Schools Waiver Day on March 4 from Commissioner Wes Poole.**



*Discussion:* Eric Wobser said this donation allowed 150 students to ride the STS fixed routes on the student's day off and take advantage of free activities across the city.

**The President declared the motion passed.**

- **Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Wes Poole, the commission voted to accept a donation of \$50 from the Solowiej family in memory of Andy Dunn. The President declared the motion passed.**
- **Upon motion of Mike Meinzer and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to accept a donation of 40 N95 masks for the Sandusky Fire Department from Construction Equipment. The President declare the motion passed.**
- **Based on the Governor's order, we have been putting a plan in place for over one week to move to essential services** and the City Commissioners have been updated via email of our plan to do so. Staff not considered essential will be instructed to be on-call or working from home during the next two weeks. Morale is high and those who will be working are ready and excited to serve; those who will be home are excited to do what they can from home as well. We appreciate the great sacrifices so many of our businesses are making during these very difficult economic times. We also are greatly appreciative of the work being done on the front lines by members of our Fire and Police Departments, Sewer and Water Departments, or those working as checkout cashiers at various grocery stores or healthcare workers. These are unique times, but he has never felt more inspired by how much so many have pulled together as a community. If all of us loved Sandusky before and had the privilege of serving on a day-to-day basis, we love seeing our neighbors, peers and institutions stepping up and making difficult sacrifices to preserve our health even more. Naomi Twine said city staff and the public have rallied around our stay-at-home mandates and protecting each other. We are in unprecedented times and having everyone pull together to try to address issues in the best orderly manner we can makes it easier for everyone to do what is necessary. She thanked city staff for putting the work into this and trying to come up with ways to honor the social distancing and those who can work from home are doing so. We do not know how long we will be in this situation and appreciates the city and the public pulling together and supporting things we need to do to keep our community safe. There was a lot of discussion about our budget tonight and believes at some point in time we are going to get beyond this. She appreciates the staff being mindful of things which are unknown at this point in time, taking recommendations of the Audit/Finance Committee and working together to figure things out while taking into consideration we cannot throw caution to the wind and go with what we had planned for. We have to make adjustments and balance this for when we are out of this situation.
- Dave Waddington asked about **legislation at the state level regarding holding meetings electronically** and what will happen in two weeks with the commission meetings. Dennis Murray said Trevor Hayberger has a better answer and understands legislation has been introduced to allow us to meet via Skype and this is necessary. Hopefully we will return to in-person meetings with the public as much as possible. The legislature will provide for this. Dave Waddington asked how to communicate right now. Dick Brady said a daily call/meeting is a way to be updated and commissioners may communicate with the City Manager via email or phone at any point in time. Naomi Twine said she believes the Law Director will keep us in the loop with legislation and ensure we are mindful of it. Dick Brady said men and women are never tested when times are good; they are tested in times like these and ours began a few weeks ago. The work done will pay a key role in how we come through this successfully and we will proceed one step at a time. It is imperative we do not get ahead of ourselves. We have been prudent tonight in passing a budget. None of us are foolish enough to believe we are going to have a banner year. Dave Waddington asked about other city meetings. Trevor Hayberger said any and all city meetings are canceled for the foreseeable future. If something comes up which is necessary and requires

immediate attention, we plan to call them as needed. There are three weeks before the next City Commission meeting and we should have more guidance between now and then. Wes Poole said he appreciates the job people are doing during this time. It takes a little tarnish off of all of the accolades we are giving when we have decided to pay people time and a half for working for what normally is a regular shift; he finds this objectionable. He has talked with some folks since it was announced we were going to pay essential employees at this rate. The indication is other businesses are not doing this; his daughter who is a nurse is not being paid at time and one half and as a commission, we have done a disservice to this community. We have individuals who are not working at all and 72% of people in the community are behind in their water bills. We have legitimate issues which are the responsibility of this commission and he simply disagrees with paying this for city employees. Some people had to close their stores while we negotiated time and one half for Police Officers to watch them when they are locked up at night and this is not appropriate; he is not sure we have the money to do this. Without an explanation, he takes this position and does not expect stores to charge \$10 for a gallon of milk and people should not get a premium for doing their job working for the citizens of this community. This is price-gouging whether specifically for an item or for a service being provided. Mike Meinzer said he read the memo today and was also in disagreement. This is tough pill to swallow having employees at home who work for the city getting paid full paychecks while nurses, doctors, dentists, barbers and people who do hair cannot even get unemployment. He can go along with this for a couple of weeks but if this extends, there should be some performance measurements and/or productivity proving people are not simply at home and not working. As far as emergency services, he agrees some employees did sign up for this and we have been through Aids, tuberculosis, anthrax and hazardous materials and they just do what they do. Going forward, perhaps hazardous duty pay should be considered because people who are at the top and may be sitting at a desk will make exponentially more than a young kid on the ambulance who is being exposed. Perhaps a flat rate may be taken into consideration. Eric Wobser said no salaried worker will receive any hazardous pay or time and one half – it is only for hourly workers who are the laborers themselves. There has been a high rate of contraction of Coronavirus amongst safety responders, particularly police and fire. On holidays, when city workers are off and essential workers are on, they have always received time and one half. In times of emergency for weather-related work, some staff stay home while emergency or essential workers have always received time and one half and is why we went in this direction. These are good points and for two weeks, particularly for those who are non-essential, we know this is not sustainable, but wanted to have a smooth transition for the next two weeks and is why we made these decisions. We have already communicated to all employees this is a short-term plan and we have already begun to put together plans for how we can do this. Mike Meinzer said his son-in-law is a Captain on the Fire Department and it is hard to see him go into work and be exposed to this, but what is popular is not always right and what is right is not always popular and he has mixed emotions about this. Naomi Twine said it has been her experience in public administration central employees do get time and one half and is glad we are going to be looking at this during the next few weeks and see how things go. Dick Brady said he thinks the City Manager has heard the will of this commission and expects this to be a two-week window and for staff to reevaluate their position and bring it back to us. Wes Poole said we have not declared an emergency here and this is something very specific. This gets back to what he has been talking about for a long time; we are now agreeing to do something which should have been discussed by the City Commissioners before it was committed. If there is a contractual requirement for Police and Fire to be paid something additional, we should pay it, but arbitrarily, he is not sure this is something staff has the authority to do. It came to the commissioners late and has already been done, but approving it does not mean we are being responsible. He suggested the city not pay essential employees additional money until the commission has had time to review this and listen to the reasons why. People should get paid what their contracts call for. Essential hourly workers who are also essential are happy to have their jobs. He may have over-explained what was stated, but this is what he took from the logic for doing this.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Upon motion of Wes Poole and second of Dave Waddington, the commission voted to set a Public Hearing for the CDBG FY 2020 on April 27. The President declared the motion passed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Dave Waddington, the commission voted to adjourn at 6:04 p.m. The President declared the motion passed.



Kelly L. Kresser, CMC  
Commission Clerk



Richard R. Brady  
President of the City Commission