

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

The Clerk called the roll and the following Commissioners responded: Naomi Twine, Greg Lockhart, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole, Dave Waddington and Dick Brady, 6.

Upon motion of Wes Poole and second of Dave Waddington, the commission voted to excuse Nikki Lloyd. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to accept the Minutes of the September 9 meeting and suspend the formal reading. The President declared the motion passed.

City staff present: Aaron Klein - Director of Public Works, John Orzech - Police Chief, Jim Green– Fire Captain, Matt Lasko – Chief Development Officer, Don Rumbutis - IT, Stuart Hamilton – IT Manager, Hank Solowiej – Finance Director, Trevor Hayberger – Law Director, Eric Wobser – City Manager and Kelly Kresser – Commission Clerk.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Tim Schwanger, 362 Sheffield Way, said the payment for additional armor stone placed along the Lions Park shoreline (Item #2) will only allow about 120' of shoreline access to remain. In 2009, some of the commissioners held public meetings for the Lions Park Master Plan and this document delved into the shoreline restoration. Six of the eight bullet points outlined in this Master Plan have come to fruition. The new picnic pavilion and restrooms were scheduled to be placed close to the shoreline but this did not happen. More importantly, improvements to the existing breakwall for pedestrian access was at the top of the public's list who attended meetings. This was to be reconstructed for fishing access and for walking. In 2010, the shoreline was sloped and one month later, the sloping began to erode and this has been a topic of discussion ever since. The city did not do anything until last year and we are now back to basically the same shoreline we had ten years ago but with prettier rock. He is curious whether what we will see after this is what we will get or if there are plans to rebuild this breakwall in the future.

PUBLIC HEARING

The President announced the opening of a Public Hearing regarding the proposed rezoning of 2309 Columbus Avenue.

Angela Byington, Planner, said this rezoning application was made by Dan McGookey on behalf of Ted and Deborah Peters. They are requesting to rezone 2309 Columbus Avenue from R-140 - Single-Family residential, to RRB - residential business. The surrounding properties are zoned residential but it is in close proximity to automobile parking, local business and general business, and the property is located two blocks from Perkins Avenue. The property was formerly used for Dr. Fidler's podiatry practice but has been vacant for numerous years. In September, 2016, the Planning Commission approved a conditional use permit for a contractor's office and inside storage. In November, 2016, the Planning Commission denied a proposed amendment to this conditional use permit to add a driveway and parking in front of the structure and the use never came to fruition. In May, 2019, the Board of Zoning Appeals denied a conditional use variance to permit transient rental. Throughout the past few years, the property owners have had inquiries regarding non-residential uses. The zoning classification currently requested as residential-business will allow, by right, single- and multi-family residential, home offices and occupations, apartment hotels and rooming houses. By way of Planning Commission approving a conditional use permit, the uses of neighborhood retail stores and services would be permitted. The Bicentennial Vision speaks to re-planning and repurposing blighted properties. This property, although not visually blighted, has sat vacant for numerous years and further vacancy will continue to deteriorate the structure. The applicant has stated the construction of the building is not suited for single-family residential use due to the structure being cut up for patient rooms as well as the low slope of the roof. Approval of this rezoning will provide both continued residential use options as well as low impact retail and service opportunities with Planning

Commission approval. Members of the Planning Commission and staff provide their recommendation or approval due to the property's close proximity to commercial uses, the unique floor plans and construction of the building which has been a hindrance to single-family residential occupancy. In the Polk Directories, Angela Byington said she was not able to find that this property was ever utilized as a residence in the past (going back to old Polk directories from 1923 – 1924 and 1955).

Dick Brady asked if Angela Byington knew why the Board of Zoning Appeals denied application for transient rental at this property and asked if this would fly in the face of this denial because this zoning change will allow transient rental at this property. Angela Byington said the application to BZA was strictly for transient rental use while this request is for a rezoning which allows more than transient rental; it would include transient rental if the owner chooses to move forward with this. Wes Poole said at the Planning Commission meeting, neighbors spoke and asked about the character of their comments. Angela Byington said the neighbors were in favor of this application. Although we are not supposed to consider what the proposed use is, they were supposed to look at the rezoning uses. The applicant did state at the meeting he would like to use this, more or less, for transient use. He also stated this would primarily be for his family and friends who come to visit. His neighbors agreed with the idea and said they would also like to use the property for the same use. She does not recall anyone who was opposed to this at the Planning Commission meeting. Wes Poole said Planning Commission does not take use into consideration and asked if this also applies to the members of the City Commission. Trevor Hayberger said "yes", the city commission could take any facts into consideration as well as the Planning Commission. Wes Poole said this building sits way back from the road and understands the use being proposed for it is probably appropriate. The neighbors are in favor of it although they were not in favor of what is being proposed the last time when it was turned down. It is understandable the BZA said no because the zoning needed to change and we are doing what is necessary to make this possible. Wes Poole said he supports this because the neighborhood is going to be better off with something low impact like this and the building will be utilized as opposed to waiting for it to deteriorate. At some point in time, if the owners change, the Planning Commission would have to approve any changes of use. Angela Byington said if they wanted to do this it would have to be rezoned. Wes Poole said the process can work, the neighborhood is protected and they are getting an improvement; he supports this. Greg Lockhart asked how long the property has not been in use and the condition of the property itself. Angela Byington said she was told it has been close to a decade since it was utilized. Some pictures may have been shown at the Planning Commission, but does not have a structural analysis or code violation list of citations for the property. Naomi Twine said no one opposed the rezoning and asked if all of the neighbors were contacted. Angela Byington said for a Public Hearing at Planning Commission, all property owners within 300' of the property line for this parcel were notified and a notice was also in the newspaper. Dennis Murray said it is an interesting point the neighbors opposed the change before the BZA, but not before the Planning Commission. He does not see any other way the Planning Commission reconciled or even acknowledged the decision by the BZA, but perhaps this was not reflected in the minutes as he read them. Angela Byington said she does not recall they acknowledged this process directly and believes the history of the property had gone through certain applications in the past and would be reflected in the staff report.

Dan McGookey, Attorney representing Ted and Deborah Peters, said the Board of Zoning Appeals voted 2 – 2 with one member recusing himself since he was the insurance representative for the Peters'. They strongly suggested going down this path and the Planning Commission unanimously voted to approve this application. There was a list of five or seven neighbors who had signed a petition in favor of this rezoning. One gentleman who had been two doors away was thrilled because he has family members who would be housed here close-by his home. To his knowledge, this property was always known as Dr. Fidler's office and for anyone who was ever in this building and once you walk in, there is no other possible use as a residence. This is a very narrow lot (40' wide) and each side of the building and is only a few feet off of the lot line. This structure cannot be knocked down to build a new residence as it is not wide enough. Even within the existing footprint, given the layout, the structure and the slope of the roof, it is not feasible to convert this into a residence from an economic standpoint. Interestingly, this building was built as a

fishery in 1939 so to his knowledge, it has always been commercial and is the only potential/practical use for it.

Ted Peters, 2309 Columbus Avenue, said he bought this house which was built by the Lay Brothers in 1939 and he was told “back in the day” they had a fish hatchery at this location and these were on adjoining properties and is one reason he wanted it. The fence-line has a gate which connects both properties and is the perfect plan for what he and his wife want to do. He has family who live in Florida and this will provide a place to house them when they come home and was the original idea behind this. He spoke with others, friends and family, and there is a market for this type of thing. He does not want to get into the rental game and does not want this in his neighborhood. If he would have some sort of problem next door, he would be glad to call the Police Chief and would be very selective if someone he did not know rented it because it is a nice area and he intends to keep it that way. He does not want this to get into the wrong hands with the wrong idea or plan and was the whole basis for buying it. Dick Brady said these are honorable intentions and knows he (Ted) is an honorable person, but asked how long he will own it; when he stops owning it, someone else will buy it who may not have the same character or philosophy. Ted Peters said this goes for turning it into a rental property; he probably could have two apartments out of it (but chooses not to) and worries about some landlord coming in and doing this. He did not want to take the unknown and when a house is sold, we have no idea what a person might do with it. It is up to the commission to deny or approve what should go in this, but there is plenty of off-street parking and believes this is why it was turned down before. The previous owner wanted to put in a drive or parking spaces in the front and the people against this were the people he purchased his home from. If it were him living next door and he did not own this, he would not want that either. There are four parking spots in the back and he has an easement; there is plenty of off-street parking and there should never be a car parked in the street. From the street, a lot of people do not even know this building exists and thinks it will have a very low impact. Greg Lockhart asked how much he (Ted) plans to invest in the property. Ted Peters said he is looking at \$45,000 - \$50,000 plus the purchase price. Greg Lockhart said this is significant. Naomi Twine asked what he (Ted) will do if this is not approved and he said the first thing he will do is devalue the property because he is paying commercial taxes on it right now. He has not changed this or done anything with the hope he can do what he wants to do with it and does not think the city would want this turned into a big warehouse with construction equipment or a lot of banging and sawing; he is trying to keep it as residential as possible.

Arlene Thompson, 1902 Adrian Circle, said if Ted Peters said he wants to keep this a residential neighborhood, he will; he will not have a Frat house and we can take him at his word. It is no different than people having a summer home here and renting it out and asked if someone who owns a condo and rents it out would pay the rental fees she does because she has a home which she purchased for her grandson to live in. The city has a good thing going here and has a good person wanting to do something good regardless of what may be down the road and he should be given a chance.

Dennis Murray said he was originally opposed to this rezoning, but after hearing presentations tonight, he is convinced it is the right direction and will support it later on (Item #1)

There being no further comments, the President declared the Public Hearing closed.

CURRENT BUSINESS

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

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

The President asked if any of the commissioners wished to remove items from the Consent Agenda. There were no requests to do so.

A. Submitted by Nicole DeFreitas, Transit Administrator**LEASE AGREEMENT WITH SERVING OUR SENIORS FOR VEHICLES FOR SANDUSKY TRANSIT SYSTEM**

Budgetary Information: There is no additional cost associated with this Resolution. It is intended to cooperatively plan for the future of transit services in Sandusky, Erie County political subdivisions and local agencies.

ORDINANCE NO. 19-157: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a lease agreement with Serving Our Seniors for the purpose of leasing five transit vehicles for use by the Sandusky Transit System for the period of October 1, 2019, through September 30, 2020; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

B. Submitted by Nicole DeFreitas, Transit Administrator**CONTRACT WITH SERVING OUR SENIORS FOR TRANSPORTATION SERVICES WITH SANDUSKY TRANSIT SYSTEM**

Budgetary Information: Sandusky Transit System will receive a monthly flat rate of \$17,620 from Serving Our Seniors for the length of the proposed contract to provide transportation services to existing Serving Our Seniors clients. This money collected will be used to offset the capital planning and operating expenses through the Ohio Department of Transportation.

ORDINANCE NO. 19-158: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into an agreement for transportation services between the City of Sandusky and Serving Our Seniors for the period of October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

C. Submitted by Kelly Kresser, Commission Clerk**LIQUOR PERMIT TRANSFER**

The city has received a Notice to Legislative Authority for a **D1** (*beer only for on premises consumption or in original sealed containers for carryout only until 1 a.m.*), **D2** (*wine and mixed beverages for on premises consumption or in original sealed containers for carryout only until 1 a.m.*), **D3** (*spirituous liquor for on premises consumption only until 1 a.m.*) and **D3A** (*extend issued permit privileges until 2:30 a.m.*) liquor permit transfers (*stock only*) for Doghouse Bar LLC dba Dog House, 1002 West Jefferson Street. It is requested the Commission Clerk be authorized to notify the Ohio Division of Liquor Control the city has no objection to this transfer.

Upon motion of Wes Poole and second of Dave Waddington, the Commission voted to accept the Consent Agenda and declare all ordinances 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 in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Greg Lockhart, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole, Dave Waddington and Dick Brady, 6. Roll call on the ordinances: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Greg Lockhart, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole, Dave Waddington and Dick Brady, 6. The President declared the ordinances contained in the Consent Agenda passed in full accordance with the city charter.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS**SECTION 13****ITEM #1 - Submitted by Greg Voltz, Planner****PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING CODE FOR 2309 COLUMBUS AVENUE**

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

ORDINANCE NO. 19-159: It is requested an ordinance be passed amending the official zone map of the City of Sandusky to rezone Parcel #57-01486.000 located at 2309 Columbus Avenue from R1-40 single-family residential district to R-RB residential-business district; and declaring that this ordinance 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 Dick Brady, the Commission voted to approve this ordinance under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 13 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Greg Lockhart, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole, Dave Waddington and Dick Brady, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Greg

Lockhart, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole, Dave Waddington and Dick Brady, 6. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

ITEM #2 – Submitted by Josh Snyder, Assistant City Engineer

AWARD OF CONTRACT TO MARK HAYNES CONSTRUCTION FOR LIONS PARK SHORELINE REVETMENT PROJECT

Budgetary Information: The estimated cost of the project, based on bids, including legal advertisement and recording fee is \$74,812.80 with \$50,000 coming from the Parks & Recreation capital projects fund and \$24,812.80 from Issue 8 Parks & Recreation funds from the capital projects fund.

ORDINANCE NO. 19-160: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Mark Haynes Construction of Norwalk, Ohio, for the Lions Park shoreline revetment project; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

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

Discussion: Aaron Klein said the splash pad, playground, restrooms, basketball courts, bike/pedestrian path, parking lot with turnaround and natural area and the realignment of Winnebago have been completed at Lions Park. The memorial statue, breakwall improvements and event lawn are not in the Capital Plan. We go over this every year and have spent a lot of money in the past nine years at Lions Park. He would never say we are done with Lions Park or done with making improvements to any park in the city. This item covers what we are doing to reestablish the shoreline and make sure we do not lose more of it over the next five to twenty years. When we proceed with other parks and properties, we may reanalyze and look at timing of when to implement a breakwall and other things remaining to be done within the Master Plan. Staff meets every year to go through our Master Plan and figure out where money would be best allocated and associate it that year. As far as the breakwall, we are looking at reestablishing the shoreline now through the temporary permit. Wes Poole said he concurs about doing this now for the shoreline and is what is most important for long-term usage of the park. The amenities for inside the park (new pavilion or shelter) are something he recognizes will not be real high on our agenda next year or perhaps the year after with all of the other things we have to spend money on. As the use of the park grows, he suggested we will know when it is time to spend money here and is a big believer in providing services the citizens think they need, and they show this by showing up in large numbers. When this park gets crowded and is used a lot, this will tell us it is time to divert some money from a project elsewhere toward it. He is concerned it is not on the plans at all, but should recognize it needs to be done eventually and upon public demand.

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

ITEM #3 – Submitted by Nicole DeFreitas, Transit Administrator

AUTHORIZATION TO FILE GRANT APPLICATION WITH ODOT FOR SANDUSKY TRANSIT SYSTEM

Budgetary Information: The grant requires a 20% local match. The match will be generated from multiple local sources including state general revenue funds, capital replacement funds and city general revenue funds (transit funds). The maximum local match will be \$100,000 but will be determined by the final grant award amount.

RESOLUTION NO. 037-19R: It is requested a resolution be passed authorizing the filing of a grant application with the Ohio Department of Transportation for FY 2020 Ohio Transit Partnership Program grant funds for the Sandusky Transit System; and declaring that this resolution take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

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

Discussion: Greg Lockhart said he welcomes any type of improvements for the transit system and said Nicole DeFreitas is doing an excellent job. Inclusive of this, he asked where we are with the running times and new benches. He specifically asked if consideration is being given to run later or on Sundays so STS becomes a more reliable source for people going to work or other activities. Nicole DeFreitas said prior to this application, we applied for the 5311 grant and the 5339 funds from ODOT. We still have not received word about these awards but as part of the 5339 grant application, she requested 30 additional benches to be placed throughout the city. They did an inventory of ridership and there is a need for these benches and once we know what is awarded, we will prioritize where they should go. Additional monies will also be available because of the increase in gas taxes and decisions will be made according to where the biggest needs are. Frequencies on the blue, red and yellow routes were also requested, through the grant, to increase. There is so much need and if we can at least increase the frequencies or additional lines on Sunday, this would help. Wes Poole asked about Wi-Fi and electronic improvements being made. Nicole DeFreitas said as part of this grant application, one of the things we are asking for is Wi-Fi on the buses. People can go onto Google Live to look at routes and maps but one thing we cannot do is show live or real-time feeds showing where the vehicles are. Many times they get held up in Cedar Point traffic and people call dispatch about this; if we can get Wi-Fi on the vehicles, we can send live feeds for users. Wes Poole said our money has been spent wisely to improve the STS and thinks long-term, this will pay benefits. We have to move people around to get them to work and not everyone has a car.

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

ITEM #4 – Submitted by John Orzech, Police Chief

AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE VEHICLE FROM NATIONAL AUTO FLEET GROUP FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT

Budgetary Information: The cost for the vehicle is \$32,731.83 which will be paid for with law enforcement trust funds.

ORDINANCE NO. 19-161: It is requested an ordinance be passed declaring a 2004 Chevrolet Impala as unnecessary and unfit for city use pursuant to Section 25 of the city charter; authorizing and directing the City Manager to purchase a 2020 Chevy Traverse from National Auto Fleet Group of Watsonville, California, for the Police Department; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Dave Waddington, the Commission voted to approve this ordinance under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Greg Lockhart, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole, Dave Waddington and Dick Brady, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Greg Lockhart, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole, Dave Waddington and Dick Brady, 6. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

ITEM #5 – Submitted by Matt Lasko, Chief Development Officer

CHANGE ORDER #1 WITH PRO SUPPLY, INC. FOR CDBG FY 2018 DEMOLITION PROJECT

Budgetary Information: The total cost of all items included in this Change Order #1 is \$7,244. The additional funds will be expensed from the real estate fund.

ORDINANCE NO. 19-162: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to approve the first change order for work to be performed by Pro Supply, Inc., of Cleveland, Ohio, for the CDBG FY 2018demolition project #1 in the amount of \$7,244; and

declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Dave Waddington, the Commission voted to approve this ordinance under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Greg Lockhart, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole, Dave Waddington and Dick Brady, 6. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Greg Lockhart, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole, Dave Waddington and Dick Brady, 6. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- **Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Dave Waddington, the commission voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$1,361.94 from the VFW for the purchase of six Canon digital cameras and accessories. The President declared the motion passed.**
- **Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Greg Lockhart, the commission voted to accept an in-kind donation from Dave and Ann Waddington for \$100 for a tree or bush to be planted at the Martin Luther King, Jr. memorial site in Washington Park (\$100 value). The President declared the motion passed.**
- **Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Greg Lockhart, the commission voted to accept a donation from The Lange Trust of eight sculptures for a one-year period.**

Discussion: Eric Wobser said The Lange Trust of the Sandusky Library has generously donated a second year of sculptures through the sculpture-on loan-program provided by the Midwest Sculpture Initiative. We received great feedback during the first year of this program and people were very excited to see the sculptures around town. Dennis Murray said this has been a great program for public art, but there are some people who hate them and others who love them; we got a discussion going and this is always a good thing.

The President declared the motion passed.

- There will be a **fall/Halloween storefront competition for businesses** in the area bound by Hancock Street/Decatur Street and Shoreline Drive/Washington Row. There will be three opportunities for voting: Witches' Choice – voting during Witches' Walk, Kids' Choice – voting during Downtown Trick-or-Treat, and People's Choice – online voting, conducted by the Sandusky Register. Contact McKenzie Spriggs with questions at 419.627.5929.
- **Detective Adam West has served the Sandusky Police Department since 1998.** He is a top-notch investigator, but more importantly, a person of high character. It is a bittersweet moment as we are saddened for his departure, but overjoyed for the opportunity presented to him. Detective West has served his last days with our Police Department and city effective September 13, but has been afforded an incredible opportunity to join the DEA as a Special Agent. We wish Adam and his family much joy and happiness as they embark on their new adventure. As an officer of his caliber, he will be missed and his shoes will be hard to fill. John Orzech said Detective West was a phenomenal investigator and has been working narcotics for probably about six years and with the DEA for the last four years. This is a true loss to the Police Department, but when someone succeeds and has the opportunity to go to higher career choices and higher career opportunities, we are very excited. He starts on the 29th with an 18-week program in Quantico, Virginia, and then will have a duty station in the Dallas, Texas, area. No one has left our Police Department for the federal government. These are very prestigious jobs and is a tribute to Detective West. Eric

Wobser said this is not only a testament to Detective West, but to the type of department, the caliber of training and people being recruited. We are grateful for what Chief Orzech and his team have accomplished.

- **A conditional offer of employment has been given to Zachary Tyson** who has been a reserve officer with the department for a couple of months. He will complete his remaining testing and then be sworn in at the October 14 Commission meeting.
- **Officer Evan Estep is attending the Supervisor Training & Education Program (STEP)** through the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police and the Law Enforcement Foundation. STEP is designed for front-line supervisors and covers 21 learning modules where supervisory and leadership theory is translated into professional practice. The classes are held once each week for one month over a three-month period.
- The next **Audit/Finance Committee meeting is October 25** at 8 a.m. at 240 Columbus Avenue in the City Commission Chambers.
- There are **two fall clean-up opportunities** available to city residents free of charge:
 1. Drive-Thru Drop-Off Day will take place on Saturday, September 28 at the Shelby Street Boat Launch overflow parking lot, 101 Shelby Street.
 2. Residents are welcome to drop off their yard waste at Barnes Nursery, 1630 Camp Road, Huron, on Saturday, October 5 and Sunday, October 6. For further details, please call 419.627.5884.
- The **Thorpe Drive culvert replacement** project has been completed and the roadway is open to traffic. Eric Wobser said he saw an email for this project and for another recently-completed project stating these were two tough jobs and the service was exemplary. Residents were very impressed with the professionalism of the department and of the contractors and commended them for this.
- We will be releasing a RFQ for the **complete redesign and reconstruction of Warren Street** between Monroe and Washington Streets. All inquiries may be directed to the Engineering Office at 419.627.5829. We have had some public statements about the condition of Warren Street and it is probably the worst condition because of a lack of physical improvements over many, many years to where it almost feels like an unimproved street. As we were able to achieve new resources from the state through the gas tax increase, we are looking at other opportunities for roads. Warren Street has always been high on our list; this is also a very big project and these resources will allow us to begin to seriously look at repaving and refinishing this area as soon as possible.
- The public is welcome to join staff at the **Erie Boulevard Gateway sign at 1321 Cleveland Road on Friday, October 5, for a pumpkin decorating activity**. Pumpkins will be available for residents to decorate and take home as decoration for the fall holiday season. In addition to the pumpkin activity, hot chocolate will be served and the neighborhood branding sign will be unveiled as part of the Sandusky neighborhood initiative. This is a continuation of the city trying to activate parks and neighborhoods throughout the city. Eric Wobser said he had a chance to attend another event at this location this past summer which was very well attended and hopefully this is bringing this neighborhood together and we will see more and more of this in other neighborhoods throughout the city because of the Neighborhood Initiative.
- The **Planning Commission meeting** is September 25 at 4:30 p.m. at 240 Columbus Avenue in the City Commission Chambers.

- The **Board of Zoning Appeals meeting** is October 17 at 4:30 p.m. at 240 Columbus Avenue in the City Commission Chambers.
- The **Landmark Commission meeting** is October 16 at 4:30 p.m. at 240 Columbus Avenue in the City Commission Chambers.
- The **Public Arts and Culture Commission meeting** is October 8 at 5 p.m. at 240 Columbus Avenue in the City Commission Chambers.
- The Recreation Department would like to thank the Encore Shop and Stein Hospice for their title sponsorship of the third annual **Dragons & Bacon Festival** on Saturday, September 14. This event could not be done without the safety services provided by TowBoat U.S. Sandusky, the Sandusky Fire Department, the United States Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary, the Erie County Sheriff's Office, and support boats from the Sandusky Junior Sailors, Inc. and Sandusky Sailing Club during the event. We look forward to a 2020 event and will announce a date in the near future.
- The City of Sandusky Recreation Department is partnering with downtown businesses, the Sandusky Farmers Market and local organizations for the annual **Downtown Trick or Treat** on Saturday, October 26 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This year's event will include a **pumpkin drop with the Sandusky Fire Department** and a pumpkin pie eating contest. Any Sandusky businesses or organizations who are not in the downtown area are welcome to join the event and can contact the city's recreation department at 419.627.5886 or e-mail jwerling@ci.sandusky.oh.us for more information.
- There are **three races left in the #RUNDUSKY Race Series** including the Blue Streak Pride 5k on September 28, the Save Your Pumpkins 5k on October 12 and the Dot the i, Block the M walk/run on November 30. Links to registration for all three races can be found at the recreation department's Facebook page or website: www.cityofsandusky.com/Recreation.
- Dick Brady asked for a brief description on an issue which has been brought up a couple of times here. He asked Aaron Klein to explain how **the city is meeting its obligation regarding the EPA with both the Shoreline Drive and the Jackson Street Pier projects**. Our contractors have a plan and are meeting it, but thinks this needs to be in the record to deal with this issue head-on. Aaron Klein said as with all of our projects, they are all mandated by the State of Ohio to have stormwater pollution prevention plans and oversight and these two projects are no exception. The contractors have had many certified professionals looking at this who have gone through it and the EPA was on site two weeks ago. One EPA official was from their Stormwater Division and another from the Environmental Division. The stormwater person looked at everything we are doing on the pier and on Shoreline Drive and the only thing they came up with on either of these two projects is there was too much dirt being tracked into the drive lane on Shoreline Drive. It is very difficult for a linear project like this, but this is something they are being told to address on a daily basis. As far as the environmental, they were asked to take samples and report them to the EPA when they were done and when they pump water again. Right now, both projects are not pumping water and both contractors are planning on doing this. They are doing their weekly reports and inspections on all of this work and it is very thorough and time-consuming. The EPA said they were very impressed with the work being done at these job sites.

OLD BUSINESS

Dennis Murray said it is bittersweet to see the **Cooke Building** will have to come down. It was unfortunate the building had degraded to this condition over the years and this is on the State Historic Preservation offices as it is their charge to look over landmarked properties. This has been an important lesson for the city going forward. We have a Landmark Commission now and

we thoroughly are in charge and thinks this is the only positive take-away other than having owners who are committed to rebuilding. The other is we should redouble our efforts to make sure we look at landmarked buildings and perhaps we need legislation although we do have the authority to inspect them under the existing ordinance. Whether we need an interior inspection provision or not, he is not sure, but will leave this to staff and the professionals to evaluate whether this is true. He would not want to lose another building the way we lost this one.

NEW BUSINESS

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Dick Brady, the commission voted to have the sunflower be the official flower for the City of Sandusky.

Discussion: Dave Waddington said he has spoken to some of the commissioners about this. The sunflower is the flower of hope. He has been to Maria's Field of Hope for childhood cancer and has read some of the message left there. He encouraged people to spend about 15 minutes walking around. He has read messages left in the field and has seen people praying and has seen pictures of young children who have died. As he has been going door-to-door (for the election), he sees many sunflowers planted around Sandusky which is a pollinator plant for butterflies. Cedar Point took the initial step to start this and would like to see it flourish and keep growing. Dick Brady said when remarks were made by the City of Avon Mayor Jensen, he stated anyone who visits their site never comes away without being positively affected by it. This certainly is the case and his family and others have traveled through it and once you do, the impact childhood cancer has is realized. Cancer knows no boundaries and it does not seek color, religion or any ethnicity; it can attack anyone. He is hopeful this site will remain, for many years to come, just as it is today and this would make a wonderful statement for our city. Dave Waddington said Kelly Kresser contacted Tom Speir from the Greenhouse who was excited about this idea and said we have a lot of areas and small parks where we could plant sunflowers to add to our Monarch City status and to help with the bee population. Wes Poole said what is being proposed is as good as any flower we should choose and would hope we do not end up in a big discussion and a long-term battle over this. This is a wonderful flower which represents something worthwhile and it will not hurt us to adopt this. He asked the public to send letters or comments to the City Manager to support this. Dennis Murray said this is a bright and tall flower.

Upon motion of Wes Poole and second of Greg Lockhart, the commission voted to amend the motion to direct staff to put together a process where we present this to the community as something we would like to do.

Discussion: Wes Poole said he does not have an opinion about what kind of flower we as a city choose and the sunflower would be just fine. Presenting this to the community would allow us to gather public input and then adopt the sunflower. The adoption of a city flower is something we should not just dictate, although he does support this. Greg Lockhart said this is entirely appropriate to have feedback from the staff and the public and thinks the whole idea is pretty good.

Roll call on the motion to amend: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Greg Lockhart, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole, Dave Waddington and Dick Brady, 6. The President declared the motion to amend passed.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Naomi Twine, Greg Lockhart, Dennis Murray, Wes Poole, Dave Waddington and Dick Brady, 6. The President declared the motion passed.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Tim Schwanger, 362 Sheffield Way, said on social media this past weekend, there were a couple of city issues highlighted. In the 1200 block of Vine Street, there has been a mattress, microwave cabinet and broken vacuum in the boulevard for over one month. The gentleman who reported this said Code Compliance has been by this at least twice and his concern is not that this is being ignored, but it appears we may still be in a situation where these types of issues are complaint-based by residents. At the last commission meeting, Eric Wobser brought up the fact that

eventually, hopefully soon, we are going to be having Code enforcement employees on a zone-based program and this needs to happen as soon as possible. We have added enough people in this division and it is time to do this. There was a gentleman stopped at the corner of Reese and Hancock Streets this weekend who was ticketed for not yielding to a pedestrian who was actually on the sidewalk waiting to cross the street. Wes Poole asked for a copy of the police report to be provided and asked for us to tell the public what the interpretation of the law actually is as there seems to be some confusion about this. John Orzech said there is signage at different places in town including on Hayes Avenue by the Firelands South campus and it appears motorists are supposed to stop or yield to pedestrians, but this is not the law. The law requires motorists to yield to pedestrians if they are in the crosswalk; pedestrians cannot walk out into the crosswalk and expect to pass freely. This is a timing issue and if a pedestrian is in the crosswalk and sees a vehicle coming, the vehicle has the right-of-way, but they cannot just walk out into the crosswalk to have a vehicle stop; this would be a dangerous situation, but this is how the law is written. Wes Poole said people may take their lives into their own hands and recognizes pedestrians are afraid to step off the curb, but at the same time, motorists do not have to stop unless a pedestrian is in the street. People need to assert their rights as with all rights in America and step off the curb, but first make sure cars are close enough to see the pedestrian and stop. Getting run over because someone has the right-of-way is probably not a good idea and people should use common sense. Dennis Murray said this law applies to every crosswalk and this seems to be a common misperception in some places. Greg Lockhart asked how it is determined someone is not yielding to pedestrians other than averting someone who is walking. John Orzech said this would be a witness who sees the event, but would not like to see this. A pedestrian may say a vehicle was in the crosswalk and the motorist may say they are not and if there is no independent corroboration, it would be a tough situation to sort out.

Kathy Rider, 1704 Mills Street, said she was here for an issue with a proposed zone change from residential to commercial regarding an orchard and roadside stand on Putnam Street. Someone on the commission said something to the applicant about a permanent structure being the base for the beginning of their re-attempt. They have put a mobile home with a broken frame from a junkyard on the property and dead things have grown for 20+ years as big as the windows. The floor is hanging out on the back part of the property. She has contacted Code Compliance and they said they have been out, but this is going on a month and this is the view she has from her back door. Last weekend, she saw a skunk come out of the floor sagging from the back and now wildlife is taking over. On a lighter note, Kathy Rider said she has a problem with the name of her neighborhood and does not know how the city went about choosing "South Side". She has almost \$80,000 invested in her home in an attempt to sell it when finished. It is at the railroad tracks on Mills Street which is not an intersection and there is a sign across from her house which is about to be sided and listed for sale which reads "South Side". When she met her husband thirty years ago, she got him off crack and this is not the name for a neighborhood. She knows people worked hard to get this all worked out, but this sign is not even at an intersection. The police have amped up watching the area for illegal dumping at the railroad but recently, a police officer was heading north on Mills Street, turned around in her driveway, and was driving well over 60 MPH to Perkins Avenue but never turned on lights or sirens. Wes Poole said as far as naming neighborhoods, we need to deal with this issue; he grew up on the south side and is listening to what has been said. Mills Street south of the tracks has never been part of the south side until now. He asked what process we went through to name this particular area and said it should at least be reviewed.

Kathryn Carter, 5309 Columbus Avenue, said Dick Brady's comments at the last meeting about the Jackson Street Pier were interesting. This commission, the City Manager and the newspaper insists every time someone comes to the podium to comment about what the city is doing is because of a few people aggravating and causing these problems. The Jackson Street Pier meetings at the State Theatre were packed with people, but there were picture boards of what was going on and happening in other cities. Alex Pesta had a meeting at Boomtown with a table set up and eight chairs; by the time his presentation was made, the room was packed and people were sitting on the stairs. When the people were asked if they would like to see a market building on the Jackson Street Pier, the resounding "no" could be heard in the rest of the restaurant and he was shocked and looked like someone had kicked him. He got the same answer when he

brought up making Shoreline Drive one-way, but we are easing into this because it has been this way for a while and people will be used to this change. Eric Wobser had a meeting with this group and spread his papers out on the table and there were so many people in the room he had to make his presentation standing up. Someone asked what the city is going to do about the geese and he said they were trying to come up with different ideas and the word “poison” came out and he made a lot of people mad. They are a protected creature and cannot be poisoned. Kathryn Carter stated at the commission meeting this is not to be a concert venue yet 1,500 people can be put into this area which rises up 4½ feet in the back to see the 40’ x 40’ stage. If there are this many people here, they will not be throwing Frisbees and they will not be flying kites; this is a concert venue but the city refuses to say it out loud because of the cost. The stakeholders came and said it was beautiful, wonderful and magical and gave the city a \$50,000 check; if the city had more of these on the other side of the table, she/they would have had more influence. About 100 people stood up and walked out of this meeting but since they are not here, the commission acts like they do not matter anymore. Every time this comes up, the commission likes to blame it on a few people as the scapegoats or pot-stirrers. The one thing mentioned at every single meeting was to not block the view of the lake from the road and the city has done it already. People have spoken for years about wanting sidewalks, streets and trees done but the answer has always been the city does not have the money. Now that the city does have money, people see this going into a quarter of a mile road and a pier and other streets will not get done for ten years and people get madder every day. Now the city is trying to blame parking and lack of spaces on a car show once a month. The car show is fine; the parking for the ferries is the problem. They do not park in the parking garage and people have to be corrected about this. She asked if they have to bring 100 people to every meeting but people are here to represent their concerns. After the city voted for this vague plan, she got a copy of it and it shows in the schematics there are ten festival hookups on the pier with five at the north end and this was not voted on and was not brought up at any of the meetings for two years.

Arlene Thompson, 1902 Adrian Circle, said she could hear what was being said tonight and the system is working much better. The city is throwing \$74,000 more at Lions Park and said we need to make sure this is a total fix for this particular problem this time because we are not always going to have this kind of money to throw at it. Warren Street is a terrible street but so are others in town which deserve just as much attention. This will lead straight downtown and the new pathway will be really nice for all of the people who leave Cedar Point and want to go to the bustling downtown and all of the activity; she hopes the city is right, but she does not think so. This is money poorly spent. People at home listen to these meetings and suggested those running for election or re-election consider explaining the passage of items under Section 13 and 14 because people have no idea what this is. The city should put this somewhere so people can read this and it is accessible to everyone as it is very confusing. She asked when the commissioners talk about items on the agenda, because there are things she does not understand like renting five transit vehicles for \$211,000 per year which is \$17,000 per month.

At 6:22 p.m., upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Dick Brady, the commission voted to adjourn. The President declared the motion passed.

Kelly L. Kresser, CMC
Commission Clerk

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