

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

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

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to accept the Minutes of the August 26 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, Rick Wilcox – Fire Chief, Matt Lasko – Chief Development Officer, Tiffany Taylor – IT, Stuart Hamilton – IT Manager, Hank Solowiej – Finance Director, Trevor Hayberger – Law Director, Eric Wobser – City Manager and Kelly Kresser – Commission Clerk.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street, asked if assessments are transferred to the owner when the lot at Cold Creek is sold, or if the city continues to pay them (Item D). She asked if this new home is eligible for a tax abatement and if there is a timeline when it has to be built.

PRESENTATION

Lori Brodie, with the Ohio Auditor of State's Office, said she is here to present an **Ohio Auditor of State Award**, with distinction, on behalf of Keith Faber. It is important to note this award puts the City of Sandusky in a select group. Of the approximately 5,900 entities, three to five percent are eligible for this award. This award is presented to local governments and school districts upon completion of a financial audit meeting the following criteria of a clean audit report:

- Must complete a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report within six months of a fiscal year end;
- Must have a clean audit with no findings for recovery, material citations or weaknesses, significant deficiencies, single audit findings or questioned costs;
- Have no other financial concerns;
- The Management Letter contains no comments related to ethics referrals, questioned costs less than \$10,000 or lack of timely report submission, bank reconciliation issues, failure to obtain a timely single audit, findings for recovery less than \$500 or any public meeting or public records issues.

This award represents the hard work of very city employee who strives to achieve accounting excellence. Lori Brodie recognized the City Commissioners who have done an excellent job accounting for every dollar in the City of Sandusky, and specifically recognized Hank Solowiej, Finance Director, and all of his staff for the outstanding leadership, professionalism and commitment to fiscal integrity.

Dr. Swathi Ravichandran, Director of BGSU Resort School Management, said the school is the result of a partnership between Bowling Green State University and Cedar Fair. This will be the only Bachelor's Degree program in Resort & Attraction Management in the country dedicated to this field. Several other unique features not typical of programs of this nature are two guaranteed customizable co-ops built into the program during their junior year which affect students when they are officially in the degree program at one of the Cedar Fair parks, or others. By virtue of being admitted into this program, students

are guaranteed paid internships. She has spoken to a lot of students with rather unique requests about their co-ops including one who wants to help design the next award-winning ride or another who specifically wants to be in gaming. She has had conversations with partners at Cedar Point who have been incredibly supportive about accommodating these unique experiences for students. Another unique feature will be “Professional Development Fridays” where, every semester, there is a one credit professional development class focusing on different areas including IT or Sales & Marketing as they relate to this particular field. Students will have access to leaders in this industry who will talk about their particular experiences. This is well designed curriculum and the model is for BGSU to be the classroom for this degree completion program. Students will have an opportunity for competitive scholarships (ten) covering instruction fees. This is incredibly generous and an incredible opportunity for students. During the first two years, students will take general education/liberal education requirements while in the second two years, they will officially declare their major as resort and attraction management and learn from award-winning leaders in this field. Cedar Point was just voted the Best Amusement Park and one of their rides was voted the Best Ride along with being the Best Resort in the country so this is a unique opportunity for students to be exposed to. Someone who wants a management position in this field will have it. This field is expanding, not just here, but internationally, and the salaries are rather impressive as well. The opportunity for advancement is available as well. There will be a 56-student classroom along with faculty/administrative space and a common area on the main level. Cedar Fair’s apartments will be above where students will have the opportunity to live right where the classes, advisors and professors are. The first cohort begins in the summer of 2020 with a co-op opportunity at Cedar Point. After this, they will have the opportunity to select any of the Cedar Fair parks to get their experience. The academic calendar for this program is unique and does not follow the typical school calendar giving students the opportunity to learn about amusement parks from the season start to end. Fall classes will begin in mid-October and they will end early in the spring. The other aspect of the degree completion is the first two years will be completed either on BGSU’s main campus or Firelands campus, or at any community college or state school with Ohio transfer pathway. She is working with a lot of students who are transferring from other universities in other parts of the country to transfer as many credits as possible to help them progress through the program. A lot of interest and inquiries have come from out of state and this speaks to the unique nature of this program. Dennis Murray said he appreciates the presentation and the opportunity for Dr. Ravichandran to shed a little more light and detail about this exciting program. It was about five years ago when Eric Wobser started talking about the idea of a downtown college campus and seeing this building go up is very exciting and appreciates she and Dean Kurtz being here tonight. Swathi Ravichandran said she had an opportunity to meet with the City Manager and said the community has been incredibly inviting and thanked the city for the kind words.

Talon Flohr, Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator, thanked the Dorn Community Foundation for their generous donation toward our neighborhoods. Last year, we explained the street sign toppers were being erected; they are almost all up with just a few left which need to be installed. We have had good feedback about them and have had a couple of residents reach out to ask for them which is a good problem to have. What is unique in each neighborhood or what is lacking is being built upon. A temporary splash pad was put in at Churchwell Park last year. Several adjacent lots on East Forest Drive have allowed us to build upon this concept further in the future for the children in the south side and surrounding area to cool off in the summer. Our big anchor project this year was upgrades to the entrances of Jaycee Park. This park is tucked away between two major corridors and people who are not from here would not even know it was there. Signage was erected at the corner of Wayne and Lane Streets as well as at Milan Road

and Baltimore Street. Additionally, staff in Public Works were able to remove the guardrails at the East Osborne Street entrance to allow more pedestrians to enter the park which was previously not a very inviting situation. A new initiative in the Walk Wayne/Hike Hancock area is the pedestrian improvement program. Over the last month, pedestrian crossing signage was put up and citizens are getting past the learning curve and yielding to pedestrians in this area. We will continue our place making and branding efforts by looking at implementing an underpass lighting plan. These lights would be programmable for different holidays or events and we will be teaming up with members of the Public Arts & Culture Commission on this effort. We will try to procure the materials this fall/winter for installation in the spring or summer. As funds become available, we will try to continue signage efforts including a gateway sign for the Erie Boulevard Parklet. We did a survey and had a couple of meetings with nearby residents of Jaycee Park and heard clearly public restrooms would be appreciated in this park and is what we are looking to do with our annual Dorn Community Park allocation. Our Recreation Department is also looking to improve the basketball courts at Scott May Courts. We are hoping to hear back about our application with the National Guard soon to construct the north/south connector path to Jaycee Park. We will continue the programs we currently have going. We had a summer intern who helped us set up a Friends of the Park program and will kick this off in earnest next year. We already have had a couple of groups reach out with really great ideas such as yoga in the park. In addition, we will continue with our neighborhood pedestrian safety improvement program. We will be publishing our end-of-year report within the next week or two and will provide a copy to the commissioners once it is completed. Dennis Murray said it is really great to see the level of engagement and we are past the point where we are not simply restoring things lost during a dark period in the city's history. We are way ahead of where we were and he is especially grateful for the work being done by Recreation and supports these efforts. Wes Poole asked to consider opening the restrooms up in some fashion when built here so they get more natural light or are able to air themselves out. The one at the Jackson Street Pier was much less than acceptable for use as is the one at Shoreline Park which is not particularly attractive either. He suggested contacting the Police Chief at Put-In-Bay for suggestions as their restrooms are an example of what can be done. Dave Waddington thanked Talon Flohr for this hard work and said it has been another good year for him. Most of the commissioners see he has grown and he sees a great future for Talon Flohr. Greg Lockhart said Talon has made a big transition since he started here and has a greater understanding of the neighborhoods. It is a touch challenge to work with so many different people, commissioners and staff members, but he (Talon) has risen to the challenge.

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 any items from the Consent Agenda. There were no requests to do so.

A. Submitted by Aaron Klein, Director of Engineering Services

ANNUAL AGREEMENT WITH ODOT FOR MAINTENANCE OF STATE ROUTE 2

Budgetary Information: The total cost for the State Route 2 maintenance services for the dates of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 is \$12,632.33 and will be paid with the City of Sandusky's State Highway fund.

ORDINANCE NO. 19-150: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing payment to the Treasurer of State, Ohio Department of Transportation, for the

maintenance of State Route 2 in the City of Sandusky by the Ohio Department of Transportation for the period of July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

B. Submitted by Todd Gibson, Facilities & Properties Supervisor

AUTHORIZATION TO DISPOSE OF VEHICLES THROUGH INTERNET AUCTION

Budgetary Information: Proceeds from the sale of the items will be placed into the city's Issue 8 Capital fund – vehicles, facilities and equipment.

ORDINANCE NO. 19-151: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to dispose of vehicles as having become unnecessary and unfit for city use pursuant to Section 25 of the city charter; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

C. Submitted by Hank Solowiej, Finance Director

APPROVING THE ANNUAL AMOUNTS AND RATES TO THE ERIE COUNTY BUDGET COMMISSION

Budgetary Information: The city is required to accept the tax rates as determined by the Erie County Budget Commission before October 1, 2019. This approval establishes funding for 2020. The prior year resolution was passed by the City Commission on September 10, 2018 (036-18R).

RESOLUTION NO. 034-19R: It is requested a resolution be passed accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Erie County Budget Commission; authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor; and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

D. Submitted by Debi Eversole, Housing Development Specialist

PURCHASE & SALE AGREEMENT FOR PARCEL IN COLD CREEK SUBDIVISION THROUGH LAND BANK PROGRAM

Budgetary Information: The city will recoup the cost of the expenses from the sale, if any. All remaining proceeds will be deposited into the special assessment bond retirement fund. \$13,195.97 will be applied to the future assessments on the property and the rest will be applied to the assessments paid to date.

ORDINANCE NO. 19-152: 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 #60-00043.069, located at 806 South Meadow 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.

E. Submitted by Nicole DeFreitas, Transit Administrator

AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT WITH ERIE COUNTY JOB & FAMILY SERVICES FOR SANDUSKY TRANSIT SYSTEM

Budgetary Information: The Sandusky Transit System will bill at a per mile rate, as established in the contract, from Erie County Job & Family Services for the length of the proposed contract extension. The revenue from this agreement will be used as matching grant funds for the Ohio Department of Transportation program grant.

ORDINANCE NO. 19-153: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a second amendment for the contract for transportation services between the City of Sandusky and the Board of County Commissioners of Erie County for the Department of Job & Family Services; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

F. Submitted by Debi Eversole, Housing Development Specialist**REPEAL OF PURCHASE & SALE AGREEMENT FOR PARCEL ON A STREET AND APPROVAL OF NEW PURCHASE & SALE AGREEMENT TO ADJOINING PROPERTY OWNER THROUGH LAND BANK PROGRAM**

Budgetary Information: There is no budget impact and the city has already recouped the cost of the expenses from the sale through receipt of earnest monies and in-kind maintenance performed on the property. The purchasers, Mr. and Mrs. Hartlage, will be responsible for the expense of the deed preparation of \$90. The taxing districts will begin collecting approximately \$120 per year in real estate taxes.

ORDINANCE NO. 19-154: It is requested an ordinance be passed repealing Ordinance No. 16-167, passed on October 11, 2016, and declaring that certain real property owned by the city as part of the land reutilization program identified as Parcel No. 58-02249.000, located at 919 A Street 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.

G. Submitted by Jane Cullen, Assistant City Engineer**CHANGE ORDER FOR COLUMBUS/SCOTT/CAMPBELL INTERSECTION PROJECT (DEDUCT ONLY)**

Budgetary Information: Change Order #1, a deduction of \$9,545.44, will revise the original contract amount of \$173,912.36 to \$164,366.92. The final costs will be split as follows: ODOT Active Transportation funding, \$125,000 and \$39,366.92 from the city's capital projects fund (Issue 8 infrastructure).

ORDINANCE NO. 19-155: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to approve the first and final change order for work performed by Perram Electric, Inc. of Wadsworth, Ohio, for the Columbus/Scott/Campbell intersection project, Phase 3; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Nikki Lloyd and second of Dave Waddington, the Commission voted to 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 and resolutions whether it be in accordance with Section 13 or Section 14 of the City Charter.

Discussion: Dennis Murray said his understanding is outstanding assessments would be paid as part of the purchase price (Item D). Matt Lasko said the total purchase price will go to pay past assessments and to pay forward future assessments through 2027. All proceeds will go into a bond retirement fund to help pay down the revenue bond debt issued several years ago. Secondly, these purchasers would have the ability to apply and be eligible for tax abatement which will not have to come before the commission as any homeowner could do. It would be in their best interest to take advantage of this and he expects them to do so. This was unique in that they will be provided twelve months to construct the house which is typical. Unlike some of our past purchase agreements, they are not going to start construction until April when the weather breaks. They wanted to make sure this was approved so they could start incurring additional development costs and architectural costs. We will provide them a little more time to start construction, but they will have the typical twelve months to complete it.

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

Lloyd, Dick Brady and Greg Lockhart, 7. The President declared the ordinances and resolutions contained in the Consent Agenda passed in full accordance with the City Charter.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

ITEM #1 – ORDERED IN 8.26.19

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT REGARDING THE CABLE COMMUNICATIONS POLICY ACT

RESOLUTION NO. 035-19R: It is requested a resolution be passed urging the FCC to reconsider its proposed third report and order on the implementation of Section 621 (a) (1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Completion Act of 1992 (MB Docket No. 05-311); and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

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

Discussion: Greg Lockhart said he brought this forward because he was contacted by many business owners and residents complaining about their Broadband cable services. He discovered the state had taken control of our franchise locally and on August 1, the FCC passed another order setting out they were taking control from the state and local municipalities. The problem is cable costs are rising and with this new order coming out, they will be allowed to take away the small sum of money they pay us. If he is correct, our local provider pays us around \$300,000 per year for our general revenues. With the new order, the broadband provider will be allowed to deduct fair market values of some of their properties or infrastructure which would eliminate this money from the city's general fund. They will continue increasing rates on small businesses and residents. He would like to condemn our cable providers for grabbing at the profits over the shrinking wallets of small business and our citizens, as well as the FCC and the State, for allowing them to do that. Something has to be done and action needs to be taken. Hank Solowiej said he believes the budgetary impact would be about \$300,000 which is what the city received. Wes Poole said he supports this and the concept of the federal government changing rules and regulations that provide more profits to cable providers at the expense of either the cities collectively, or the citizens, is something we should speak out about. Cable bills go up as decided by the cable companies and he does not recall ever having a say in it. Taking away funding through a deduction we have always been getting is not something he thinks we should support and we should at least speak up. Greg Lockhart said we could also lose some of our public programming through this including city meetings or other things which are aired on public television.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Wes Poole, Dave Waddington, Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Nikki Lloyd, Dick Brady and Greg Lockhart, 7. Roll call on the resolution: Yeas: Wes Poole, Dave Waddington, Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Nikki Lloyd, Dick Brady and Greg Lockhart, 7. The President declared the resolution 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 FOR DEMOLITION OF CEDAR POINT WATER TOWER

Budgetary Information: The cost of the project based on the lowest and best bid, including advertising and inspection, is \$95,000 and will be paid with water funds.

ORDINANCE NO. 19-156: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Baumann Enterprises, Inc., of Garfield

Heights, Ohio, for the Cedar Point Chaussee water tower demolition project; 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 approve this ordinance under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Discussion: Dennis Murray said this water tower has been unused for a long period of time and is glad to see we are getting to it. Wes Poole said he would like to point out there are so many things we need to do in this community and what is done on one side of town means something else cannot be done in another. We will not always agree on what the priorities should be, but recognizes we are not participating in the Perkins Avenue project because water projects prevented us in doing so. This is \$95,000 we are deciding to spend on the water tower project and he personally would have preferred making improvements to Perkins Avenue or improvements to whatever needed to be done at intersections along Perkins Avenue. The water tower has been there for a while and could have waited a few more years to be taken down. We missed an opportunity by not participating in this project with Erie County and Perkins Township. He will vote yes because he recognizes we have to pick something and have to make choices, but moving forward, asked to give additional consideration to projects which impact neighborhoods. The Perkins Avenue project was a pretty big deal and we should have been able to get it done. Aaron Klein said the water tower has been standing with no water in it for quite some time and is definitely a structural issue/concern and we do not want it to fall town in this residential neighborhood. We have looked to have this taken down during the last 1 - 1½ years and are getting to it now. As far as Perkins Avenue, it was not possible for us to be a part of this project. We were going to go through the design process last year and early this year, but this was going to be done as part of the reconstruction and resurfacing of this roadway. This is not a plan which can be thrown out within a week or a couple of months; it takes a while to develop engineering plans, especially water line plans which are a lot more difficult than street resurfacing plans. Even if we would have started earlier this year, we would have been behind the eight-ball with the County's construction timeline and would have had our consultant work the plans into their project. We did communicate with Erie County beforehand and were supposed to time this project differently. They had initially looked at resurfacing the roadway one year or two years from now and the timing would have been perfect, but they told us late last year they were looking to move forward with the reconstruction and were applying for OPWC funding. Once they got this funding, they had to do the project this year and we did not have time to go through a design process to incorporate into the plans or we would have delayed their project by one year and they would not have met the deadlines in their agreement. This was something which was very unfortunate the way it turned out, but the County Engineer said this was one of their worst streets and wanted to resurface it right away. We did not want to resurface the roadway only to come back and tear it up and redo the asphalt later. Hopefully, when we re-evaluate the Capital Improvement Plan, this will be one of the top projects in the short-term. It is not just redoing one or two intersections, it is every intersection along the roadway between 52nd Street and the far west end. We may limit the water main portion of the project from 52nd Street to Hayes Avenue, but will have to analyze this. We will coordinate with our Water Distribution Division later this year when we are developing the Capital Plan to figure out exactly what we want to do, how we are going to proceed and when. This project was almost done several months ago so it was not that difficult or time consuming to move forward with it for the safety improvements of that neighborhood.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Wes Poole, Dave Waddington, Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Nikki Lloyd, Dick Brady and Greg Lockhart, 7. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Wes Poole, Dave Waddington, Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Nikki Lloyd, Dick Brady and Greg Lockhart, 7. 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 Josh Snyder, Assistant City Engineer
PERMISSION TO BID BUCHANAN STREET PROJECT**

Budgetary Information: The estimated cost of the project including engineering, inspection, advertising, construction and miscellaneous costs is \$395,000 paid with \$175,000 Ohio Public Works funding and \$220,000 of Issue 8 infrastructure funds from the capital projects account.

RESOLUTION NO. 036-19R: It is requested a resolution be passed declaring the necessity for the city to proceed with the proposed Buchanan Street reconstruction project – Hayes Avenue to Campbell Street; approving the specifications and Engineer’s estimate of cost thereof; 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 Nikki Lloyd and second of Naomi Twine, the Commission voted to approve this resolution under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Wes Poole, Dave Waddington, Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Nikki Lloyd, Dick Brady and Greg Lockhart, 7. Roll call on the resolution: Yeas: Wes Poole, Dave Waddington, Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Nikki Lloyd, Dick Brady and Greg Lockhart, 7. The President declared the resolution passed under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

- A portion of the **pathway around Lions Park was dedicated, posthumously, to Dr. Anthony Linz** on September 4. Dr. Linz was voted to be a charter member of the city’s ADA Board in 2001, and served continuously until his death in 2015. The merged ADA/Fair Housing Board and the Sandusky City Commission both voted to name a portion of this pathway to honor Dr. Linz because of his guidance, direction and personal perspective. Dr. Linz helped to make our community a place where all persons are provided equal opportunities and access to city services and facilities. We appreciate the years which Dr. Linz volunteered on the city’s behalf, and also give our thanks to this wife, Kathy, who continues to serve on the ADA/Fair Housing Board today.
- The **Police and Fire Departments will host their annual SubZero With A Hero event at Toft Dairy** on September 11 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The event is being held as a meet and greet for our citizens, along with members of both departments, who will serve Toft’s ice cream to the patrons.
- The City of Sandusky audit for the 2018 year was released by the State Auditor’s Office on August 27, 2019, and it can be downloaded from their website. Based on the clean audit, the city will once again qualify for the **Auditor of State Award for CY2018**. The Auditor of State Award is presented to local governments upon completion of a financial audit who are following numerous accounting and auditing requirements.

- The next scheduled **Audit/Finance Committee meeting** is September 13 at 8 a.m. in the City Commission Chambers.
- We would like to **welcome Connor Roesch, a former seasonal employee in our Water Distribution Division, and Zeck Heater, a former General Services employee with the City of Norwalk. Both accepted full-time Maintenance II positions in the Division of Sewer Maintenance.**
- **Special thanks to summer interns Caylee Fetter and Baron Crase** who assisted the Sewer Maintenance and Water Distribution Divisions with ongoing efforts to collect, update and improve our GIS database, as well as several seasonal employees who contributed to operations and beautification throughout the city this summer. We wish them well as they head back to school.
- All **splash pads will be officially shut down** as of Monday, September 9.
- As part of the **land acquisition process for The Landing and the Sandusky Bay Pathway** located within the project limits of The Landing Park project, appraisal letters will be delivered to the affected properties over the next few weeks. Please direct any questions to the City Engineer's office at 419.627.5829
- Effective September 5, all **realtors entering condemned properties for the purpose of viewing or showing interested buyers are required to carry an authorization form** which documents their identity, realty company affiliation and Ohio real estate license number. This form also acknowledges their responsibility for re-securing the property. All condemned properties are now posted with a notice of this policy and the requirement of securing authorization. Any realtors found to be in a condemned property without written authorization and proper identification will be removed from the property and instructed to secure it. The city has also met with the Firelands Association of Realtors and their leadership team who are aware of this policy and actively engaged in the promotion and roll-out to the entirety of their membership. Any questions related to this policy and process can be directed to Kelly Kromer in the Code Compliance Office at 419.627.5913.
- The September 10 **Economic Development Incentive Committee meeting** has been canceled for lack of Agenda items. The next regularly scheduled meeting is set for October 8 at 1:30 p.m. in the second floor conference room.
- The **Sandusky Sunrise event** will be held on September 21 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the First Congressional Church located at 431 Columbus Avenue. This event will focus on showcasing diversity, modern day social justice issues, and will highlight Sandusky's role in the Underground Railroad through music, dance and stories. This is a family friendly event and is sponsored by the Center for Peace through Understanding and the Sandusky Welcoming Task Force.
- The **Planning Commission** meeting is September 25 at 4:30 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers.
- The **Board of Zoning Appeals** meeting is September 19 at 4:30 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers.

- The **Landmark Commission** meeting is September 18 at 4:30 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers.
- The **Public Arts and Culture Commission** meeting is September 17 at 5 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers.

OLD BUSINESS

Dick Brady said he has remained quiet on the **Shoreline Drive and Jackson Street Pier projects** these last few meetings and has quietly listened to a few in attendance who continue to ask for changes in the scope of both projects. A few meetings ago, a revised plan for the Pier was presented to this commission. On more than one occasion, in this room, this commission has been accused of not listening to these demands and he would like to give his perspective on the issue. In the seven years he has served this city, he cannot recall a project which has undergone as much public participation. City Architecture and Osborn Engineering, along with key staff members, have hosted several public meetings to provide our residents with an opportunity to make their suggestions part of these two projects. No one got everything they wanted. Some residents wanted zero parking on the pier, others wanted hundreds. Some residents wanted a massive pavilion while others wanted none at all. Some wanted to spend money removing the utility lines and some saw this as a total waste of money. Some wanted the road closed at the west end and others wanted it to remain open. The process has been completely transparent from the beginning and the plan we ended up with was a compromise. It is a result of all of these public meetings with residents and staff at the Jet Express, the Goodtime, the Pelee Islander, the Class of '58 who eat their lunch on the pier, the members of both the Chesapeake Condominium Association and the Gilbert Condo Association, and his good friends Bill and Ruthie Glass. We have heard these concerns and have ended up somewhere in the middle and this is what a compromise is. This commission voted to award a design|build contract for both of these projects. On October 9, 2018, the vote at this table was 5 – 0 for the Shoreline Drive project in the amount of \$8.8 million. At the same public meeting, this commission voted in favor of the Jackson Street Pier project with a 5 – 1 vote in the amount of \$7.8 million, not \$4 million. Now a few show up to these meetings and accuse this commission of not listening; they are listening to the citizen attempt to renegotiate issues which have been deliberated and voted on and are being implemented as we speak. The Commission is listening; however, they are also listening to the majority of our residents who support exactly what we are doing. This support was never more evident than at our last commission election 18 months ago. If there was a referendum on the Jackson Street Pier and Shoreline Drive projects, it was at that election. Those opposed to these projects attempted to make it exactly that. The three commissioners who supported these projects were elected in a landslide and our residents' voices were heard loud and clear. While we will continue to hear voices on this issue, our decision is and will continue to be based on the wishes of the majority of our residents and not those few people who show up here every other Monday night. For the city to allow a few disgruntled people to hold these projects hostage in order to make changes to satisfy only a few, or fit an agenda, is a disservice to every resident in this city and this is not going to happen. The wonderful thing about our system of government is the majority does rule. Our residents have spoken and the commission has voted. This city will continue to move forward as we have for the last six years, not because of the few here, but in spite of them. Wes Poole said he respects this position but suggests much of this is in the eye of the beholder. When talking about a majority, he asks how many of this majority (of the 25,000 people who live in Sandusky) asked for a pavilion on the Jackson Street Pier. At the point in time we look at the actual count, there may have been fourteen little green dots. In terms of taking suggestions, the description is by his (Dick's) own design, but recalls at the largest meeting held at the

State Theatre, the program was run from the perspective of not allowing the public to speak, but they were allowed to put up green dots on what was presented to them. Although there may be a majority of people who think this is okay, this is not the same thing, and is truly not deliberation or discussion. If what was at the Jackson Street Pier now were presented when the project was passed, it was to be a grassy area with a small, gradual rise which someone could see over and lead to seeing over it and sit on the other side with three little steps to the water. We have what appears to be about an 8' wall over which you can no longer see the water. He does not recall this ever being talked about. It was stated this is design/build which would suggest it is probably open for discussion, and asked when we ended up with a giant wall at the end of the Jackson Street Pier which we cannot see over from Shoreline Drive. This was supposed to be designed to see over and this issue was brought up. Most elections are based on the decision to follow with the voting public and he is not sure the folks re-elected were voted in just because of these projects. We spend a lot of money on a lot of things and make a lot of decisions and this project was not rubber-stamped because everyone loves these projects and is why they were re-elected. Nikki Lloyd said when she decided to run for the City Commission, she had no idea the Ohio Ethics Commission would tie their hands so much when it came to anything commissioners were conflicted on and not being able to speak about things. She will be very sad to leave at the end of the year since she is not running, but will be very happy to sit on the other side, in this room, to support commissioners who will continue to move our city forward, support the majority and vote for the majority of our city residents.

Wes Poole said at the last meeting, a citizen spoke about **speeding on Fifth Street** and asked John Orzech for an update because he understands the Police Department has spent a great deal of time on this. John Orzech said after receiving the document from Tim Stookey at the last meeting, he did some research and pulled statistics on the one-mile stretch of Fifth Street referred to. Police Officers have spent a considerable amount of time on Fifth Street. During the month of June, there were 50 traffic stops, 13 citations and 37 warnings issued on this stretch of roadway. In July, there were 31 traffic stops, 9 citations and 22 warnings issued. In the month of August, there were 23 traffic stops, 3 citations and 20 warnings. In the summer, the call volume dictates when they are able to do traffic enforcement. In looking at these statistics, they take all complaints received seriously and he has been in contact with Mr. Stookey on a number of occasions over the years. The Planning and Engineering Departments are actively looking at calming measures for this area, specifically stop signs or crosswalks. We have heard the issues loud and clear and want a safe neighborhood for the kids as they start school in this area in 2020. For a one-mile stretch of this city, it is pretty clear they have done their due diligence and will continue to do so.

NEW BUSINESS

Wes Poole said in the interest of transparency and deliberation, he is interested in an update on the new feature on the **Jackson Street Pier** which was intended to be a 6' to 8' wall we cannot see over. He asked who decided to change what the commission said it was going to do, why we are doing this and what the advantage is for the citizens. We were expecting something completely different and there are all kinds of problems which come with this and he needs to hear about this and wants to deliberate. Dennis Murray said this is not different than what was deliberated more than two years ago. Aaron Klein said right now, the way it stands, it has been designed like it was in the original set of plans. They are looking at raising it a little bit to allow the waterline to go underneath, but it is 8" to 1' at the most if they have to do this; other than that, it is designed almost identically to what was in the original set of plans. Wes Poole asked if this is in terms of what it looks like or how high it is. He recalls being told we were supposed to be able to

see over it and it was meant to be a gentle slope; what is there is a giant hill. Aaron Klein said it is being designed according to what he was given. Originally, through the planning process, it was not going to be 1' or 2', it was originally intended to be designed to hide the cars and vehicles so people could see over it from the road. Eric Wobser said he thinks the talk of a giant hill is a little overstated. To his knowledge, he has not heard of any changes at the pier and it is supposed to be a gradual rise up to 4' - 4½' and was designed specifically to provide for a glimpse of the horizon over the water. This was designed to not block the view for automobiles as it was in the past. His guess is one will actually see, given the size of trucks and SUV's today, cars on the other side of the hill and does not think this is drastically different than what was planned and has been discussed. Wes Poole said he accepts the 4' height and if this is where it ends up, this will be fine. He was on the pier today and it is significantly higher than that. Dennis Murray said he heard 4' to 5' and said he understood it may be a little higher to accommodate the water line; he has not heard this before, but is part of what was worked out the field.

Upon motion of Dick Brady and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to hold an Executive Session regarding Personnel – employment of the City Commission Clerk and City Manager. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Wes Poole, Dave Waddington, Naomi Twine, Dennis Murray, Nikki Lloyd, Dick Brady and Greg Lockhart, 7. The President declared the motion passed.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street, said we missed the boat on Perkins Avenue and hopes we get to this road next year; this is a shame and is an embarrassment to this city. Half of this road looks really nice while the other side looks crappy. The turnaround at the Pier was not planned. She found herself sitting on Shoreline Drive in one-way traffic during Labor Day weekend and cars were backed up all the way to the Sandusky Fish Company. Two busses were double-parked in Shoreline Park. One was halfway up the curb and sidewalk and this is a safety problem. Further down, past the Pier, there were two busses where the boats were and there is a turnaround, but some of the bus drivers refused to go there because they are not experienced enough and we cannot have this. She wants to make sure we have enough turnaround for these big busses in the new plans. She fears there will not be enough room for them to come in and go out. The Tiffin Avenue underpass is looking really bad and the west end never gets any money at all. The city is throwing \$8 million downtown and this underpass looks crappy and hopes this is on the drawing board. As far as Dick Brady's speech, it is a good thing he is not running this year as this is political suicide; he is telling the minorities he does not care about them or what they say. When they get up here they are supposed to then sit down and shut up but they have every right to comment on the Pier. The hill looks bigger than what was planned and they do not know what is going to happen on the pier. She asked the Engineer what plan we are on and nobody is saying anything or giving any updates and he insulted her intelligence by saying he only knows of one plan (the original) and did not know about Plan B or Plan C.

Tom LaMarca, 206 48th Street, said he had no intentions of speaking tonight but Dick Brady's speech blows his mind. He is surprised Dick Brady finally spoke up about the Pier and everything else which seems to be bothering him as it bothers him (Tom) as well. He attended every meeting at the State Theatre about the Jackson Street Pier proposal and as Wes Poole stated, they were allowed to put post-it notes on the drawings and no one gave a hoot about their suggestions. He truly believes none of the suggestions were taken or given any merit. He has been involved in the real estate business in one way or another for about forty years of his life while Dick Brady has been in the electrical and sign business. He knows quite a bit about the real estate business and things which go on.

Some of the things being done on the Pier do not mesh. The pumping on Shoreline Drive and the Jackson Street Pier and the pollutants in the water which were overflowing from this pumping and going into an alleged pool and disappearing down through the Jackson Street Pier and back into Sandusky Bay will come back to haunt us. He will not be here, but our children and grandchildren will be and the eco-center here today will not be here in the future because of some of the stuff dumped in the Bay. In tonight's Sandusky Register, there was something about Aaron Klein and the water environment and it is one thing to say it, but it is another thing to actually do something about it and not permit these things to happen. He is disappointed in what is taking place here and he is one of the 'little people'. It seems no one wants to take into consideration how they feel, what they think and the direction the city is taking. He is for the city moving forward and wants to see it continue to grow. He wants to see downtown full of activity. He would like to see an event every weekend and people coming downtown, but there are so many things we are missing out on. Perkins Avenue is going to be like the DMZ with one side completed and the other not completed. Years ago, it was the Perkins/Sandusky bickering back and forth but now we have a highway which proves it and this is nonsense.

Kathryn Carter, 5309 Columbus Avenue, said she heard the comments made by Dennis Murray about the public portion of the meeting about not wanting a question and answer session, not having answers 'off the cuff', and having time limits. Everyone should be reminded at the beginning of the meeting they only have three minutes to comment on the evening's Agenda; likewise, reminded about the five minute limit at the end of the meeting because a lot of people who come here the first or second time do not understand this. They would be better prepared to stay within these boundaries if reminded. The statement which bothered her was the one about how other commissions' do not have a public portion at their meetings. Citizens can come to these (Sandusky) meetings with their concerns, face-to-face with the people they hired to take care of their city, with the money they pay out of their pockets, and the commissioners are accessible to them unlike others in the area who do not want to hear from their citizens. The meetings do get long and strong, and the same questions are asked again if there is no resolution to them. She asked that questions not be asked/answered online because many people do not have computers and smart phones and they will not see this. When driving through town, the same businesses have been here for many years while the car show has also been here on Friday nights. The new kids on the block are the Hogrefe's, but they have parking on three sides of their building so they would not have a complaint. Eric Wobser has stated how parking in the garage or in the Jackson Street has, for years, provides access to all of Columbus Avenue, but now he is singing a different tune. This is not Ohio Bike Week, this is three hours, one night per week. These cruisers are not just hanging around town. They are paying to show off their cars, to meet new people with the same interest, bring people into town and raise money for good causes. People get off of the ferry boats and walk through town and comment on how they enjoy the car shows. They also go in many of the businesses and our downtown is a beautiful place to do this. Antique and classic cars in front of antique buildings, smells from the restaurants and the coffee houses, trees, shade flowers and classic charm: so many other cities wish they had this. This is what you wanted. The ArtWalk was better on Columbus Avenue and had more vendors. It should be in the newspaper every week they are in town. This is postcard picture-perfect and said not to mess with a good thing. The issue at the Jackson Street Pier has always been with taking it away from the people who use it including the ferry boat passengers and out-of-town visitors. The huge amount of money to be used to create a concert venue and party street does not help the neighborhoods in this area at all and this is what has split this city. The plans for the new Police Department are far along, but suggested instead of having tennis courts and a Recreation Center, this area is perfect to cover the building and the parking lot with solar panels. Give the money to

Sandusky High School for a splash pad, one block away, which is going to present a public swimming pool to the neighborhood soon. This would be a better use of the money. The power from the solar panels could supply power to both of the underpasses and the building. The original hill on the Jackson Street Pier, finished, is supposed to be 4½' tall from the original plans, and knows this because she was out there measuring.

Arlene Thompson, 1902 Adrian Circle, said she is surprised Nikki Lloyd is surprised the Ohio Ethics Commission would hold her feet to the fire as this is what they do, and for good reason. She and Dick Brady have had their good times and their bad times and this is one of the bad ones, but she will defend his right to his opinion and to express it; this is our country, but there also has to be respect for the opinions in the rest of this city. Those little green dots were put on three different choices; people were not given an opportunity to tell what they wanted. These three choices are ones the city came up with. She taught social studies and a majority is a vote which she asked for, but we never had a vote on the Jackson Street Pier and if we had, everyone would be at home having dinner. Shame on the city if the staff did not know at the same time Perkins Township knew there was money was available for Perkins Avenue. The city chose not to do this but Perkins Township came up with a plan when they found out about the grant. This is project is happening and the city has nothing. She does not accept Aaron Klein could not come up with this quickly enough. Minds were so busy working on projects for less important things and to deal what would really benefit people. She would like the Police Chief to bring forward the number of cars traveled on the North side of Perkins Avenue per day. She is tired of not being able to ask questions and not getting answers to them. Sometimes she cannot even ask questions about what the commissioners are saying because the A/V problems have not been fixed. Dennis Murray sits furthest from the microphone, face downward, and cannot be understood. The system the city paid for is not working and asked if this is how it will be at the pier. She wants the commissioners to go by the definition of discussion. Discussion is two-way and the commission should either change the wording on the agenda or follow it and answer questions. She asked if the commission will or will not agree to sit down with the people from the Jackson Street Pier who still think there is time for change.

Nikki Lloyd said she does not want anyone to think what she said about the Ohio Ethics Commission tying her hands had anything to do with the vote. It had to do with the Ohio Ethics Commission, in 2018, changed their mind and said if there is conflict, she is no longer to have a public opinion. As a resident of the City of Sandusky, she disagrees with that. She has not had a public opinion on anything she has a conflict with.

Greg Lockhart said any commissioner can be asked to meet individually and he has done so with hundreds of people in the city over the last four years. The commissioners all have email addresses and will be happy to meet.

Kevin Shea, 300 East Water Street, thanked the city for the four-way stop placed at Hancock and Market Streets and said this a great improvement. With respect to the Shoreline Drive and Jackson Street Pier projects, there are aspects of them he does not like, but is thrilled this project is going on and thinks it will be a great addition to the City of Sandusky. He is a boater and was in Vermilion a couple of weeks ago and said they have a virtual army of volunteers pulling weeds, watering flowers and sprucing up the city. It seems to work very well and this may have been discussed in the past, but should be food for thought for Sandusky because this program is managed quite well. Everybody has the equipment they need and they are all working for free. They are stewards of the city and people ask questions which get answered and this is a really good thing. These

are very helpful people, they are meticulous and do a great job in sprucing up the town; this is something to think about.

At 6:25 p.m., the President announced a recess of the regular session. The Commission went into Executive Session at 6:29 p.m. At 6:33 p.m., upon motion of Wes Poole and second of Nikki Lloyd, 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