

President Dan Kaman called the meeting to order at 5 p.m. after the **Invocation**, given by John Hamilton, and the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

The Clerk **called the roll** and the following Commissioners responded: John Hamilton, Kim Nuesse, Julie Farrar, Diedre Cole, Pervis Brown and Dan Kaman.

**Upon motion of John Hamilton and second of Kim Nuesse, the Commission voted to excuse Dave Waddington. All Ayes. The President declared the motion passed.**

**City staff present:** Scott Miller – General Services Director, Judy Nagy – Recreation Program Supervisor, Carrie Handy – Planner, Anna Enderle – Assistant Planner, Todd Roth – Engineer, Jim Lang – Interim Police Chief, Paul Ricci – Acting Fire Chief, Don Icsman – Law Director, Hank Solowiej – Finance Director, Kelly Kresser – Commission Clerk.

**Upon motion of Pervis Brown and second of Diedre Cole, the Commission voted to approve the minutes of the October 25, 2010 meeting, and dispensed with the oral reading. All Ayes. The President declared the motion passed.**

## **PRESENTATIONS**

A presentation was made by Julie Farrar to the members of the **Erie County Special Olympics Slow Pitch Softball Team** in recognition of their Division I State Championship status.

A presentation was made by Acting Fire Chief Paul Ricci to the **employees of Providence Care Center in recognition of their recent efforts to save the life of a Sandusky resident**. Paul Ricci acknowledged several staff members who, on September 15, worked to stabilize a patient prior to the arrival of the EMS crew. He said the knowledge and skill shown by these employees in recognizing the urgency of the situation and the placement a tourniquet saved this life.

A presentation was made by **Brian Harris of MT Business Technologies (MT) regarding managed print services for the City of Sandusky**. Brian Harris said MT started actively looking at the city's overall costs for its printers, faxes and copiers about six months ago to see if a cost savings initiative could be realized for the future. He said a determination was made of the volume of copies and a cost assessed to see if there is a better way to provide these services. Brian Harris said there are currently 86 copy/print devices which cost the city \$3,431.69/month; this does not include the costs for the city's IT staff for maintenance. He said the proposed solution would drop the number of devices from 86 to 38 at a cost of \$2,488.26/month; the city would realize a savings of 27.5%. He said the volume would be shifted to retain the most cost effective devices and implement 13 new placements. The consumption of paper will be reduced by defaulting to duplexing in every department and the cost savings of paper would be approximately \$350.00/month. All new devices would be energy efficient and would reduce the overall carbon footprint. Brian Harris said the costs will be divided out each month by department based upon usage. He said this program will give flexibility to make movements or changes. Print volumes are increasing by 20% - 25% annually for municipalities and this will help in moving forward.

**Upon motion of Kim Nuesse and second of Pervis Brown, the Commission voted to accept all communications. All Ayes. The President declared the motion passed.**

### **ITEM #1 – Submitted by Todd J. Roth, Director of Planning, Engineering & Development**

**Budgetary Impact:** The city will receive fifty percent (50%) of the payment for the finalized lease each year.

**RESOLUTION NO. 038-10R:** It is requested a Resolution be adopted pursuant to Section 1506.11 of the Ohio Revised Code finding and determining that based upon the representations and application filed by J.A.P. Holding Company II, Inc. for property located at 202 Putnam Street, the use and development of the territory so described, a submerged lands lease may be entered into by the State's Director of Natural Resources; and declaring that this Resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

**Upon motion of Kim Nuesse and second of Julie Farrar, the Commission voted to adopt this Resolution under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: John Hamilton, Kim Nuesse, Julie Farrar, Diedre Cole, Pervis Brown and Dan Kaman, 6. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the Resolution: Yeas: John Hamilton, Kim**

**Nuesse, Julie Farrar, Diedre Cole, Pervis Brown and Dan Kaman, 6. The President declared the Resolution passed.**

**ITEM #2 – Submitted by Kathryn K. McKillips, P.E., Engineer**

**Budgetary Impact:** The original contract amount is \$136,270.00. The revised contract amount is \$137,497.00, to be paid with Water Funds.

**ORDINANCE NO. 10-115:** It is requested an Ordinance be passed **approving and ratifying the first and final change order for work performed for the Follett Street and Mills Street elevated water tank project in the amount of \$1,227.00 to be paid to All Phase Power & Lighting, Inc., of Sandusky, Ohio;** and declaring that this Ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

**Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Kim Nuesse, the Commission voted to adopt this Ordinance under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.**

*Discussion:* Diedre Cole asked who made the adjustment to the total on the change order summary and Todd Roth said he did not know. Diedre Cole asked that this be edited so it is not scribbled out or adjusted without a notation as to who made the change.

**Roll call on the motion: Yeas: John Hamilton, Kim Nuesse, Julie Farrar, Diedre Cole, Pervis Brown and Dan Kaman, 6. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the Ordinance: Yeas: John Hamilton, Kim Nuesse, Julie Farrar, Diedre Cole, Pervis Brown and Dan Kaman, 6. The President declared the Ordinance passed.**

**ITEM #3 – Submitted by Kathryn K. McKillips, P.E., Engineer**

**Budgetary Impact:** The current invoice for the month of September is \$17,569.60. It is anticipated that an additional amount of \$35,000 will be needed for the remainder of the piles of debris. It is requested that an amount up to \$52,569.60 be approved for payment, as needed. Tax Increment Financing (TIF) will be used to pay for the disposal. The September invoice was approved for payment by motion at the City Commission meeting on October 25, 2010.

**ORDINANCE NO. 10-116:** It is requested an Ordinance be passed **appropriating funds and ratifying the payment made to Erie County Sanitary Engineering and approving payments to be made to Erie County Sanitary Engineering for the disposal of debris from the Tricor property;** and declaring that this Ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

**Upon motion of Kim Nuesse and second of Pervis Brown, the Commission voted to adopt this Ordinance under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.**

*Discussion:* Dan Kaman said this area was recently hydro-seeded and looks great.

**Roll call on the motion: Yeas: John Hamilton, Kim Nuesse, Julie Farrar, Diedre Cole, Pervis Brown and Dan Kaman, 6. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the Ordinance: Yeas: John Hamilton, Kim Nuesse, Julie Farrar, Diedre Cole, Pervis Brown and Dan Kaman, 6. The President declared the Ordinance passed.**

**ITEM #4 – Submitted by Kathryn K. McKillips, P.E., Engineer**

**Budgetary Impact:** The change order No. 7 will increase the contract with Mosser Construction by \$21,901.69. The revised contract amount is \$16,738,928.19. The city's share of the change order is \$13,381.93 to be paid with sewer funds through the project's OWDA loan. Erie County's share is \$8,519.76.

**ORDINANCE NO. 10-117:** It is requested an Ordinance be passed **approving and ratifying the seventh change order for work being performed for the Wastewater Treatment Plant expansion project, phase II in the amount of \$21,901.69 to be paid to Mosser Construction of Fremont, Ohio;** and declaring that this Ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

**Upon motion of Pervis Brown and second of Kim Nuesse, the Commission voted to adopt this Ordinance under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.**

*Discussion:* Diedre Cole asked for the total amount of the original contract before the seven change orders. She asked about the gates going back into the Old Railroad property and Todd Roth said this is for controlled access to prevent unauthorized persons from entering. Dan Kaman said \$16.5 million was

the original contract amount and the revised contract amount is \$16.7 million. Todd Roth said there is a complete breakdown of the project costs included with the communication.

**Roll call on the motion: Yeas: John Hamilton, Kim Nuesse, Julie Farrar, Diedre Cole, Pervis Brown and Dan Kaman, 6. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the Ordinance: Yeas: John Hamilton, Kim Nuesse, Julie Farrar, Diedre Cole, Pervis Brown and Dan Kaman, 6. The President declared the Ordinance passed.**

**ITEM #5 – Submitted by Kathryn K. McKillips, P.E., Engineer**

**Budgetary Impact:** To be paid with Water (50%) and Sewer Funds (50%). No new funds are being allocated with this request.

**ORDINANCE NO. 10-118:** It is requested an Ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager **to purchase replacement water meters and related parts from HD Supply Waterworks of Ashland, Ohio, for the water distribution system within the City of Sandusky;** and declaring that this Ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

**Upon motion of Pervis Brown and second of Kim Nuesse, the Commission voted to adopt this Ordinance under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: John Hamilton, Kim Nuesse, Julie Farrar, Diedre Cole, Pervis Brown and Dan Kaman, 6. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the Ordinance: Yeas: John Hamilton, Kim Nuesse, Julie Farrar, Diedre Cole, Pervis Brown and Dan Kaman, 6. The President declared the Ordinance passed.**

**ITEM #6 – Submitted by Scott A. Miller, Director of General Services**

**Budgetary Impact:** The City of Willard has offered \$2,500 for the purchase of the leaf loader from the City of Sandusky. The City of Willard uses a similar machine for leaf collection and intends to use the leaf loader for spare parts. The Fleet Maintenance Supervisor and Director of General Services have determined that this is a fair price and better than what would be expected if the machine was auctioned on [www.govdeals.com](http://www.govdeals.com) and are recommending the sale of this leaf loader to the City of Willard. In addition to obtaining the maximum return to the city for the sale of the leaf loader, it is our desire to support and cooperate with other governmental entities especially during the current economical conditions.

**ORDINANCE NO. 10-119:** It is requested an Ordinance be passed **declaring the 1990 Ford Model 710 leaf loader as being unnecessary and unfit for city use pursuant to Section 25 of the City Charter, authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract for its sale to the City of Willard;** and declaring that this Ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

**Upon motion of Kim Nuesse and second of Julie Farrar, the Commission voted to adopt this Ordinance under suspension of the rules and in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.**

*Discussion:* Dan Kaman asked about the status of a new street sweeper and Scott Miller said he and Hank Solowiej recently considered a lease/purchase option for this equipment and will be making a decision for replacement in the near future.

**Roll call on the motion: Yeas: John Hamilton, Kim Nuesse, Julie Farrar, Diedre Cole, Pervis Brown and Dan Kaman, 6. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the Ordinance: Yeas: John Hamilton, Kim Nuesse, Julie Farrar, Diedre Cole, Pervis Brown and Dan Kaman, 6. The President declared the Ordinance passed.**

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

**Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Pervis Brown, the Commission voted to accept the donation of a park bench costing \$1,542.33 from the family of Maria Mazza, in her memory, for the Park Trust (Acct. #863 4860 485 00). All Ayes. The President declared the motion passed.**

Don Icsman said the city is in receipt of an invoice in the amount of \$5,000 for the 2010 pledge for Erie County Economic Development Corporation (ECEDC) and asked the City Commission what their thoughts were about this pledge. Dan Kaman said this organization has been a year in transition and both Dan Keller and Lee Weiber stepped in to help during this time. He said they received some good information from local business persons and the city was able to help them. He said ECEDC will allow for one economic development resource in the county. Julie Farrar said she, Kim Nuesse and Dan Kaman had an opportunity to meet the new director and is in favor of the pledge. **Upon motion of Kim Nuesse**

**and second of Julie Farrar, the Commission voted to provide a \$5,000 pledge for 2010 to the Erie County Economic Development Corporation.**

*Discussion:* Diedre Cole said this was discussed last December and at that time, the Commission decided to place some benchmarks or guidelines for ECEDC. She asked if this is going to happen or if the city was going to just write them a check. Dan Kaman said ECEDC has been one year in transition and helped to keep three businesses in Sandusky that could have been lost; he said this is good enough for him. Kim Nuesse suggested this is something we could map out more when the planning session takes place with staff. Dan Kaman said this pledge is for 2010 and consideration could be given for next year at the upcoming planning session.

**All Ayes. The President declared the motion passed.**

Don Icsman said the Recreation Division received **an email from Robin Innes of Cedar Point thanking the city for its participation and support at this year's Trick or Treat event** and expressed their desire to host it again next year. Dan Kaman thanked Cedar Point for hosting this and said it draws a lot of Sandusky children.

Don Icsman requested authorization for the Sandusky Police Department to participate with the Ohio Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force which is a voluntary law enforcement operation aimed at combating predators preying on children. He said Jim Lang spoke with the Erie County Prosecutor and indicated he (Kevin Baxter) is on board with this as well. Kim Nuesse said she worked with this task force in the past and said they provide a lot of support and information to participants; she believes it is a wonderful move on the city's part. **Upon motion of Pervis Brown and second of Kim Nuesse, the Commission voted to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ohio Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force using 100% participation with our employees. All Ayes. The President declared the motion passed.**

Don Icsman said he received **a letter from Mike Bixler, Erie County Administrator, agreeing to assist the city by placing surplus items on the [www.govdeals.com](http://www.govdeals.com) website.** He said there is a considerable amount of work associated with this and the cooperation between the city and the county started a few years ago for this purpose.

Don Icsman said the city received **a letter from Kevin Zeiher, Secretary of the Oakland Cemetery & Memorial Park Board, regarding replacement of the shrubs in front of the cemetery office.** Don Icsman said the shrubs are irreparably damaged. Dan Kaman said the shrubs spelled "Oakland" and the board is recommending the placement of a new sign using monies in the Cemetery Endowment fund to pay for it. Scott Miller said quotations have been obtained and staff is working to find comparable option(s).

Todd Roth distributed **a new fee schedule for contractor registration** and said this will be distributed to all registered contractors in the city. He said these new fees were arrived at based upon the cost to process and, at the very least, cover our costs.

Todd Roth distributed a copy of **the Erie Regional Planning Commission Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Preliminary Project Application form and requested approval to submit this application.** He said a Resolution will follow at the next meeting and this application is for projects to take place in 2014 and 2015. Todd Roth said the work to be done and the cost estimate(s) is outlined in the application. He said this does not commit the city to any specific project, it is only to make application for funding for rehabilitation and paving of Water Street. Dan Kaman asked if some of the existing railroad ties would be removed and Todd Roth said he would assume so. He said the application is for \$1.3 - \$1.4 million and could be phased out or taken down in size or scope and that funding would be based upon a 20% match. Dan Kaman said he supports this application and said Water Street is a well traveled street. Diedre Cole asked if there was any chance of using porous asphalt in any section of Water Street and Todd Roth said the city could try to incorporate this into a portion of the project. He said this is one of the streets meeting the requirements to make application. **Upon motion of Pervis Brown and second of Diedre Cole, the Commission voted to move forward with submitting this application. All Ayes. The President declared the motion passed.**

Jim Lang said consideration is being given for **the purchase or the lease/purchase of new police cruisers as currently, the city's police cruisers range in mileage from 140,000 – 190,000 and high maintenance costs are starting to cause a lot of downtime.** He said a proposal has been received to replace seven (7) cruisers outfitted with new cages, back seats and bars on the windows by Statewide Auto; the cost is \$19,216/unit through the state cooperative purchasing program. He said he has requested quotations

from Kasper and Foster, local dealerships, but has not yet received them. The total cost for the vehicles and equipment replacement is \$165,562. He said these vehicles can be leased for three years for a payment of \$58,000/year; he said Hank Solowiej has talked with some of the local banks and PNC is offering this arrangement at \$57,000/year. At the end of three years, the vehicles could be purchased for one dollar (\$1.00). He said this is a good deal and a way to spread out the payments over a three-year period. At the end of this period, the city could consider another seven (7) vehicles. He said this would allow the city to budget approximately \$60,000 for vehicles and equipment rather than spend \$165,000± at one time. He said these vehicles would be 2011 Chevrolet Impalas outfitted with V6 engines which are more economical. Kim Nuesse asked if totally outfitting these vehicles means the radio equipment would be inclusive and Jim Lang stated it is; the only thing not included would be the striping on the sides. Jim Lang said the computers and video equipment would be switched over. Kim Nuesse asked if this would come from the city's capital budget and Hank Solowiej said the lease financing is one option and we are also looking at a one-year general obligation note. He said this is currently at less than one percent, but options are still being considered to determine what makes most sense. **Upon motion of Pervis Brown and second of Julie Farrar, the Commission voted to authorize Jim Lang and Hank Solowiej to explore the best pricing option for the city to purchase these vehicles. All Ayes. The President declared the motion passed.**

Carrie Handy said the city previously approved **use of Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) grant funds for demolition of the former Monroe Service property at the corner of Camp and Monroe Streets with Erie County.** She said some properties had been removed from the demolition list to free up enough money to demolish the building, but the county recently made her aware there are not enough NSP funds for the demolition because asbestos removal cost more than what was originally projected at the other properties. Carrie Handy is proposing the city use CDBG funding to accomplish the demolition without assessing the current property owner because he signed off on the demolition based upon the assumption he would not have to pay for the demolition. Carrie Handy said this property has been an eyesore for the neighborhood for a long time. Julie Farrar said she approves using CDBG funds for this purpose as the city was under the assumption the property owner had already signed off on the demolition and she would like to see this corner cleaned up. John Hamilton asked Paul Ricci if the fire department could use this property for training purposes and Paul Ricci said this building is in very bad shape, asphalt and paint products are present, and he does not believe the EPA would approve it for training or controlled burn purposes. Paul Ricci said the city recently assisted four other local fire departments with training at some houses on Bogart Road.

Dan Kaman asked if the city would then own this property if the building was demolished and Carrie Handy said the city would not own it. She said the previous owner died in January and the county foreclosed on the property because of back taxes; the new owner also owns the car dealership across the street and the city approached him to sign off on the demolition with the understanding there would not be an assessment. The new owner said he would like to make improvements to this corner and by ridding the property of the structure, he can move forward with these improvements and further his business. Dan Kaman said this may cause other property owners to come forward and ask the city to tear buildings down without being assessed. Carrie Handy said the city does not normally get paid back (or assess) for demolitions performed with CDBG funds. She said lots with large assessments can become a deterrent to potential buyers and may eventually end up in the city's land banking process. Kim Nuesse asked Don Icsman if he had any thoughts about this proposal and Don Icsman said the circumstances in this particular instance are that the property owner was originally told by the city he would not be assessed for the demolition. He said because we now know that NSP funds cannot be used, this would be a one-time only waiver of the assessment and would not set any precedent or general policy. He said this is an unusual situation but with the ongoing CHIP audit, he would not want the city to set any kind of policy that has not been checked out from a legal perspective. **Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Kim Nuesse, the Commission voted to use CDBG funds to demolish the former Monroe Service building as a one-time special circumstance. All Ayes. The President declared the motion passed.**

## OLD BUSINESS

Kim Nuesse said she understands **Carrie Handy recently met with staff from Erie Regional Planning to incorporate parts of the market study that are applicable to our downtown area into the Master Plan and asked when these priorities will be brought to the City Commissioners.** Carrie Handy asked if what has been determined to be priorities should be included in the market study; she said Erie Regional Planning will need to host more meetings before finalizing a comprehensive plan. Carrie Handy said she could present what has been considered thus far. Kim Nuesse said she is not looking for the comprehensive master plan as she knows this is still being worked on. Kim Nuesse said it may be good

to share the priorities so they can be considered by the entire Commission and stated it would be good information to have in the upcoming planning meeting hosted by a facilitator. Carrie Handy asked when this session will be held and Don Icsman said this should take place in early December. Kim Nuesse said studies are being done for which the city is taking some criticism because recommendations are not being incorporated, but she intends to stay on this until something is put into place and implemented so that the city gets its money's worth.

Kelly Kresser said she wanted the public to be aware **numbered and signed legislation is now available on the city's website, beginning with January, 2010**. She said this information will continue to be updated after each City Commission meeting as new legislation is passed. Anyone wishing to view legislation can click the "Minutes" page from the city's website and then click "2010 Ordinances" or "2010 Resolutions" to view a pdf document containing each ordinance or resolution number, a brief description, and the date of passage. Simply click on the number within the pdf to open another document of the actual numbered and signed copy of the legislation. She said legislation passed prior to January, 2010, is available in the City Clerk's Office or by contacting her at 419.627.5850 or via email, [kkresser@ci.sandusky.oh.us](mailto:kkresser@ci.sandusky.oh.us).

Julie Farrar said she has met with Pervis Brown and John Hamilton regarding **the open position of City Manager** and stated this position will be advertised on the ICMA website, the Cleveland Plain Dealer, the Columbus Dispatch and the Toledo Blade from December 1 – 15, 2010. She said this position will remain open through the deadline of January 10, 2011. She said they are working on putting together a committee of professional persons in the community to filter through the applications for interviews and asked how many applicants the City Commissioners would like to consider. Kim Nuesse said she believes it would be good to interview the top five candidates. Kim Nuesse asked if the Commissioners could take one final look at the qualifications prior to advertising. Julie Farrar said the latest job description for the City Manager will be sent out for one final look.

Pervis Brown said at the last City Commission meeting, **a study was authorized for dispatching in Sandusky with the ICMA**. He said at that meeting, it was brought to his attention there was a study previously performed by RCC Consultants for Erie County and he has since obtained a copy of it. Pervis Brown said this study was inclusive of all of Erie County dispatch operations including Cedar Point, Erie County, Vermilion, Perkins Township, Milan and any entity with dispatch or rescue operations. He said this report was very thorough and should be looked at and distributed a copy to the City Commissioners; he believes any study coming after this would be a carbon copy of the report from RCC Consultants. He said this report has all of the details and statistics including response times for each municipality as well as solutions and/or options for the direction we would like to go. He said the city should take a look at having another study performed; he said sometimes we should take a closer look at our decisions and should discuss this again.

Kim Nuesse said she appreciates Pervis Brown making copies of the RCC study and said she has already read through it and is familiar with it. Kim Nuesse said she believes it is important to understand the RCC study was performed by Erie County for the purpose and intent of assessing what the county wanted to do. She said she is not denigrating this at all, but the study was done to consider the feasibility of a county-wide dispatch. Kim Nuesse said the city is having a top to bottom analysis performed of its dispatch services, equipment, contracts, etc. in order to assess our options and what is best for our community, not the county. She said recommendations will be made by the ICMA and this study was not commissioned with the idea to **not** participate with the county. Kim Nuesse said she had a conversation with Bill Monaghan, Erie County Commissioner, and explained to him the city is still open to regional dispatch. She said the city needs to obtain cost figures to know what service delivery can be offered. Kim Nuesse said this is what is proposed in the scope of work for this study. She said the study performed by the county could be utilized and is a helpful document, but does not tell the city the cost factors and equipment and staffing needs.

Dan Kaman said he talked to Jim Lang and believes it would be great for the city to have its own dispatching, but this would cost a lot of money. He said before this study was performed (by RCC), Commissioner Tom Ferrell stated Sandusky could join the county dispatch for free because a study was being performed for free, yet the county paid for the study so as a Sandusky resident, he (Dan) helped pay for it. Dan Kaman said the city did not join the county's dispatch for free and the study Sandusky is having performed will tell us our options and costs; he said his goal is to have a full blown regional dispatch. Dan Kaman said he is glad he voted for this study as the night after the motion was passed to have it performed, Perkins Township moved to join the county's dispatch and are considering having their own study performed to determine what is best for their residents. He said the county study was

good and it told the county what is best for them and now Sandusky needs its own to determine what is best for its residents. Dan Kaman said he has already read the RCC study, but would go through it again. Dan Kaman asked Carrie Handy for an **update on transit services for the west side of Sandusky**. He said the Lions Park area is looking nicer everyday and feels this will be a needed service for our residents. Carrie Handy said different routes have been discussed and tried, but the vehicles get stuck by trains regularly. She said if there was a schedule for the trains or if they were to come through on a regular basis, it would be easier. Carrie Handy said the transit vehicles have to go all the way out to S.R. 2 to avoid trains and cannot stay on schedule or perform within a decent amount of time. She said once the overpass is constructed (currently scheduled for 2012), this will not be a problem at all. She said the SPARC services were expanded as far west as possible without going over the railroad tracks and there is a regularly-scheduled route available to this point. She said a train ten minutes in duration puts the transit vehicle that far behind similar to how Cedar Point traffic causes delays in the route. Carrie Handy said the SPARC route may then need to be revamped to determine if there would be an increase in the cost. She said the current routes are one hour in length and it would not be good to increase this beyond that amount of time.

Dan Kaman asked the status of placing **small enclosures at the bench locations/SPARC stops**, especially for the winter. Carrie Handy said there is money available through the stimulus grant for enclosures and the city has been looking at types, costs and potential locations. She said some of the stops may have to be relocated because of right-of-way issues and others may be on private property and require agreements. Carrie Handy said she has not had a lot of time to work on this project but interviews are scheduled for next week for the position of Transit Administrator. She said this will be one of the first things for the new administrator to look at and will require a bid package as there are 14 or 15 identified shelter locations which will make the cost higher. Carrie Handy said there are also some residents who have stated they do not want a shelter in front of their house and the maintenance issue will need to be addressed. She said the transit service will be put out for bid next year and this may be an item to include in the bid specifications. Some of the SPARC stops are on private property and will require an agreement with the owner. Dan Kaman said he knew it was very difficult to get Meijer's and Kroger's to allow a stop on their property.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Kim Nuesse said Julie Farrar and other committee members recently conducted a public meeting about **the proposed sportsplex facility** and had a good turnout. **Upon motion of Kim Nuesse and second of Julie Farrar, the Commission voted to have the City Manager and committee members further vet and look into this concept so that recommendations can be brought back to the City Commission.**

*Discussion:* Kim Nuesse said earlier this year, Don Icsman announced a committee was put together to look at these types of projects and make recommendations. She said this came on the heels of the marina district project to ensure that all proposed city projects go through the same process. Julie Farrar asked who is on this committee and Don Icsman said there is a city policy which determines the makeup of the committee and a meeting is scheduled for Wednesday about this. Don Icsman said he believes the members of the committee are the mayor or his designee, Don Icsman, Todd Roth, Carrie Handy, George Poulos, John Hancock and Hank Solowiej. Don Icsman said the policy was enacted earlier this year and the committee meets to discuss potential projects such as the sportsplex. He said their purpose is to listen to presentations about potential projects, look at them and answer questions to make sure they are realistic. He said the wind turbine project ended up being different than initially presented and became embarrassing for the city. He said this allows for some of the tougher questions to be answered earlier rather than later. Pervis Brown asked if this group will meet with those persons who wish to build the sportsplex center and Don Icsman said the Commission would need to decide if it wants staff to spend time and resources on it. He said the assets of the community need to be protected and the process allows for an objective review to be performed. Don Icsman said the last project looked at by the committee was the Keller Building development with Gene Hawk which took some time and resources of the city including talking to the city's bond counsel to provide information for the Commission to move forward. Don Icsman asked if this is where the city is at with the project and Dan Kaman said he does not believe a plan is in place nor its potential costs. Carrie Handy said to move forward, staff will have to look at certain issues, i.e. financing and ownership, and host meetings with other persons in the community for partnerships. She said if the Commissioners would authorize staff to look into these things, meetings can be conducted and she believes this would have to go beyond the 'city property' committee. Julie Farrar said she does not want this to be the end and meetings do need to be held with others over the next few weeks.

**Kim Nuesse said she would modify her motion to allow the committee to go through the vetting process, once Julie Farrar's subcommittee is ready to do so, to make a recommendation to the City Commissioners. Julie Farrar seconded the modified motion.**

*Discussion:* Kim Nuesse said in order to be successful as a city, information needs to be made available from the City Manager, the Finance Director and others, along with recommendations, to move forward on projects. She said Julie Farrar and the subcommittee members may not yet be to this point, but when they are, they should move forward with the other committee made up of staff members. Kim Nuesse said she believed if the city were to look seriously at any future projects, it would be through input and recommendations from the City Manager, the Finance Director and other staff members. Julie Farrar said she would like to have the staff's assistance in moving forward so that everyone is in the loop.

Don Icsman said he is concerned and has many questions about what has transpired since the public meeting and does not know if staff has enough time or resources to advance this project. He said he does not want people speaking about things when the Commission does not know exactly what they mean. He said this already happened to the city once and he does not want to see it happen again. He asked the Commissioners to definitively tell him what it is he is supposed to be doing.

Kim Nuesse said this is not a city project at this point and his (Don) role is to garner information from Julie Farrar's subcommittee to vet with the staff committee so that they can determine if it would be a feasible project for the city and then make recommendations on how to proceed. Don Icsman said he does not believe they (Julie Farrar's subcommittee) have the answers. He said if this were a city project, there would have been many things done early on. He said he is not criticizing but is an administrator, technician and a lawyer, and there are a lot of questions that need to be answered. He said this is not a city project and it causes him concern as he does not know where we are going with this. Kim Nuesse said she understands the question is why the staff is spending time on this when it is not a city project. She said she believes Don Icsman is asking if it would be more appropriate for this to become a city project before voting. Don Icsman said he met with Hank Solowiej and Carrie Handy after the meeting at Sandusky High School to discuss some of the shortcomings, developmental, environmental and liability concerns. He said the city is not in the business of development but would spend some resources in order to move forward to a certain extent. He said the city needs to be protected by ensuring the right advice is given and placed into an agreement similar to the Keller Building redevelopment and proposed issuance of tax credits with Gene Hawk. Don Icsman said there is not an urban redevelopment specialist on staff and there are significant questions to be asked and answered. He said this is not yet a city project. **Kim Nuesse said she is hearing there is no vetting recommended and withdrew her motion and will await making one until such a time as this is determined to be a city project. Julie Farrar withdrew her second to the motion.**

Diedre Cole said she believes Kim Nuesse wished to put on a finer point on this project, but she does not see a project to put a final point upon. She said she is confused as she does not see anything tangible for the city to proceed with. Julie Farrar said if the subcommittee had more time to work on this project, it could have been at a point where this motion could have been voted upon. She said this cannot move forward with support until the committee has more meetings. Julie Farrar said she does not know if this will be privately owned or if there will be a lease for the property. She believes there are questions that need to be answered and others that probably cannot yet be answered and the purpose of the public forum was to find out what the public wants. She said the vast majority attending said what they wanted in the sportsplex and that they liked the concept. She said the next step is for JRV to consider these ideas to move forward and there is more work to be done. She would like permission to move forward and continue to speak with the local foundations and others who have a vested interest in sports to further vet the concept to see what can be offered. Julie Farrar said this was brought forward before the city was really in a position to discuss it, but would like to know if the Commission supports moving forward with the idea or not. Dan Kaman said he would like Julie Farrar to move forward and continue meeting with the subcommittee. He said there are things about the project he loves such as the concept and the location, but he does not like the idea that he does not know what it will cost the city. He said he does not know who is going to own or run it and this has to be worked on. He does not believe the city should be spending money to take people out for lunch anymore, even though we got reimbursed, as this was a huge black eye. He said staff time must also be considered as we do not know how much time will be invested.

Pervis Brown said he believes the city sometimes sells itself short and needs to develop a vision for Sandusky. He said there will be a lot of questions and nothing is instant in our society. He said it will take a lot of work and a lot of people pulling together. He said we must have a vision of ourselves

moving forward in the 'family-friendly arena'. He said Sandusky is stagnant now and not doing anything. He said our community is trying to do things to broaden itself for its citizens. He said there are cities and other areas building themselves upon sports more so than entertainment and there are more successes than failures. He said the community could be grown on this concept and we should not kill the vision. Julie Farrar said she would like to go back to the young men honored tonight from Special Olympics who are now bowling. She said Special Olympics is worldwide and thinks about hosting an indoor tournament for Special Olympics in several different sports. She said there are many young people that could be served. She said she feels like she has been under a microscope recently and is being rushed. She would like everyone to take a deep breath and said she is doing the best she can and will continue to move forward with the subcommittee.

Kim Nuesse said there was a recent article in the Sandusky Register about **the large number of executive sessions held**. She thanked them for bringing this issue forward and suggested the city has perhaps not done a good job of explaining why there have been so many executive sessions. She said at the first of the year, the city started with a deficit budget and things were looking grim. She said the city then looked at reorganization or restructuring of its departments and services, had many large projects in the works, i.e. the downtown business code inspection program, a change in charter officers and other personnel in key positions along with starting evaluations of the charter officers, the sportsplex other development issues and live-ability issues. Kim Nuesse said part of the ICMA analysis was to analyze our services and determine how to better and more efficiently perform them. Kim Nuesse said the City Commission's unfinished business list highlights many accomplishments but there have been lawsuits and layoffs involving employees. She said she appreciates the opportunity to address this and said the Commission was united in dealing with the issues and providing support to the City Manager and the Department Heads.

Don Icsman said the Commission stayed together and supported the city's position through the extended collective bargaining process. He said there were 60 executive sessions this year through October 12 and of those, 12 were for collective bargaining and are legally permissible, 11 were to discuss pending litigation, 10 were for the charter officers and other personnel sessions were for employees and are confidential. He said these things do end up becoming publicly known but initially are legally discussed in closed session. He said 5 executive sessions were about water rates and trying to come to agreement for a rate. This leaves only 10 executive sessions and one of those was to discuss a security matter for our facilities. He said he does not want the public to think there are secret meetings being held and he makes sure the city is abiding by state law and will continue to do so.

Dan Kaman said he wanted to pick up the phone today and call the newspaper. He asked Jason Singer, Sandusky Register, if he was currently waiting on any public record requests and Jason Singer said he would have to check, but he asked for a list of the meetings regarding the sportsplex and also made a request today to the Law and Engineering Departments. Dan Kaman said last year he (Jason) complained about how staff was not answering questions but since he became mayor this year, he has not heard any complaints about open meetings, records or department heads responding to questions. He said one of the biggest issues identified when Jim Lang was hired as Interim Police Chief was communication with the press; he said these types of articles are printed and make it tough. Dan Kaman said President Obama inherited a deficit budget but he (Dan) does not have a right to increase the city's deficit and it is his job to balance the budget. He said the Commission stayed many nights past 9 p.m. about staffing issues and talking about persons losing their jobs who have worked for the city for 15 or 20 years. He said the department heads were told if they did not want the Commission cutting their budget to make recommendations for doing things a better way. He said once the contracts were completed and signed, the media received copies of them. He said Sandusky is the only governmental body in Erie County where the public has a right to address the Commission both before and after the meeting without signing in. He said the public is not required to state their topic before speaking and the Sandusky Register article stated 'the sun does not shine here', but he believes someone in that organization needs to see the light. He said the city now has a surplus budget because of what the employees did and everyone is doing more with less. Dan Kaman said he took offense to this article but looks forward to going into next year with money in our pocket. He said if we cannot pay for something, we are not doing or getting it. Dan Kaman thanked Hank Solowiej and said he (Hank) does not always tell him what he wants to hear, rather is what he **has** to hear and he appreciates this. He said Julie Farrar is getting bashed about the sportsplex but Hank Solowiej brought the issue to the attention of the Commission and nothing has been hidden.

Diedre Cole said she has been working on a **project for a couple of months called "Youth Commission"**. She said the intent is to establish an independent Youth Commission to advise the City Commission and to increase communication between youth and adults to ensure they are an integral part of government

decision-making in Sandusky and to foster and encourage civic and neighborhood pride and a sense of identity through knowledge, understanding and increased involvement in present and future municipal affairs. She said she would like feedback and guidance to move this forward with three people from the community, one City Commissioner and 20 – 25 students in grades 9 – 12. She said one of the things she has been talking about is having a safe and secure bus line specifically for the youth to go to places such as the YMCA, the sports complex, the movie theatre, the Nehemiah Center, the Center for Cultural Awareness and the library. She said other communities are doing this and she would like to involve the youth in these conversations. She said she would like to encourage involvement in local government and give our youth a voice. She said she does not have a cost for this program but a reasonable budget from a few hundred to a thousand dollars could be established. She said she has spoken to Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur whose office has two congressional internship programs for pages in the summer and two of these students would be eligible to continue their experiences. She said this program would run during the school year (September – May) and would encourage students to become a part of our community. Julie Farrar said she likes the idea but does not believe all of the Commissioners had an opportunity to look over the documents and would like to discuss this at the next meeting. Diedre Cole said a draft of proposed legislation was also distributed and asked Don Icsman if he could take a look at this.

Julie Farrar said she received **a letter from members of the Sandusky Community Celebrations Council (SCCS) and asked whether they are still looking for assistance to refurbish the cookie house.** Dan Kaman said they are still looking for monetary donations and Julie Farrar asked if the Commission could formally thank them for the work they have done. Dan Kaman said they will probably have the members of the SCCS attend a meeting later in the year to be recognized. Pervis Brown stated donations can be made by contacting Julies Bahnsen at 419.357.5488. He said people will be amazed with what has been done with the cookie house.

Under **Audience Participation**, the following persons offered their comments:

Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street, asked when a new City Manager will be on board and Dan Kaman said the city will advertise December 1 – 15 with the application closing date to be January 10, 2011. Julie Farrar said after the 1.10.11 deadline, Commissioners Brown, Hamilton and Farrar will work with a committee of professional persons from the community to get to a top 10 list for interviews. She said the top 5 will then be interviewed by the full City Commission and it could be the end of March before an appointment is made. Sharon Johnson said a temporary City Manager has been in place for almost one year.

Sharon Johnson said Perkins Township is storing their old dispatch equipment in case they want to break away from the county and asked who would make up the cost(s) if six or eight of the cities involved in cost sharing decide to pull out.

Sharon Johnson said there are environmental issues and issues of competition and said she has received information from a reliable source there is going to be another sports complex built in the area; she does not want Sandusky to be saddled with a white elephant. She said the Commission should listen to their attorney and not waste its resources. Julie Farrar said Kalahari is adding on for convention space but does not believe they are putting in a sports complex.

Dennis Timple, 553 Bimini Drive, said he sat on the Charter Review Committee this year and looked at the economics of the city charter. He said he was blindsided by the pages and pages of information printed by the Sandusky Register to reject Issue 5 - which won by approximately 500 votes - and was a disservice to the community. He said in the last year, the city has done a lot to become more transparent and publish information on its website; he thanked Kelly Kresser for adding legislation that has been adopted on the city's website.

**At 7:05 p.m., Dan Kaman announced adjournment of the regular session.**

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Kelly L. Kresser  
Clerk of the City Commission

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Daniel J. Kaman  
President of the City Commission