

The President called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. after the Invocation, given by Dick Br, and the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Clerk, McKenzie Spriggs, called the roll and the following Commissioners responded: Wes Poole, Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Mike Meinzer and Dave Waddington. Commissioners Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, and Mike Meinzer were in attendance via teleconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Wes Poole, the commission voted to excuse Naomi Twine from the meeting.

City staff present: Stuart Hamilton – IT Manager

City staff via teleconference: Eric Wobser – City Manager, John Orzech – Assistant City Manager, Brendan Heil – Law Director, Michelle Reeder – Finance Director, Aaron Klein – Director of Public Works, Development Director – Jonathan Holody, Jim Green – Acting Fire Chief, Jared Oliver – Police Chief, McKenzie Spriggs – Commission Clerk.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Dennis Murray, the commission voted to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2021 meeting and suspend the formal reading. The President declared the motion passed.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street, Sandusky

Consent agenda item A: Please explain the lowest and best bid and the local preference. How does it benefit the city when the out of towners may have the lowest bid but the local gets the job due to the preference clause? It does not seem to be fair bidding with the local preference clause.

Consent agenda item B: I would like to know if the city transient bus program is still in the red and by how much?

Agenda Item 3: I am not clear as to what is happening to the Cold Creek properties. Is HOTY actually buying all 44 properties from the city or just managing the sale of the properties? The assessments on the parcels are being forgiven. How is it fair to the rest of the homeowners who have to pay their assessments? What is the total amount of write off assessments for the 44 parcels?

Item 4: The city is purchasing 2111 Park View Boulevard for \$48,000. Why is precious money coming from the CDBG fund when there is a real estate fund for this kind of purchase?

Item 7: The K9 police dog is retiring. Is the city getting another K 9 dog?

Tim Schwanger, 362 Sheffield Way, Sandusky

Consent Agenda Item C: Department of Transportation Grants for Sandusky Transit.

The Sandusky Transit System is a valuable transportation tool for Sandusky and Erie County Residents.

The Sandusky Transit System was marketed as a self-sufficient program funded thru grants and ridership fees.

Over the last few years, the program has relied on significant Sandusky tax dollars directly from the General and Capital budgets.

Each year there is discussion at the Commission table to seek financial assistance from Erie County Commissioners to provide revenue to offset Sandusky Transit expenses. This year the

City is poised to subsidize the Transit System spending \$360,000 with zero dollars coming from Erie County. Has City administration given up on approaching County Commissioners with a request to financially participate?

PUBLIC HEARING

Debi Eversole presented the following information.

This is the second of two Public Hearings concerning the city of Sandusky’s Program Year 2021 Community Development Block Grant. The first public hearing was held on March 22, 2021.

As an entitlement city, The City of Sandusky directly receives an allocation of funds from the Department of Housing & Urban Development to carry out selected activities within the community. HUD recently announced that the allocation for the City of Sandusky during the program year 2021 (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022) will be \$750,212.00

A minimum of seventy percent of the funds must benefit low- to moderate-income persons or households. All of the funded activities must meet one of the three national objectives which include:

1. low- to moderate-income benefit
2. elimination of slum and blight or
3. Community urgent need.

Under this grant, there are certain requirements which cannot be exceeded. In general, these include a maximum of twenty percent of the allocation to be expended on administration expenses and a maximum of fifteen percent of the allocation to be expended on public services during the program year.

The Department of Community Development hosted 2 Consolidated Plan Advisory Committee (CPAC) virtual meetings and 1 virtual Public Hearing announcing the planning process and proposed draft budget for program year 2021. Comments from each of these meetings were given serious consideration and implemented into the program year 2021 budget if possible. Permitted uses of CDBG funding includes housing, public improvements, public services, blight elimination and economic development, all of which will see a portion of the 2021 allocation.

A draft of the action plan was made available on March 31st and a 30-day public comment period commenced the same day. The comment period will end Thursday, April 29, 2021. Public input on the draft Program Year 2021 can be submitted by written correspondence to the Department of Community Development, located at 240 Columbus Avenue, Sandusky, Ohio, 44870 or emailed to development@ci.sandusky.oh.us.

A draft of the Program Year 2021 Annual Action Plan Budget is shown on your screens. There are 8 proposed projects funded. Each project can have a number of activities tied to it, according to eligibility. Because it is near impossible to determine what each specific activity may cost until the job is bid out, the projects may seem broad and inclusive. This protects the City from going back to amend the Action Plan every time a new activity is proposed, according to available funding. Amending the budget takes a minimum of 45 days, which could hinder a contracted job from getting done within a program year.

CDBG FY21 Draft Budget

\$750,212.00

70% or more must benefit LMI households	at least	\$525,148.40
20% max can be budgeted into Program	maximum	\$ 150.042.40
15% max can be budgeted	maximum	\$ 112.531.80

	Project Name	Budget	Planned Activities
1	Program Administration	\$ 120,042.40	Overall program administration, comprehensive planning and indirect expenses related to the planning,
2	Fair Housing	\$ 10,000.00	Advertising, counseling, outreach, education and informational pamphlets related
3	Public Facilities	\$ 320,000.00	Public infrastructure improvements and ADA accessibility for (not limited to) installation, removal, reconstruction, improvement of
4	Code Enforcement	\$ 100,000.00	Salaries and overhead costs associated with property inspections and follow-up actions (such as legal proceedings) directly related to
5	Code Compliance	\$ 67,637.80	Remediation efforts of certain code violations to bring eligible households into
6	Public Services	\$ 90,000.00	***Reviewing applications - may need to separate and categorize according
7	Youth Programming	\$ 22,531.80	Implementation of the Summer Park Program and the Spring and Winter Break Camps along with other activities for children residing within
8	Strategic Planning	\$ 20,000.00	Strategic planning in areas of public transportation and or city parks -
	<i>Clearance and</i>	<i>\$ 110,000.00</i>	<i>FY20 Carryover due to RLF transfer in FY18 - ORD 19-008 This will not come out of</i>
	Subtotal	\$ 860,212.00	
	Demo	\$	2020 Allocation not spent
	Total	\$ 750,212.00	

***Any carryover within a specific category will remain within that category for FY21 expenses.

***Any carryover within Program Admin or Public Service will be placed in the Clearance and The following comments were received during the public comment period:

- **In an e-mail dated 4.17.2021 from Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street**

\$320,000 for Public Facilities: What do you have in mind for public building improvements? Can there be more details on Public Facilities and what projects the city is looking at? The expenses are too basic and not enough detail. What sidewalks and streets, what kind of improvement to what parks, etc.

Response: The only firm activity includes reconstruction of eligible streets. As stated in the presentation, it is almost impossible to know what these contracts are going to come in at. We are allowing for back up activities to eliminate the need for a substantial amendment, which takes a minimum of 45 days to get approved.

\$67,637 for code compliance assistance: Please explain further the remediation efforts of certain code violations that the money can be used for other than removal of trees on private property?

Response: This being the first year of assistance of this type, the City intends to focus on removal of trees that are on private property that are currently in violation of our housing code, a nuisance or danger to the neighbors. The target will be to help low/mod income areas. This project will be bid out to a professional tree contractor and City Staff will not have any part of this remediation effort.

\$90,000 Public services. What kind of public services? Details please.

Response: The City received activity requests from Youth Programming (\$50,000) for their Summer Park Program and Spring and Winter Break Programs and also a proposed bike distribution program. OHgo requested \$50,000 for their Remote Food Locker Distribution Unit, Erie County Senior Center Meals on Wheels requested \$40,000 to carry out their meal delivery service, The Center for Cultural Awareness requested \$50,000 for their Proud to be Me and Stepping into Manhood mentoring programs, and Erie County Metro Housing Authority requested \$110,000 for the Bayshore Tower Elevator Replacement. It is intended to fund as many of these activities we can within eligibility.

\$20,000 Strategic Planning of public transportation. In what way? Is there a problem with public transportation? Why is the city looking at this kind of planning?

Response: The City would like to reserve a portion of this funding for eligible strategic/comprehensive planning efforts. These planning efforts could be in areas of public transportation or public parks.

There needs to be a proper budget with what the money is going to be spent on and the expense for each item. I don't like the idea of just plugging in basic numbers with no specific break down details.

Response: I did not prepare a response as this is a statement, but I believe that this was covered above.

There were no comments received during the second CPAC meeting on March 31, 2021 where this draft budget was presented to them.

The remainder of the timeline is as follows:

April 26, 2021	2 nd Public Hearing at City Commission
April 29, 2021	30 day comment period ends
May 10, 2021	Final FY21 Action plan will be considered by City Commission where approval will be requested
May 14, 2021	The FY21 Annual Action Plan must be delivered to the U.S. Department of HUD by end of day.

We moved up the 2nd Public Hearing in order to get the draft plan in front of the City Commission for careful review prior to being asked to approve the plan for submittal on May 10, 2021.

**Once the FY21 Annual Action Plan has been approved by HUD, the Sandusky City Commission shall approve each Subrecipient agreement prior to funds being expended.*

***Once City Commission approves a final version of the FY21 Annual Action plan, the plan must be submitted to HUD with the application for federal funding form for final approval. Any delay in the submittal to HUD could delay the start date of our program year.*

Discussion: Dave Waddington said a couple years ago the city had the paint program where low or moderate income folks could paint their homes. Perhaps next year, could we look at that again? Dennis Murray and Dick Brady participated with that as well. St. Mary's high school painted a couple houses, we supplied paint and the supplies. Active partners would help with the painting. This would help the neighborhoods and houses that could be saved. He would like to discuss further, either tonight or in the future. It was a good program.

Wes Poole said he supports what Dave Waddington said. A paint program should be seriously looked at. He is not excited about giving away bicycles, especially without explanation of how it will be done. We are a large city with a significant need. With the other issues going on in the neighborhoods, how we plan to select individual to give bicycles seems difficult. Public facilities for \$320,000, who and what we are spending that on is important. There is criteria to use this money, and without knowing who we are spending it on or what project we will do, is tough. We cannot identify how much it will cost to do a specific sidewalk program, but the bigger problem is we do not know which sidewalks we will be doing. As we move forward, he needs to know what this money will be spent on. He asked Debi Eversole to reiterate the part about reviewing contracts or applications. How many applications were received last year?

Debi Eversole said it was around the time of the COVID-19 pandemic and applications were received through the CV funding and there were only two received for that.

Wes Poole said \$90,000 seems to be a bit much money. \$90,000 for reviewing contracts seems to be a duplication of the administrative fees. Strategic planning for publication, if we are to spend CDBG money on that, he would like some concept of what is to be accomplished. These words do not have a lot of meaning. We have grown our bus service well over the last few years. He is not sure what consultants will get that \$20,000 but when this comes back for approval. He would like to see something more concrete as to what the money will be spent on.

Dick Brady said as this progresses blanks will get filled in. He thanked Debi Eversole for her hard work. CDBG is such an important piece of the puzzle, \$750,000 is significant. Community development block grant money is designed to go into the neighborhoods in some fashion. The commission got a view from 5,000 feet tonight and as legislation comes, he hopes to see it from a closer perspective.

CURRENT BUSINESS

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

CONSENT AGENDA

The President asked if the commissioners wished to remove any of the items on the Consent Agenda. The commission chose to leave as is.

ITEM A – Submitted by Jane Cullen, Project Engineer

AMENDING ORDINANCE 21-034 FOR SCRIVENER'S ERROR

Budgetary Information: There is no change to the breakdown of costs as described in the previous communication as they totaled the base bid, plus alternates one and two.

The construction cost of the project is \$372,537.35 of which OPWC will provide funding up to 58% of the project cost which is \$216,071.66 (\$41,071.66 OPWC (0% loan) and \$175,000 OPWC(grant). The City's 42% share in the projects costs is \$156,465.69 and will be funded with \$86,188.00 CDBG and \$70,277.69 Issue 8 (Street).

ORDINANCE NO. 21-059: It is requested an ordinance be passed amending Ordinance No. 21-034, passed on March 22, 2021, to correct a Scrivener's Error; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

ITEM B – Submitted by Tom, Horsman, Transit Administrator

PERMISSION TO APPLY FOR OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION GRANTS FOR SANDUSKY TRANSIT

Budgetary Information: The 5311 Rural Transit Program funds comprise approximately 50% of STS's budget and without this funding the system would not be able to operate. The required local matching funds will be generated from multiple local sources; STS anticipates receiving \$90,000 in Fare Revenue, \$600,000 in contract revenue, \$100,000 in Capital Replacement Fund revenue, \$65,000 from Advertising, \$60,000 from fares paid by organizations; \$12,000 in Elderly & Disabled Funds, and approximately \$260,000 in City General Revenue Funds.

(1) RESOLUTION NO. 016-21R: It is requested a resolution be passed authorizing the filing of a grant application with the Ohio Department of Transportation through the US DOT Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for the CY 2022 Rural Transit Program Grant for the Sandusky Transit System; and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

(2) RESOLUTION NO. 017-21R: It is requested a resolution be passed authorizing the filing of a grant application with the Ohio Department of Transportation through the US DOT Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for the CY 2022 Bus and Bus Facilities Program Grant for the Sandusky Transit System; and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

(3) RESOLUTION NO. 018-21R: It is requested a resolution be passed authorizing the filing of a grant application with the Ohio Department of Transportation for State FY2022 Ohio Transit Partnership Program Grant Funds for the Sandusky Transit System; and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

ITEM C – Submitted by Tom Horsman, Transit Administrator**PERMISSION TO APPLY FOR OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION RIDES TO COMMUNITY IMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM FOR SANDUSKY TRANSIT**

Budgetary Information: The RCI program is funded 100% by State of Ohio General Revenue Funds and does not require any local match.

RESOLUTION NO. 019-21R: It is requested a resolution be passed approving and ratifying the filing of a grant application with the Ohio Department of Transportation for the Rides to Community Immunity (RCI) Grant Program for the Sandusky Transit System; and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

Upon motion of Wes Poole and second of Blake Harris, 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 and 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.

Discussion: Brendan Heil responded on the public question regarding local preference. He said it is lowest and best. It is well established under law in Ohio that there are a number of reasons one would select a bid, there are preferences for a number of things. All of these are factored in to allow municipalities to have the flexibility to find the absolute best contract when they bid things out. This is normal and commonplace.

Eric Wobser responded to the questions regarding public transit. He said the \$30,000 grant from the Erie County Community Foundation and funds from CDBG for strategic planning is a specific way we are trying to address those issues. The less formal conversations and requests over the years have not allowed us to develop the partnerships to get those additional resources. Stakeholders including other jurisdictions, the 3rd party that manages it, Erie County, and some of the businesses that heavily utilize this service, will be part of it. We have seen success with direct beneficiaries such as Cedar Point, Kalahari, and Serving our Seniors. We need to elevate the conversation in a broader way to see the best way to fund transit, what the role of the city of Sandusky should be in transit, as well as the role of other cities. That strategic planning process will allow us to discuss best practices, and create a sense among stakeholders of the burden and opportunities. The strategic plan is how we will be trying to address those bigger picture

questions and we have not given up on these partnerships. We've grown the service with private partners and have enhanced the services the City provides, going into the pandemic. The pandemic caused a lot of stress on the system, but we know we need those public partnerships as well.

Dick Brady said the short answer to the question is that we have not given up on reaching out to other governmental bodies. Hope springs eternal.

Wes Poole said the partners we are talking about are our neighbors. Our inability to have a conversation with those folks, without a consultant or contract for \$30,000, seems backwards. If we have reached out to the county and Cedar Point, which he knows we have with certain businesses and organizations, why do we always have to pay a consultant fee to put together a plan? If you are paying someone to mediate because we have arguments, that is one thing. But let us get it out there—what exactly is the problem? The fact is we all know who benefits from this. He has a problem spending as much money on consultants as we do, to tell us what to do. He would like us to start on our own before someone tells us the obvious.

Dennis Murray said he was on the commission when the local preference clause was adopted and there was a lot of public support. The advantages are slight and there are good economic reasons for wanting to support local businesses. The second point is regarding transit. He does not recall that anyone suggested transit would be a break even operation or that it would be self-funding. That has not been true in the years he's been on the commission, and transit around the world is not self-sufficient. It is a fallacy to compare it to the private transportation sector. The private transportation sector is also subsidized by government. The local roads that we are in the process of paving, are by in large not used by transit but by private vehicles. A little bit of perspective is important. We are providing an essential service and it has been wildly successful. He hopes to continue to invest in and improve upon transit.

Dick Brady said the benefits to our transit system far outweigh the dollars we have to fork out each year. There are so many people that do not have a job without public transportation. If someone does not have a job, their life can spiral into other things. Many of the people that make use of transit are not necessarily using it to go on vacation or to Kalahari, they are using it to go to work and provide for themselves and their families.

Dave Waddington brought up an article read in the Plain Dealer regarding cuts to the busing and transit. He asked what the loss from the state was.

Eric Wobser said most of the funds were restored in the final state budget. The funds we received from that pot are specifically for capital expenditures, not the operating. So it would aid in the city's ability to buy buses or make other physical improvements like the waiting environments or train station. His last update was that the funding was restored after a lot of lobbying from transit authorities and advocates.

Roll call on the motion: Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, 6. Roll call on the ordinances and resolutions: Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, 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

ITEM #1 – Submitted by Jonathan Holody, Community Development Director

RESOLUTION TO BECOME A CLEAN FUTURE OHIO COMMUNITY

Budgetary Information: There is no cost to become a PCFO community.

RESOLUTION NO. 020-21R: It is requested a resolution be passed authorizing the City of Sandusky to become a Clean Future Ohio Community and to adopt a goal to reduce greenhouse gas

emissions in the city; and declaring that this resolution shall take effect under suspension of the rules as contained in and in accordance with Section 13 of the City Charter.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Blake Harris, the Commission voted to approve the resolution in accordance with Section 13 of the City Charter.

Discussion: Eric Wobser said we were contacted by the nonprofit designated in Ohio, who works with local communities to mitigate the impact of climate change. We began a conversation from a policy perspective with a handful of commissioners and then city staff. Director Jonathan Holody prepared this resolution which is aspirational in nature, with broad goals that we want to put in place as a community, that show local government can take direct action to minimize our impact on climate change and our carbon footprint. Collectively it will take many communities to do this. We do not have anything beyond the broad aspirational steps today, but as we begin our next strategic plan we will look at ways we can mitigate our impact on climate change and our carbon footprint. Many local governments are signing up for this, and we heard support from commissioners and the community to join and step in this direction.

Jonathan Holody said the organization is focusing on the partnerships with local communities to reduce greenhouse gases. It will be a good framework to move towards these aspirations in terms of providing accountability and structure to achieve this goal. He is excited to be involved and to bring members of his team and of the community together to work towards this goal.

Dennis Murray said this is about leadership. Our community has a role of providing leadership and an example of how we should treat our environment and the people that live in that environment. It is also a return on investment. The roof over his head at the Murray & Murray building has solar cells on it. A couple weeks ago they passed the giga-watt mark. That has been a good return on investment for his firm. These things are capital intensive, and you have to have the capital to invest. The city has that capital to yield the long term benefits. It is both things, leadership and proper stewardship of public dollars and resources.

Dick Brady said we are blessed with Aaron Klein who has been proactive in these efforts since the day he came to work for Sandusky. He is constantly looking for ways to live the “Hippocratic Oath,” do no harm. Everything we build or he engineers, he looks for ways to reduce our carbon footprint. It is not like putting solar panels or building wind mills, but those are things we are doing right now that make a lot of sense. He agrees with Dennis Murray, it is about leadership. We have an obligation to leave this planet better than we found it.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, 6. Roll call on the resolution: Yeas: Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, 6. The President declared the resolution passed.

ITEM #2 – Submitted by Tom Horsman, Transit Administrator
RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT AMTRAK EXPANSION SERVICES IN OHIO
Budgetary Information: There is no budget impact.

RESOLUTION NO. 021-21R: It is requested a resolution be passed in support of Amtrak’s proposed expansion of passenger rail services in Ohio and for the congressional actions needed to authorize and appropriate funds to the expansion; and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

Upon motion of Blake Harris and second of Wes Poole, the Commission voted to approve this resolution in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

Discussion: Tom Horsman said this is a proposal that Amtrak released a couple months ago that would dramatically increase service on the national rail network. Sandusky is only one of seven cities in the state of Ohio that has any Amtrak service currently, primarily in the middle of the

night. The plan proposed by Amtrak would add three east bound and three west bound trains coming through Sandusky during the daytime, as well as connect Cleveland to Cincinnati, and allow us to get to Detroit, Chicago, Buffalo and Pittsburgh much easier. The funding is proposed in President Biden's Jobs Plan. The plan has been supported by various cities including Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati and various cities throughout Ohio think it would be advantageous for connectivity.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, 6. Roll call on the resolution: Yeas: Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, 6. The President declared the resolution passed in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

ITEM #3 – Submitted by Jonathan Holody, Community Development Director

EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO SELL AGREEMENT WITH HOTY ENTERPRISES FOR COLD CREEK CROSSING

Budgetary Information: At closing, each assessment lien will be satisfied from a portion of the sales proceeds. Broker fees of up to 6.5% will also be paid from the sales proceeds. The balance of funds will be used by the City to recoup expenses related to the property in accordance with O.R.C. §5722.08.

ORDINANCE NO. 21-060: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into an exclusive right to sell agreement with HOTY Enterprises, Inc. of Sandusky, Ohio, for the marketing and sale of forty-four (44) vacant parcels of land in the Cold Creek Crossing Subdivision in Sandusky; 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 in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

Discussion: Dennis Murray said he would like to make clear these properties will be paying the assessments. There was some confusion in the public comment that they would not pay and other properties that already purchased had to do some. That is a misconception. Michelle Reeder provided an example how the money will be distributed.

Jonathan Holody said in regard to the public question this legislation allows the city to partner with HOTY so they can market the properties for the City. The goal is to identify other buyers interested in purchasing these properties to build houses on them. HOTY is not prohibited from being a buyer, however that is not the current plan. They have made no indication of that. This is merely to market the properties and list them with HOTY as our broker.

Dick Brady said it is his understanding that the pricing has been agreed upon for the lots and the multi-family use, based on 90% of the auditor's appraised price, is that correct.

Jonathan Holody said correct, the single family lots is based on the auditor's appraised value at 90% and the price for a multi-family property will depend on the number of units proposed and we bill on those properties.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, 5. Abstain: Blake Harris. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, 5. Abstain: Blake Harris. 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 Jonathan Holody, Community Development Director

ACQUISITION OF 2111 PARKVIEW BOULEVARD

Budgetary Information: The City will be responsible for paying \$48,000 (plus closing costs) for the purchase of the property located at 2111 Parkview Blvd. The source of funding is the Community Development Block Grant fund.

ORDINANCE NO. 21-061: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a purchase and sale agreement for the acquisition of real property located at 2111 Parkview Boulevard, Sandusky, and identified as Parcel No. 58-00976.000 for the purpose of blight elimination and demolition; 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 Blake Harris, the Commission voted to approve this ordinance in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

Discussion: Jonathan Holody said in recent years the city has been active in blighted properties in this area. We reviewed the past purchase amounts on a per unit basis and this negotiated purchase price almost exactly matches the prices paid in the last three transactions. Just to be absolutely sure the current market conditions supported this purchase price, we did obtain a broker's price opinion which also supported this purchase amount.

Wes Poole asked what the plans are for this area.

Jonathan Holody said the city's neighborhood initiative really identified blight elimination as a key priority in this neighborhood and the city has been acquiring properties like this for the last several years to eliminate blight. This property is badly deteriorated, and only three of the units are able to be occupied. This property is being proposed for demolition. The Southside Neighborhood Plan that the city is going to undertake later this year will further refine the vision for that neighborhood. The city's acquisition and ownership of these properties really puts the city in a key position to use that planning process to rebuild that portion of the city.

Wes Poole said we are paying entirely too much money for the properties to be demolished and there seems to be no justification for it. To suggest in a blighted area that the price of the properties has almost doubled in three years, we have paid the same amount of money. There are three units and one uninhabitable one, and we just paid the price for four units. \$26,000 for a four unit, \$35,000 for a four unit in 2018. \$25,000 in 2020 and somehow it has jumped to \$48,000. He will vote no for this. When we started this process, we were acquiring blighted properties that we picked up in sheriff sale. This has morphed into buying out people that otherwise is on the tax rolls, with paid up taxes, with people living in the units. Next question, what are we doing with the three people that live there? We are just passing money onto folks who bought property for next to nothing in the past, rented it through Metro and not put anything into these properties, which is why we have an uninhabitable one, and we are driving the market up. The last couple transactions at \$40,000 and up are there because of us, not the market. The BPO opinion does not site any reason for their opinion, it just says it. Not that it is necessarily wrong, but as we are spending an enormous amount of tax payer dollars that we will not see a dime out of, let us assume that the \$1700/month in rent might possibly make it worth \$48,000. We have no use for it in that fashion, we are not going to rent it. The property should have stayed in the hands of the property owner and at the point of time when we need it, we buy it then.

Jonathan Holody said the property will only be transferred to the city if and when it is vacant. He cannot comment on the current occupancy of the three units. Our agreement is subject to the property being vacant.

Wes Poole asked if that translates into the property owner pushing the people out? The people can live there the rest of their lives if they choose to, and then we will buy it? What does that mean and when are we going to close this deal?

Jonathan Holody said the draft agreement establishes a closing date, which is soon. We have settled on a closing date that is in the purchase agreement. If the city commission passes this tonight we will proceed with executing the agreement and closing ahead of that date.

Dennis Murray said he would like to place this in context, the commission agreed more than five years ago in the bicentennial plan to the Southside acquisition initiative. It was a corollary to that

plan, necessary to execute the plan. We have long thought the Southside is an area worthy of being rebuilt and rehabilitated. There are strong neighbors and home owners in that area. They should not have to put up with a lot of the stuff the city has purchased over the years. Many of the properties there have been grossly substandard. We are on the cusp of providing a better environment for that neighborhood because we have acquired a significant number of properties and are looking this year to begin a Southside development plan. He is excited about that and thinks it may be one of the most important things this commission accomplishes. This is a continuation of those investments. The price of the last several acquisitions is consistent, it is true early on there were lower prices. If we are contributing to improving the value of properties in that community, he is all for it.

Wes Poole said let us assume a short time period is 30-60 days, what is the plan for those people? We do not have a plan. We are talking about sometime in the distant future, making a plan. In the meantime we are putting three families out of their homes, which may mean three incomes leaving the city limits. The last property we acquired was inhabited by people, and those taxes were paid too. He totally agrees with Dennis Murray, the Southside could use something. He does not see what this does for them. We are putting people out of their homes prematurely, with no real plan. He knows of someone over there that would like to fill those homes with neighbors. Yet we have a magic plan we keep talking about, and are overpaying for properties.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, 5. Nay: Wes Poole, 1. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, 5. Nay: Wes Poole, 1. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

ITEM #5 – Submitted by Aaron Klein, Public Works Director

PERMISSION TO APPLY FOR ERIE COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) ASSISTANCE FOR MEADOWOOD SUBDIVISION AND HANCOCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SIDEWALKS

Budgetary Information: If awarded, the respected matches would be allocated in the 5-year capital budget from an account with funds available for infrastructure such as CDBG, Issue 8, Street or General Funds.

(A) RESOLUTION NO. 022-21R: It is requested a resolution be passed approving the submission of an application to the Erie Regional Planning Commission Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for financial assistance for the Meadowood Subdivision Sidewalk 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.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Blake Harris, the Commission voted to approve this resolution in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

Discussion: Aaron Klein said the city becomes aggressive when they realize there is money that can be applied for, especially for the neighborhoods. Our MPO gets about \$100,000 a year for this type of transportation alternative project. Right now they are accepting project applications for FY 2025, which actually begins in July 2024. When we saw the announcement come out, these two projects rose to the top of the list. In the Meadowbrook subdivision, there is a lot of individual parcels that were not developed. What typically happens in a subdivision, is when you build the house, you add the sidewalk. Because those were not developed over the last many years, there are sections of sidewalk that are not filled in. We would like to spend, in a 50/50 split, almost \$200,000 to complete the sidewalks in that neighborhood and make it truly walkable.

Regarding the second application, around Hancock Elementary School, the goal is to make it safer for the students that will be going to it. We would like to do some pedestrian crossings, sidewalks,

curb ramp, etc. to make a safer drop off for students. The only unfortunate part is that this again would not come until July of 2024. That would be a \$175,000 project that would be split 50/50 as well. There are many needs out there for transportation alternatives, like walkability and cycling, but these are two that we would like to apply for at the start.

Mike Meinzer said he thought about the bike path out by Conrail tracks on the west end. We have been struggling with that overpass around the Huntington/Butler area for decades. That might be a good project as well. It was about \$150,000 for two crossings but if we can do one for \$75,000 out there, that might be money well spent.

Dick Brady said his only frustration is that it is out there almost four years, if we are successful. He would like to see improvements made in those areas prior to that. Aaron Klein never looks a gift horse in the mouth, he is always looking for grants and alternative funding, and we thank him for that.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, 5. Abstain: Wes Poole Roll call on the resolution: **Yeas: Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, 5. Abstain: Wes Poole. The President declared the resolution passed under Section 14 of the City Charter.**

(B) RESOLUTION NO. 023-21R: It is requested a resolution be passed approving the submission of an application to the Erie Regional Planning Commission Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for financial assistance for the Hancock Elementary School Sidewalk 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.

Upon motion of Blake Harris and second of Wes Poole, the Commission voted to approve this resolution in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

Discussion: Aaron Klein said this is the same concept, just a different location.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, 6. Roll call on the resolution: Yeas: Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, 6. The President declared the resolution passed in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

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

CHANGE ORDER FIRST & FINAL FOR FERROUS CHLORIDE SYSTEM REHABILITATION PROJECT AT THE WWTP

Budgetary Information: The original contract amount was \$659,582.93, which included a contingency allowance, and with the addition of this first & final change order, the contingency will be depleted and the contract will be increased by \$17,550.42. The final contract will be \$677,133.35, paid entirely out of Sewer Funds.

ORDINANCE NO. 21-062: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to approve the first and final change order for work performed by Mosser Construction Inc. of Fremont, Ohio, for the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Ferrous Chloride System Rehabilitation Project in the amount of \$17,550.42; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

Upon motion of Dennis Murray and second of Dave Waddington, the Commission voted to approve this ordinance in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

Discussion: Aaron Klein the project to remove the ferrous chloride tanks from inside to outside because they were having problems, is not complete. The work that was done for the unit prices,

were underbid and a couple were over quantity. This change order represents the final change in quantity. There were a couple items that were added—safety shower, eye wash station, etc. that had some extra work done. One thing not included as part of the budgetary information is that we will be seeking partial reimbursement from Erie County, as this is included in the sewer services agreement.

Dick Brady said add that to the list.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, 6. The President declared the ordinance passed in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

ITEM #7 – Submitted by Jared Oliver, Police Chief

RETIREMENT & SALE OF K9 OFFICER ONUR

Budgetary Information: The city will receive one (1) dollar for the sale of K9 Onur to his handler, Sergeant Edward Ohlemacher

ORDINANCE NO. 21-063: It is requested an ordinance be passed allowing for the sale of Sandusky Police Department K9 Officer Onur pursuant to Section 25 of the City Charter; approving the retirement of K9 Officer Onur and authorizing the sale of K9 Officer Onur to his handler, Sergeant Edward Ohlemacher; 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 Blake Harris, the Commission voted to approve this ordinance in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

Discussion: Dave Waddington said he wishes the dog a long and lengthy life with his handler.

Wes Poole thanked Sgt. Ohlemacher for taking his companion and keeping him. It's a testament to a good officer.

Dick Brady said at first glimpse you will say this dog did not serve very long, but multiply it x7 and you'll think he is entitled to a wonderful retirement.

Jared Oliver answered the public question and said thank you to the commissioners for their kind words. Sgt. Ohlemacher is a great handler, and was recently promoted to this new role where he has additional responsibilities. Previous to his time at the city, he was at the Sheriff's Office and was involved in selecting a K9 to serve in their corrections division. That K9 was purchased just previous to his employment with the City, and the handler cannot accept the responsibility of that K9. The City has been offered that K9 from Sheriff Sigsworth, so they are pursuing that avenue now and should have a K9 shortly.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, 6. The President declared the ordinance passed in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

ITEM #8 – Submitted by Brendan Heil, Law Director

AMENDING CHAPTER 531 – NOXIOUS WEED AND GRASS ORDINANCE (FIRST READING)

Budgetary Information: There is no direct cost to the City to approve this Ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. _____ : It is requested an ordinance be passed amending Part Five (General Offenses Code), Chapter 531 (Nuisances Generally), Sections 531.09 (Notice to Cut; Duty of Housing Code Compliance Officer), 531.10 (Failure to Comply), 531.11 (Procedure When Owner Fails to Comply with Notice), and 531.12 (Payment of Costs; Unpaid Costs a Lien), of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Sandusky, in the manner and way specifically set forth hereinbelow.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Wes Poole, the Commission voted to approve this ordinance on first reading.

Discussion: Dennis Murray said he was around when the city adopted the first ordinance of this type. He has always tried to stay in the role of city commissioner and not attorney, but it is his recollection that it was state of the art legislation when it was adopted. These things change over time, in terms of what is appropriate and fair notice. That has since shifted in the legal community and Brendan Heil notified the commission. He supports this change, which supports another step in front of the city staff, but it is only one and is a good change.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, 6. The President declared the ordinance passed on first reading.

ITEM #9 – Submitted by Brendan Heil, Law Director

OBJECTING THE LIQUOR RENEWAL OF PERMITS ISSUED TO DOGHOUSE BAR LLC

Budgetary Information: There is no direct cost to the City to approve this Ordinance.

RESOLUTION NO. 024-21R: It is requested a resolution be passed objecting to the renewal of permits issued under Sections 4303.11 through 4303.183 of the Ohio Revised Code to Doghouse Bar LLC, DBA Doghouse, for reasons including those stated herein; requesting a hearing, and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

Upon motion of Dennis Murray and second of Dave Waddington, the Commission voted to approve this ordinance in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

Discussion: Dave Waddington thanked staff for putting this together—the Law Director and Chief of Police specifically. He said it is a quality of life issue with the noise and litter. This morning he was contacted by Matt Westerhold of the Sandusky Register who had several residents with him. He said this item was on tonight’s agenda and they were thrilled. It has been slow, but we need to keep pounding on this door and get the place shut down.

Blake Harris said he would like to add context. He would also like to get in front of narratives and stories that might unfold, as a result of the commission passing this legislation. Several months ago, it was on his conscious, to act as a conduit between the city and the owners/management of the establishment. He asked him to begin changing the environment around there, to one more conducive to the bar and the neighborhood. Preconceived notions may come of this, but he cautions those that want to make it the city versus this establishment or the city versus a specific group of people. It simply is a matter of public safety. Prior to making assumptions, he asks everyone to put themselves in the shoes of the neighbors or anyone who has kids. In other cities, we hear of stray bullets or unfortunate accidents from this type of behavior. Although it may not be occurring inside this establishment, one of the things that has been hashtagged is accountability. If you are going to run an establishment such as this, it is important that people take accountability for what occurs on the inside and the outside as well. The city of Sandusky and police staff have his full support.

Wes Poole said he lives in a neighborhood and is supportive of the neighborhoods. He is voting for this and thinks it is a good thing because up to now, it has been a one-sided conversation. He does not doubt the neighbors on their perspective. The Commission is doing the right thing because now there will be a hearing where DogHouse bar will have an opportunity to present their side of the story to the state and we will bring this to a conclusion, as how we do justice in America. Everyone gets to be heard. If he only accepted what the neighbors said, he would be as animated as the rest of the commission is, but he recognizes we are doing the logic next step with a public hearing.

Mike Meinzer said he is thankful for the residents' patience as this has not blown up into bigger proportions. He received a lot of complains before on the 7/11's and other places. It is not the owners, it is the customers at 11PM or later that are raising hell in the neighborhoods. He wishes we as a community could regulate it but it is difficult when the state regulates it.

Dick Brady said he reached out to Senator Gavarone and Representative DJ Swearingin and asked for assistance, from the standpoint of providing our city with some contacts at liquor control. Both their offices and them personally could not have been more helpful. They provided us with contacts and put us on a conference call. The bad news is that none of the actions we are taking are a quick fix. He spent the afternoon in the neighborhood where this is located. It's a beautiful neighborhood, but it is Monday at 2PM not Sunday at 2AM. He had an opportunity to share with a resident that we cannot wave a magic wand at the issue. We are a country of laws and you cannot seize people's property or deny their rights so he is in agreement with Wes Poole, we are moving in the right direction. We are going to put on a full court press, and this resolution is the first step in what might be a long but hopefully successful journey. The law department understands the urgency. He is counting on liquor control to hear our case.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, 6. Roll call on the resolution: Yeas: Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, 6. The President declared the resolution passed on first reading.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- **Upon a motion from Dave Waddington and a second of Wes Poole, the commission voted to accept a donation of \$15 from Melvin Gray for the Sandusky Police Department. The President declared the motion passed with the city's thanks.**
- **Upon a motion from Dennis Murray and a second of Dave Waddington, the commission voted to accept \$5,000 from the Dorn Foundation, \$3,510 from the Mylander Foundation, and an additional \$286.80 from the Friends of the Greenhouse for the Sandusky Greenhouse roof. The President declared the motion passed with the city's thanks.**
Discussion: Eric Wobser said thank you to the Friends of the Greenhouse for managing roofing repairs and replacement of gutters and downspouts at the City Greenhouse, done by Horvath Roofing.
- **Upon motion from Dennis Murray and second of Dave Waddington, the commission voted to accept \$150 from an anonymous donor for the youth scholarship fund. The President declared the motion passed.**
- **Upon motion from Dave Waddington and second of Wes Poole, the commission voted to accept \$25,000 was from the Dorn Foundation for an update to the city's Bicentennial Vision Plan. The President declared the motion passed with the city's thanks.**
Discussion: Eric Wobser said staff will present suggestions for the strategic planning process in the weeks ahead. The city is also looking at stimulus for funding and other funding sources. The preference is to do in person, but to do it in a way that is safe for everyone with COVID guidelines.
- **Upon motion from Dave Waddington and second of Wes Poole, the commission voted to accept \$200 sponsorships donations for the upcoming Love Where You Live clean up series: Volstead Bar, Murray & Murray, Erie Blacktop, Osupplies, Lakelynn Design, and Eco Tree Services. The President declared the motion passed with the City's thanks.**

- **Staff is working with Marcy Kaptur's office to apply for congressional earmark grant dollars available in the federal budget through the Federal Highway Administration for The Landing or the Sandusky Bay Pathway.** These earmark grant dollars are highly competitive and we will keep commission updated as we gather more information.
- **The city will be issuing an RFQ for an entertainment partner to provide services related to the new Jackson Street Pier amenities. Legislation and more information will be provided at a later date.**
- Erie County is looking to make a Transportation Improvement District, which could help the county secure funds from ODOT. They are seeking a letter of support from the City. **Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Dennis Murray, the commission voted to approve a letter of support for Erie County's proposed Transportation Improvement District. The President declared the motion passed.**
- **Kyle Betzel has been given a conditional offer of employment for an open firefighter position. Current firefighter, Steven Haines has resigned effective April 27, 2021.**
- **The filing deadline for municipal income tax returns has been extended until May 17, 2021.** With everyone's health and safety in mind, we offer contact-free ways to easily file and pay your municipal taxes. Visit RITAOhio.com for more information.
- **Congratulations and welcome back aboard to Melissa Vassallo, who is the new Permit Technician for the building department starting today.** Melissa began employment with the city in 2018 but her position was eliminated last year, during difficult budget decisions. We are happy that she is returning to the city and she's excited to be back!
- There are several major sewer, water, and streets projects taking place throughout the city this year. Please respect the lives of construction workers trying to improve the infrastructure in our community and be mindful of work zones. A map of all road closures and detours is available on the City's website and updated weekly. Specific project-related updates continue to be provided to affected stakeholders.
- **The asphalt plants are now open for the 2021 season. All are encouraged to report potholes by calling 419.627.5829 or emailing Web_Potholes@ci.sandusky.oh.us.**
- **Congratulations to Jason Haynes and Charlie Collas for passing their Class II Wastewater Certification.**
- On Venice Road, two-way traffic will shift slightly but be maintained with construction barrels for trench repairs along the northern edge of Venice Road. The contractor is completing trench repairs and reviewing new sewer video to determine if additional repairs will be required. They are finishing grading stone for the multi-use path on the north side of Venice Road in preparation for placing asphalt as soon as all underground repairs are complete.
- In 2021, Ohio Edison will be using PennLine tree service to perform forestry operations throughout the City over the next several months. Property owners are encouraged to contact Ohio Edison at 1-800-633-4766 prior to making arrangements for any private tree services each year.
- Our new Community Clean-Up and Beautification Series, Love Where You Live, continues with the following events:

- A Clean Welcome will take place on Saturday, May 1. Volunteers are invited to help clean-up the main corridors and downtown.
- Love Where You Play will take place on Saturday, May 8. Volunteers are invited to clean-up various parks in-preparation for summer programming.
- Neighborhood clean-ups are taking place in various areas throughout the city every Saturday until October thanks to Commissioner Waddington.
- Residents are also welcome to drop-off yard waste at Barnes Nursery, 1630 Camp Road, Huron, on Saturday, May 15 and Sunday, May 16.

For further details about these events, please our website or contact 419.627.5829.

- The playground at the Sandusky Bay Pavilion property has multiple issues that have become maintenance and safety concerns. Public Works is recommending removal as the cost to repair/replace the existing structure wouldn't be cost effective.

Residents are advised to use the new and accessible playground at Huron Park or the Shoreline Park playground as an alternative as both parks are within 3/4 mile of the Sandusky Bay Pavilion area.

- The Arts and Culture Commission would like to ask for approval to apply for the Asphalt Art Initiative 2021 Grant. If awarded this would supply up to \$25,000 for artistic crosswalks to create a safer crossing for pedestrians, for CY 2022. The commission voted to apply to redo the Hancock and Huron intersection. **Upon a motion of Dave Waddington and a second of Wes Poole, the commission voted to approve the arts grant application request. The President declared the motion passed.**

- The next **Arts and Culture Commission** meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 18 at 5:15 PM.
- The next **Landmark Commission** meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 19 at 5:00 PM.
- The next **Board of Zoning Appeals** meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 20 at 4:30 PM.
- The next **Planning Commission** meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 28 at 5:00 PM.
- The Sandusky Recreation Division is looking forward to this weekend when three community-focused fitness opportunities become available.
 - Open Way Yoga will host a FREE introduction to Yoga session this Saturday, May 1 at 7 a.m. at the Jackson Street Pier. The session will kick off a summer of scheduled yoga sessions in the city. Yoga classes for \$5 each will be scheduled for each Saturday from May through September at 7 a.m. at the Jackson Street Pier, weather permitting. Preregistration is required
 - Additional Yoga sessions will be scheduled Wednesday evenings from 6 – 6:45 p.m. at the outdoor Pergola at the Sandusky Greenhouse. These sessions will run Memorial Day through Labor Day. Those sessions will also cost \$5 and preregistration is required.
 - FREE Sunrise Tai Chi will start the Thursday after Memorial Day, June 3, at Shoreline Park starting at 6 a.m. and will run through Labor Day.
- This Saturday will also mark the start of Pier Pressure, a free community workout at the Jackson Street Pier. Those sessions run every Saturday in May through September and start at 8 a.m. The 30-45 minute workouts include an exercise program with trainers from Tim Dorsey Fitness, Zumba with Mel, NexXt Level Fit Academy and CrossFit

Sandusky. Preregistration is recommended, but waivers can be signed electronically prior to the start of the session.

- This Sunday, May 2 will mark the first race of the 2021 #RUNDUSKY Race Series as the annual Running Laps with Lions will take place at 9 a.m. in Lions Park. Registration is still available and COVID protocols will be followed.
 - The Sandusky Recreation Division would like to thank Firelands Regional Health System for their generous support in their partnership with the Pier Pressure and RUNDUSKY Race Series programming.

OLD BUSINESS

Dave Waddington said he would like to bring up the paint program again. He has begun conversations with Eric Wobser who said it might be easier to fund through the city's Issue 8 Housing funds that do not have the same restrictions and reporting requirements, as CDBG does.

Dennis Murray said it was good because it allowed people to help themselves who needed it. It is low hanging fruit.

Dave Waddington said he believes they funded it in the \$3,000-\$5,000 range. St. Mary's kids needed hours for volunteering, they were just finishing a house one time when he stopped. It saves a home owner when they might be having a tough time, and saves the house. He would like to see \$7,000-\$8,000 in paint supplies and to layer this on the beautification programs.

Eric Wobser said he will speak with the development department about this. He added the city is bringing back Talon Flohr, the neighborhood outreach coordinator who might be helpful to organizing the partnerships needed to do this. He will look at how we can staff it, fund it, and check back in with the commission.

Mike Meinzer said both of his children painted houses and it was not fun. He admired them for doing it though. He said we are going to run out of labor before we run out of money. If we can find faith based organizations or kids willing to paint, let us not put a limit on the funding.

Dick Brady said their kids benefitted from the YES Program—which teaches community service, teamwork, etc. St. Mary's is not the only one who has that. The Sandusky Gentleman's club helped at the City's Dump Day, and they are an amazing group. He thinks it is a great idea.

Blake Harris said if he can be a resource of any kind he would love to. He works with Brandy Bennett of the Global Internship program, perhaps she could serve as a resource to find volunteers.

Blake Harris said he works with the Drive for a Better Future Program offered through Rick and Meghan Hogrefe's foundation, For Love With Love. He interviewed children for the third year in a row. Typically they offer 12 grants to help offset driver's education classes, this year they did 14. The driver's education classes cost around \$350. They will be presenting those grants to the kids on Wednesday, to those 14 students. He is helping to make people more aware of it and would like to grow the program with fundraising. This is a barrier and hardship for many families, and they are excited to help make this happen for our community.

NEW BUSINESS

Dave Waddington said at Lions Park he would like to have signage for a sanctuary area for butterflies, and educational signage for bees and monarchs. This could become an educational area for students and residents alike. We were designated a Monarch city and he hopes to keep adding to that. Last fall there were hundreds on monarchs roosting on the path. We have pollinator plants at Lions Park too. Many cities have sanctuary areas and he would like this to be educational too as these pollinators create our food source.

Dennis Murray said he grew up with them. He had an oak tree that used to be covered in monarchs, and we do not see that scale of monarchs anymore. We have lost something like 40%

of the bee population in this country and that is serious. No bees, no food. He fully supports the effort to create a sanctuary and plant a seed with children so they can understand and become better stewards of the planet.

Eric Wobser said staff will look into this right away, and this is in line with the steps to become a greener city and contribute to a sustainable world. He had a brief chat with Aaron Klein about this and wants to involve recreation, but staff appreciates Dave Waddington being a leader in these issues.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Wes Poole, the commission voted to adjourn at 6:54 p.m. The President declared the motion passed.



McKenzie Spriggs
Commission Clerk



Richard R. Brady
President of the City Commission