

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

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

City staff present: Stuart Hamilton – IT Manager and McKenzie Spriggs – Commission Clerk

City staff via teleconference: Trevor Hayberger – Law Director, Michelle Reeder – Finance Director, Eric Wobser – City Manager, Angela Byington – Director of Planning & Development, Matt Lasko – Chief Development Officer, Aaron Klein - Director of Public Works, Rick Wilcox – Fire Chief, John Orzech – Police Chief & Assistant City Manager and Kelly Kresser – Commission Clerk.

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

#### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

James Snyder, President of Sandusky Fire Fighters union and via email: [prezboy20@yahoo.com](mailto:prezboy20@yahoo.com), said in regards to County Relief Fund Eligibility for CARES Act, with the passage of Item #1 below, the City of Sandusky will be able to receive \$500,000 that can be used for wages of Firefighters/EMT/Paramedics battling the Coronavirus pandemic. The Sandusky Fire Fighters Local 327 respectfully request that daily staffing of Fire Fighters be raised back to 11 from the recent cut to 10 Fire Fighters per day. We would also like to address a recent vacant Fire Fighter position that has not yet been filled due to the retirement of Fire Fighter Brad Wimmer. We feel that 10 Fire Fighters as a daily minimum is a risk to our safety and the safety of the citizens of Sandusky.

Sharon Johnson, via email: [rolliejohnson@buckeye-express.com](mailto:rolliejohnson@buckeye-express.com), asked why the city is not bidding out the audit contract to extend the Erie County Rea & Associates audit contract. The same firm has been performing the service for 10 years. She also asked in what way the Mylander Funds are being appropriated, how much the city receives every year in a donation from the fund and what restrictions are placed on the Mylander donations (Item #4), ?

#### **CURRENT BUSINESS**

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Dennis Naomi Twine, 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. Wes Poole requested item E be moved to the Regular Agenda (new Item #1 below).

##### **A. Submitted by Debi Eversole, Housing Development Specialist**

##### **PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT FOR ONE PARCEL THROUGH LAND BANK PROGRAM**

**Budgetary Information:** The city will recoup the cost of the expenses from the sale, if any. The purchase price is \$30,000.00. Out of the remaining proceeds of the sale, \$11,080.56 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 districts will begin collecting real estate taxes of approximately \$581.00 per year for the vacant land, plus real property taxes that will be assessed at 35% of the appraised value of the new structure. The applicant is eligible for a 10 year, 75% tax abatement on the new construction.

**ORDINANCE NO. 20-087:** 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. 60-00043.031, located at 4205 Ferndale Drive 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.

**B. Submitted by Michelle Reeder, Finance Director**

**ANNUAL SUBMERGED LANDS LEASE PAYMENT FOR SANDUSKY SAILING CLUB**

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

**ORDINANCE NO. [20-088](#):** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to make payment to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Office of Coastal Management for rental payment on submerged lands lease File No. SUB-0530-ER, for the period of September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2020; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

**C. Submitted by Angela Byington, Planning Director**

**SUBRECIPIENT AGREEMENT WITH OHgo FOR MOBILE FOOD PANTRY AND MARKET**

**Budgetary Information:** The city will award OHgo a total of \$15,000 for the OHgo Mobile Food Pantry and Market for CDBG Program Year FY2020. This award shall be paid with CDBG grant monies and there will be no impact on the General Fund.

**ORDINANCE NO. [20-089](#):** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a subrecipient agreement with OHgo to assist with their Mobile Food Pantry and Market program and to expend an amount not to exceed \$15,000 from the FY20 Community Development Block Grant funds; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

**D. Submitted by Angela Byington, Planning Director**

**SUBRECIPIENT AGREEMENT WITH THE ERIE COUNTY SENIOR CENTER FOR MEALS ON WHEELS PROGRAM**

**Budgetary Information:** The city will award the Erie County Senior Center a total of \$30,000 for the Meals on Wheels program for CDBG program year FY 2020. This award shall be paid with CDBG grant monies and there will be no impact on the general fund.

**ORDINANCE NO. [20-090](#):** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a subrecipient agreement with the Erie County Senior Center to assist with their Meals on Wheels program and to expend an amount not to exceed \$30,000 from the FY2020 Community Development Block Grant funds; 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 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, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, 7. Roll call on the ordinances and resolutions: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the ordinances and resolutions contained in the Consent Agenda passed in full accordance with the city charter.**

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**ITEM #1 - Submitted by Michelle Reeder, Finance Director**

**COUNTY CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND ELIGIBILITY FOR CARES ACT**

**Budgetary Information:** There is no budgetary impact. HB481 provides for the distribution of federal coronavirus relief funding to local subdivisions. The disbursements will flow from the state through the county auditors and then to the city. The City of Sandusky expects to receive nearly \$510,000.

**RESOLUTION NO. [025-20R](#):** It is requested a resolution be passed affirming that funds from the County Coronavirus relief fund will be expended only to cover costs of the city of Sandusky, Ohio, consistent with the requirements of section 5001 of the CARES Act as described in 42 U.S.C 801 (formerly 42 U.S.C 601), and any applicable regulations as is necessary pursuant to H.B. 481, before receiving said funds; and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with section 14 of the city charter.

**Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Dave Waddington, the commission voted to pass this resolution under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

*Discussion:* Wes Poole asked to hear from the city manager as to his position as to how much it costs for a Fire Fighter, and be updated on whatever discussions have happened to determine whether it is a good idea or not since questions existed during audience participation.

Dick Brady clarified that this audience participation question came in the afternoon on the day of the meeting and likely many in the room were hearing of it for the first time. Eric Wobser said we recently became aware (at the end of the previous week) that this funding could be used for police and fire, first responder wages, and we were very excited about that. The cuts that we are facing are still dire, and our plan for saving includes reducing overtime for all our departments and planned attrition in every department. We do not think these funds will be enough to undo that at this time. We are not currently in negotiations with our Fire Department. It is a management issue not a union contract issue, therefore we are continuing to work closely with Chief Orzech, Director Reeder and Director Wilcox. At this time, it is too soon to tell whether any of the planned savings which have already been reported to the commission will be able to be undone. We have anticipated some level of stimulus coming in, we are fortunate this money can be used for police and fire wages, but as the commission already knows we have a great percentage of police and fire wages of approximately 50%+ of our general fund goes into our police and fire departments portion of the budget. Therefore we are holding at this time. Michelle Reeder added that we are not out of the woods yet and do not know where we are going to be this year. We are grateful for this \$500,000 that can be used for safety forces wages, however, she would like to remind that our income tax receipts for June show we are down \$350,000 compared to where we were at the end of June, 2019. Our admission tax is down \$400,000 compared to where we were at the end of June, 2019, and lodging tax is down \$140,000 compared to last June. This \$500,000 is going to help plug some of the deficits but we still need to look at every expense and justify it. We are holding down overtime in every department, as that was our goal in reducing manpower down to 10 at the moment. Mike Meinzer said he did not know this was coming out tonight. He would like to hear Chief Orzech or Chief Wilcox speak from a safety perspective. He understands the budgetary issues, but running 10 people from three fire stations is impossible to be safe. It is not efficient for the citizens. Chief Wilcox said in terms of safety, he has been on record saying our staffing levels are difficult to keep the service at its current level. It does not provide a full staff at station 7 per se, but in the spirit of trying to keep department's budget impacts, they made the move down from 11 men to 10 men, with minimal consequences. With even more Fire Fighters being cut and potentially being down to lower numbers. In terms of safety, it presents a hardship. Mike Meinzer asks what is safer for the Fire Fighters - to close a fire station or run a two man engine. Chief Wilcox says we are running a two man engine out of station 7. If we moved those people to station 1, we were concerned about response times from that area for ambulance service. With two men at station 7 we have at least an ambulance for medical calls. Response for fire calls would be impossible from that station, it would not be safe. The opposite is if we moved those people to station 1, there would be a delay in response which was the lesser of two evils. Dennis Murray said we love our Fire Fighters and know they put themselves at risk. We know this is a difficult time for everyone in our community, and everyone has made adjustments and sacrifices. On occasion we dip down to 10 firefighters and it is because of two things—Kelly days and vacation days. These days have been layered on top of each other to the point that we do not have enough Fire Fighters if someone calls in sick. At that point, we drop down to 10. He is certain as a city we have the capacity to not drop down to 10, if we had additional latitude from the Fire Fighters, in terms of the coordination of Kelly days and vacation days, or the use of part time Fire Fighters which are

used in every community in our area. The majority of our Fire Fighters take advantage of that. He believes this is a relatively unusual occurrence, occurring mostly during the summer because of vacation time. If we were able to spread that out more, we would not have that issue. This is an important part of this conversation. Mike Meinzer said he respects Chief Wilcox's opinion and he has his own. He feels as a community, if we cannot afford to keep our Fire Fighters safe, we should close a station. We should not bear the brunt of these young gentlemen. We can say two in two out, use standards, etc. but he knows those young men are going to pull up to a fire and they are going in. At least one of them is going in and the other is running the engine. That one person going in alone, is going to get injured or killed. He'd rather as a community, close a fire station than put the burden on the backs of those young men. That is his opinion and he knows several chiefs after him had different opinions. He does not disagree with everything others have said, he just wanted to make his opinion was heard. Wes Poole asked Chief Wilcox how long we have been going with 10 firefighters. Chief Wilcox responded the department has been doing this for approximately two weeks. Wes Poole wanted to suggest that two weeks is not an infrequent occurrence, it is Kelly days and vacation days, he is not sure that is what the problem is. As to the question of closing a station, we do not have enough Fire Fighters to make them safe when they go to a call. And if we close a station, we do not have enough coverage to protect the citizens. The issue is we have \$500,000 and it sounds like we are understaffed in our fire department. He listened to the finance director talk about justification of what we spend our money on, those are nice generalities, but we have not justified a thing we have spent for the last six months - we have just spent it. We are at a point in the equation where we have to set some priorities. He asked what it costs to fill a position by itself when we have a retirement in the fire department and what it does to make it safer for Fire Fighters. We have to solve this problem, not kick it down the road. Chief Wilcox said a hire would reduce the likelihood we have to call someone in for overtime if we stay at 10. However, we have a couple members out on personal injury, one work-related and one not, that we have all three shifts operating at 14 capacity, meaning the number of people eligible to work or be off on vacation or Kelly, which leaves 10 every shift. Both Kelly and vacation days are utilized on a daily basis, that would leave us at 10 currently. To bring our staffing level to 11, we have overtime every day, when members are off on Kelly days or vacation. In terms of the Fire Fighter safety, he is on record saying, he would prefer to have us at 11 or better. But at this time, we are tasked with budgeting and remedying a difficult time in our county's history, where we are dealing with budgetary issues we never saw coming months ago. Staffing as a whole, these are difficult decisions made by chief officers, such as myself, and Mr. Meinzer also served in that capacity, these decisions are based off the lesser of the evils. He would prefer to have ambulance coverage in an area that would be out of district, if we moved those guys to station 1, we will not meet the medical calls or fire calls, in a timely manner, in which the citizens in that district are accustomed to. We have taken precautions. To Mr. Meinzer's point, we would not have a Fire Fighter going in until sufficient personnel arrives; that would not happen. He does not feel it is sufficient to have coverage of two personnel for the engine company,, but we have to adjust accordingly as we knew this was coming. Wes Poole asked the cost of a Fire Fighter's monthly salary. Michelle Reeder said a newly hired firefighter makes \$1,657/pay period which is \$5000/month with benefits. Wes Poole said we have \$524,000 to deal with, COVID is not the reason we did away with that Fire Fighter. It seems to him, we are going to be out \$15,000 over the next three months. He cannot imagine shorting the fire department. We are not any better off having two Fire Fighters pull up to the scene and watch the house burn down, waiting for someone else to come, so we could save \$5,000 a month and asked what else we need it for. If we were at normal staff and had not lost anyone and we are making some adjustments for when people are sick, okay. But we are down a Fire Fighter and need to replace that one first. If you think between now and the end of the year, we cannot afford to replace what we had before, then we are in serious trouble. COVID did not cause this. We have to have basic safety for the community and that is our first priority. He suggests we fill that position, or the manager and others come up with a better package that explains better than we want to wait and see. The people who need the services provided by the fire department cannot afford to wait. There is no case here that makes sense, we can hire for \$5000/ month - not to mention the number of employees that have come back since we laid off from COVID. From that layoff, we have brought some folks back onboard and they were not fire fighters. Dennis Murray said if he was provided incorrect information he apologizes, that is the

information he received from other staff members. If this has been going on for two weeks, he would like to dive deeper into that. He says he is sure the chief is right but he is getting some inconsistent information. He would like to make a broader point, the \$500,000 from the federal government is very much appreciated but it is a fraction of the deficit we face. If we go through this with every department, at every single meeting we have, we will not have solved our budget problem whatsoever. Every department is going to take a cut. It may be significantly more than we have cut to date. We need to be responsible across the entire budget. \$500,000 is great but it is not magic. In a best case scenario, it might fill 10% of the remaining void we are going to have in the budget, so we still need to consider that. Dick Brady said the legislation presented tonight does not require us to be specific in how those dollars are going to be spent. Mr. Snyder makes some requests that we are hearing for the first time and it may be the will of this commission to take that letter under advisement and talk further regarding this issue. We are thankful for the \$500,000 but there are two sides to every coin. He understands the safety issue and there is a downside to closing a fire station and not providing coverage to some of our residents and no one in this commission wants to put fire fighters at risk. That has to be balanced against the pandemic we find ourselves in and the budget crunch we are currently in. Passing this legislation allows us to accept them and make a decision based on where they will best be used in accordance with what they are meant to be used for. He asked if that accurately reflects the will of this commission or if they would like to go in a different direction. Wes Poole said this is absolutely correct and is what needs to be done. With this \$500,000, it is our responsibility to decide what quality of service comes from each department, look down at this from 10,000 feet. The idea that we are giving out grants to buy windows or flowers in people's yards and do not have money left over for Fire Fighters, when we know we have a shortage, is what he is discussing. The work sessions the commission was supposed to have is where we could have discussed these things. It is about the priorities this commission says to the community, this is what we are going to provide and this is what we are going to cut. Right now, we have gross numbers of how much money there is and where we are short, now what we are spending it on. Frankly, nobody knew we were down to 10 Fire Fighters per day and we should have. Dick Brady said this topic deserves continued debate and we will do that going forward. He asked staff to make a recommendation based on facts from our finance director and city manager.

**Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, 7. Roll call on the resolution: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the resolution passed under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

**ITEM #2 – Submitted by Matt Lasko, Chief Development Officer**

**PURCHASE OF 2106 PARKVIEW BOULEVARD**

**Budgetary Information:** The city will be responsible for paying \$25,000 (plus closing costs) for the purchase of the property located at 2106 Parkview Boulevard. The source of funding is Community Development Block Grant funding.

**ORDINANCE NO. 20-091:** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a purchase and sale agreement for the purchase of real property located at 2106 Parkview Boulevard, Sandusky, and identified as Parcel No. 58-01860.000 for the purpose of blight elimination and demolition; and declaring 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 pass this ordinance under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

*Discussion:* Dick Brady complimented Matt Lasko on pulling in another duplex but wanted to note that the prices are beginning to inch up. His recollection is the last one was a four-plex and was purchased for \$10,000/unit. He sees we are at about \$12,500 for this one. Matt Lasko says it is a combination of prices slightly upticking but wants to add that as the unit count goes down, the price per unit will go up. It is typical as density increases, prices per unit go down. This is our first duplex that we have purchased in the Southside initiative, hence why it is pushing the price per



unit that this commission has approved thus far. It is also adjacent to a large tract of land the city already owns and is integral for a future redevelopment standpoint. He says Dick Brady is correct the price per unit is on the high side, but that is made attributable to the smaller unit count. Dick Brady added the cost will go up and he hates to think what the last parcel will cost us. He hopes we continue to be successful seeking these properties out and hopes we can get to a point during his lifetime where we can do something with the land we are clearing there. Dave Waddington asked if we are closing in on owning 50% of the parcels out there. Matt Lasko said from a pure acreage standpoint, we are probably in the 40% range. In the last few months we have had acquisitions over the last year or two. There still remain about 40 properties, which could sound insurmountable, but between us and the county landbank, we have done a tremendous job over the last year or two. In regards to acreage, we are certainly approaching the 50% mark. Wes Poole commented for him there is a ceiling on what the value is going to do going up. If there are tenants in those properties, they can keep them. Unless we as a city have a developer online that needs the property tomorrow, we do not have to buy into these properties for a long time. Until Mr. Brady brought it up he had not given it much thought to the increase of \$2000 per unit, which is not bad, but he is not open for the sky is the limit. The only market for these is us and how many are left does not make a lot of difference to him. In the future, when city staff comes back asking for approval for more money than this, he will probably not be in favor, unless we can come up with a reason to justify it.

**Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

**ITEM #3 – Submitted by Stuart Hamilton, IT Manager**

**CITY OWNED FIBER EXTENSION TO AMTRAK STATION**

**Budgetary Information:** The estimated cost of the project including advertisement and miscellaneous expenses is \$67,000 to be paid from our Ohio Transit Partnership Program (OTP2) grant and in accordance to all ODOT procurement regulations. There will be no local match.

**RESOLUTION NO. [026-20R](#):** It is requested a resolution be passed approving and declaring the necessity for the city to proceed with the proposed city owned fiber extension to the Amtrak station for transit operations project; and directing the city manager to advertise for and receive bids in relation thereto; and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

**Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Dave Waddington, the commission voted to pass this resolution under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

*Discussion:* Dick Brady asked if Stuart Hamilton could explain what we are buying here and noted it does not look like it has any money coming from our pocket. Stuart Hamilton said this is a zero dollar amount for us. There was a grant from the OTP2 that was available to improve communications for our transit. We applied for it, \$67,000, and that will complete a fiber run from city hall to the transit station. It is the only location we have that is not connected by fiber, so they have always been a technology island. This will bring them into the fold and allow us to provide better services out there. Dick Brady asked if there was a city match. Stuart Hamilton responded there is no city match, we are going to get the whole number from them.

**Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, 7. Roll call on the resolution: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the resolution passed under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

**ITEM #4 – Submitted by Michelle Reeder, Finance Director**

**APPROPRIATIONS AMENDMENT #1**

**Budgetary Information:** Appropriation amendments are required to update the 2020 budget. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- CDBG FY20 Grant
- Federal Forfeiture funds
- FEMA Grant
- Mylander funds
- Criminal Justice Grant
- Storm water funds

**ORDINANCE NO. [20-092](#):** It is requested an ordinance be passed adopting amendment No. 1 to ordinance No. 20-058 passed by this city commission on March 23, 2020, 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 Dave Waddington and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to pass this ordinance under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

*Discussion:* Dave Waddington pointed out we have public questions regarding the Mylander funds and asked if there are restrictions on them. Michelle Reeder said the Mylander funds are budgeted at about \$100,000/year. We get a donation based on how their investments perform for the year, the benchmark is roughly \$100,000 a year. With these funds, we are looking to budget some wages and materials. These all have to be used for recreational purposes through the recreation department.

**Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, 7. 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 Michelle Reeder, Finance Director****ONE YEAR EXTENSION OF AUDIT CONTRACT WITH REA & ASSOCIATES**

**Budgetary Information:** The total cost of \$50,160 will be paid from the general fund (\$25,080), water fund (\$12,540) and sewer fund (\$12,540).

**ORDINANCE NO. [20-093](#):** It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to execute an agreement between the Auditor of State, City of Sandusky, Erie County, and Rea & Associates, Inc. for auditing services 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 pass this ordinance under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.**

*Discussion:* Dick Brady said there was a public question regarding this item as to why the city is not bidding out the audit contract. Michelle Reeder said the auditor of state released a waiver saying we can have them for an additional year. This is due to coronavirus, low staffing levels and the auditor of State still having employees working from home. They would be in charge of performing the bidding process and taking this out to bid this year. We have had excellent reviews and working relationships with Rea & Associates, so we desired at this time to move forward and have an additional year with Rea & Associates, for our 11<sup>th</sup> year. Then we will have to go back out for the bidding process, according to the auditor of state's guidelines for the 2021 audit. Wes Poole said since this is an anomaly and we are going back to bidding them out in 2021, there has been no indication this vendor is not going to do a good job. For this one year, he does not have a problem with this, or that we took the advice of the state and did this.

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

#### CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Dave Waddington, the commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$50 from Ron and Paula Laws for safety equipment. The President declared the motion passed.
- Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Dave Waddington, the commission voted to accept a donation of 12 gift certificates from Texas Road House, which will be distributed at events such as Coffee with a Cop. The President declared the motion passed.
- Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Dave Waddington, the commission voted to accept a donation of 9 gift certificates from Texas Roadhouse for “dinner for two” each of a \$30.00 value, a total of \$270.00 in meals. Sandusky Fire will be paying it forward and giving these coupons to OHgo to disperse as they see fit. The President declared the motion passed.
- Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Dave Waddington, the commission voted to accept a donation of the sculpture “Sail” by Susan Schultz. The Public Arts and Culture Commission has reviewed the donation request and recommended acceptance of the donation. Due to the time constraints, the artwork will be stored until a location is determined by the Public Arts and Culture Commission. The valuation for the artwork is unknown but the cost to build was \$10,000.00. The President declared the motion passed.
- Upon motion of Dave Waddington and a second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to direct the City Manager to enter in to contract with Kronos SaaShr Inc. of Branchburg, NY for three years of a cloud based Human Resources Information System.

*Discussion:* Eric Wobser said we negotiated considerable reductions in cost due to their end of financial year which is June 26 and need to move quickly to realize these savings. The net increase to our current costs would be an additional \$7,634 per-annum which will easily be recouped from internal efficiencies and reduced support and hardware costs. We intend to return with the proper legislation once contractual language has been finalized.

**Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the motion passed.**

- Upon a motion of Dave Waddington and a second of Dennis Murray, the commission voted to approve the signoff of the TREX transfer from Aris Family Restaurant to Paddle + Climb.

*Discussion:* Eric Wobser said the city is in receipt of an Economic Development Transfer (TRES) form from Paddle + Climb. The permit is coming from Aris Family Restaurant, Inc. located in North Olmsted, Ohio. From their application to the state, Paddle + Climb estimate they will invest \$15,000 in this project, create additional jobs at their facility, and generate an additional \$15,000 in sales tax alone. This proposed TRES transfer will come back to the City Commission one additional time in the near future (by the Division of Liquor Control) for one more step where the city will indicate whether a hearing is requested prior to being authorized by the State.



Roll call on the motion: **Naomi Twine, Mike Meinzer, Dave Waddington, Wes Poole, Blake Harris, Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, 7. The President declared the motion passed.** The municipal income tax filing deadline has been extended until July 15, 2020.

- The City no longer has an employee available to assist with filing municipal income taxes. For income tax assistance, residents can contact the Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA) at 1-800-860-7482 or visit their website, [www.ritaohio.com](http://www.ritaohio.com). Tax payments can also be made at the Customer Accounting Office at City Hall located at 240 Columbus Avenue.
- ODOT has begun replacing curb and around 90 ADA curb ramps along State Route 6 between the Tiffin Avenue and the east corporation limit. They will be working six days a week for the next couple weeks to get as much of the concrete work completed as possible.
- The Jackson Street Pier was officially open to vehicular traffic last Wednesday, June 17. Eric Wobser asked people to please be patient with the great lawn as we wait for it to thicken before allowing foot traffic on it.
- Forestry services continue to move through the City to clean-up tree fallen trees and debris from the storm on June 10 and anticipate covering every zone prior to the July 4 holiday. Residents with questions or concerns about damaged trees are encouraged to call 419.627.5829.
- Special thanks to the City of Norwalk Department of Public Works for their generous contribution to our clean-up efforts. They dispatched two General Service's staff and provided a chipper and truck to aid with emergency work in the aftermath.
- Streets & Traffic staff will begin to implement traffic changes on the Milan Road overpass and at the intersection of Cleveland Road and Cedar Point Drive in preparation for the opening of Cedar Point in July.
- The City has released the application for the operation of a Food Pantry, with CDBG-CV funds. Applications are online and due Monday June 29, by 3:00 PM.
- The regular **Planning Commission** meeting for June 24 is scheduled at 4:30 PM.
- The regular **Board of Zoning Appeals** meeting for July 16 is scheduled for 4:30 PM.
- The regular **Landmark Commission** meeting has been rescheduled to June 23 at 4:30 PM.
- The regular **Arts and Culture Commission** meeting for July 21 has been scheduled for 5:15 PM.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Dave Waddington said **Jeff Danevich has been picking up cigarette butts at the Jackson Street Pier**, and he has been collecting with him. He asked if we could look at cigarette butt recycling receptacles to ensure they are not dropped in the trash or the bay. Eric Wobser said we can take that under advisement and see if we can get receptacles out on the pier.

Dennis Murray said he has received an incredible number of positive responses regarding the Jackson Street Pier. He has been contacted by a number of folks who have said they were opposed to the changes but it came out great and thanks for sticking with the project. It is a testimonial to both inspiration and insight, without the planning—which was incredibly detailed, he will be looking at that pier for years to come to understand the little details that went into it.

We had the inspiration and vision but without the planning, it would have been delirium. We had incredible execution and the folks at Donley's are craftsman of the first order.

Dennis Murray also brought up the fireworks around town, saying it is a real problem and he is unsure what is causing the upsurge. We are close to the Fourth of July. Some people think it is not enforced, but a fella got a citation last night, and he now understands it is enforced. He makes an appeal to residents to contact the Police Department if someone is shooting off fireworks next door or out in the street. The police need to catch this in action. Without the help of the residents, we cannot curb that. It remains a serious issue, and in the General Assembly they have the annual Fourth of July bills designed to let loose the restrictions on fireworks. That is a bad idea as these are safety issues, and he hopes it does not pass. That is an issue we will have to wrestle with the General Assembly with, as they try to expand fireworks rather than contract it, which needs to be done as a safety concern.

Naomi Twine asked that Eric Wobser pass along a thank you to the Recreation department for the Juneteenth event that occurred last Friday. It came together quickly but had a great response. She would like to thank Tondra Frisby for putting that together and said she appreciates her efforts; she (Naomi) and Blake Harris spoke. We anticipate having something larger next year. She also wanted to add while she was on the Jackson Street Pier for the event, there were so many people walking the pier, riding their bikes, and did not know about the Juneteenth event and stopped and got information. The Jackson Street Pier made a great location for events and she looks forward to future events there. People from several communities including Norwalk enjoyed the pier.

Dick Brady echoed these comments, and wanted to thank our internal staff for their work on the Jackson Street Pier. The engineering department is so good at what they do, that even he takes them for granted at times. We cannot take an engineering department for granted when they are able to pull off such things they did on the pier and Shoreline Drive. The planning department also played a significant role, there was a lot of give and take, and many moving parts. He is proud of what has been accomplished and it will be here long after he and Dave Waddington are in boxes. He has also received several compliments and it is one of this commission's proudest accomplishments. He again thanked our staff, and the contractors Donley's and Kokosing for pulling off the project.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

#### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Tim Rotsinger, via email: [ciccap@icloud.com](mailto:ciccap@icloud.com), asked to please consider a yearly pass or some sort of validation for the dockage fees at the Paper District Marina. The \$10 fee to dock is ridiculous considering the money spent for three perch tacos and a round of beers is fast approaching \$60. For example, Quaker Steak and Lube has free dockage. If the city wants revenue, the docks could be leased seasonally. Dick Brady said we will take that letter under advisement and asked the City Manager or his office to respond to this gentlemen. He asked that part of that response include that two separate entities run those operations. The dollars made selling tacos do not go into the pocket of the gentleman that is running the dock.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Dennis Murray, the commission voted to adjourn at 6:01 p.m. The President declared the motion passed.**



Kelly L. Kresser, CMC  
Commission Clerk



Richard R. Brady  
President of the City Commission

