

President Dan Kaman called the meeting to order at 5 p.m. Pervis Brown gave the **Invocation**, followed by the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

The Clerk **called the roll** and the following Commissioners responded: Pervis Brown, Dan Kaman, John Hamilton, Kim Nuesse, Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington and Brett Fuqua, 7.

Upon motion of Pervis Brown and second of Kim Nuesse, the Commissioners approved the minutes of the February 22, 2010 meeting and dispensed with the oral reading of the minutes. All Ayes. The President declared the motion passed.

A presentation was made by Dave Waddington to **Taylor Vargo of Sandusky High School for achieving the status of Division One State Champion in the 100 Yard Breast Stroke Event**. A presentation was made by Dan Kaman to **Michael Gallagher of St. Mary Central Catholic High School for achieving the status of Division Two State Champion in the 200 Individual Medley**. Both students received a standing ovation for their hard work and dedication to the sport and for their standing as "State Champions".

PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing was held regarding the 2010 draft budget as presented to the City Commissioners. Hank Solowiej, Senior Accountant/Auditor, announced the opening of the Public Hearing and acknowledged the Department Heads who were in attendance to answer questions. Hank Solowiej recognized the members of the Audit/Finance Committee who have been meeting and looking at these numbers and involved in the budgeting process including Brent Gardner, Dave Hoffman, Al Nickles, Don Miers, Dan Moncher, Jim Ruthsatz and Brian Allen. Hank Solowiej said he would like to first focus on Page 1 of the draft budget which shows a deficit of \$500,000. He said this deficit balance includes projections for total General Fund revenues from Income Taxes and Hotel/Motel Taxes of about \$15.2 million and that these projected general revenues have been scaled back about four to five percent. Hank Solowiej stated our Income Tax revenue is already down by 19% as of February, 2010. Although this is still 15% above what we anticipated, he said it is still early in the year to make predictions, but if this does not change, we could be in a further bind down the road. He said there are three issues to consider with this deficit including further consideration for staff reductions. He said there may still be some potential bargaining unit staff reductions but it would not be appropriate to comment about these at this time as the city is still in the collective bargaining process; these are on hold until June. He said **the city has received the grant money/check from FirstEnergy Solutions and it has been deposited.** Hank Solowiej said he would like to make a recommendation to utilize two thirds (2/3) of these monies, or about \$217,000, to help to help preserve the remaining workforce for this year. He would not suggest bringing employees back, but rather, preserve the current workforce and hope for a balanced budget.

Dan Kaman then asked if any of the Commissioners had questions about the draft budget. Dave Waddington said he spoke with Hank Solowiej about the money from FirstEnergy Solutions and would be fine with using two thirds (2/3) of these dollars to preserve the remaining workforce. He said he would like the other one third (1/3) to be utilized for the City Hall energy audit, especially for the North side of the building.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Kim Nuesse, the Commissioners voted to utilize two thirds (2/3) of the grant dollars from FirstEnergy Solutions, or \$217,215, to preserve the city's remaining workforce and one third (1/3) of these monies, or \$107,607, for the City Hall Energy Audit, specifically for the North side of the building.

Discussion: Brett Fuqua asked if the Commissioners would be discussing specific Departments affected with the city's workforce in an Executive Session. Don Icsman said General Fund monies are evenly divided between the Police and Fire Departments and he did not feel it would be appropriate to discuss this publicly. Kim Nuesse suggested these monies be placed into the General Fund and appropriate allocations can be discussed later.

Roll Call on the motion: Yeas: Pervis Brown, Dan Kaman, John Hamilton, Kim Nuesse, Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington and Brett Fuqua, 7. The President declared the motion passed.

Kim Nuesse asked the proper name for the boat or dock tax and Don Icsman said this is officially named a **watercraft rack and storage tax**. Kim Nuesse asked what revenues were received in 2009 from this tax

and how much of the monies were utilized for the Sandusky Police Department. Hank Solowiej stated \$39,000 was received from this tax in 2009 and the Ordinance calls for spending the monies for protective services which include both Police and Fire services. Charlie Sams said the police boat was paid for with Federal dollars and none of these funds were spent in the Police Department. Paul Ricci said the Fire Department uses on-duty personnel to staff the fire boat and he believes about \$2,000 was spent on fuel and supplies during 2009. Kim Nuesse asked if the same amount would be estimated for 2010 and Hank Solowiej indicated in the affirmative.

Upon motion of Kim Nuesse and second of Dave Waddington, the Commissioners voted to direct the Interim City Manager to reallocate these rack and storage taxes for the fire boat for this budget year for staffing and/or needs for the fire boat as the Police Department's boat is paid for through a Federal grant.

Discussion: John Hamilton asked if the original tax was for a fire boat as concerned taxpayers have approached him about the city using these monies for our police boat. If these persons are being taxed for a Fire Department boat, they are telling him that condominium and waterfront homeowners should also be taxed. Hank Solowiej said the Ordinance which established this tax calls for using the monies for general protective services which include both Police and Fire. John Hamilton said the concerns he has heard are that this tax should include all waterfront property owners, not just boat owners and/or dock holders. He said if there is a fire in a boathouse or condominium on the waterfront, these property owners would have the benefit of these services and should also be taxed. Kim Nuesse said she asked Don Icsman for clarification on the language in this Ordinance. She said in his interpretation, these monies can be used for services in both the Police and Fire Departments. Assistant Chief Paul Ricci said a listing was prepared of the number of waterfront homes that can be reached with the fire boat when it was proposed for replacement in 2004 – 2005 (it was purchased in 2006). He said the former fire boat did not allow for access into the Back Bay or access to the boathouse areas because of its draft and the new boat was purchased to facilitate the needs of recreational users from these areas. He said there are approximately 6,200 recreational vehicles licensed in our area. Paul Ricci said other community needs are addressed through the use of water and firefighting resources for land-based structures such as boathouses and residential properties along the waterfront. He said the fire boat can get in close, has a shallow draft and can pump in excess of 2,800 gallons of water per minute. Paul Ricci said there are three elements including recreational boating, diving and fishing and city Fire Department personnel responded to 42 incidents in 2009 with the fire boat. He said with on-duty staffing, no overtime is created. Currently, staff in the Fire Department is developing a waterfront risk map identifying the land structures that could be successfully affected using the fire boat. He said there are 11 marinas and ramping locations in the community and several hundred boats. Julie Farrar said she supports this creative idea with the fire boat and hopes to get us through and that things will change for the better after this year. Kim Nuesse said Sandusky is a waterfront community and we should be providing good services, including for those who use our waterways, and we should do due diligence and be responsible stewards of this money. Dan Kaman said he does not support this tax and feels it is a double tax. He said property owners who live along the waterfront already pay higher taxes. He said he does understand the need and believes we do good things with both of these boats. Don Icsman said he wished to clarify when this Ordinance was changed a few years ago, there was some confusion about this being a double tax because boat owners were already paying a tax to the State of Ohio when licensing their boats. He said it is a double tax in the sense that the owner must have a boat and be on the waterfront and those with racks and/or storage facilities are also charged. He said what makes this legal is that the city is providing a protective service through our Police and Fire Departments which is an additional service for those along the waterfront who have boats within our jurisdiction. He said we are giving something back to them in return. John Hamilton asked if it would be viable to tax those living on the waterfront if the Fire Station on Cedar Point Drive was to close and the city had to use the fire boat to perform services. Don Icsman said from a legal standpoint, this is an allowable tax as a service is provided for it. John Hamilton said boat owners are telling him that if the fire boat can reach a condominium or a home, these property owners should also be paying this tax. Ed Widman said he wished to clarify these monies are currently placed into the city's General Fund and changing the allocation will not actually free up any monies nor will it change the deficit. Kim Nuesse said she understands this is the same pot of money; she is asking for the City Manager to be provided the authority to reallocate monies from the General Fund when the Departmental budgets are done. John Hamilton said we could get even more tax money for this if we were to tax condominium and property owners along our waterfront. Julie Farrar said she understands this argument but the taxpayers have told us they do not want any more taxes. Brett Fuqua said he does not believe this is a road we should be going down (raising taxes). Kim Nuesse said there are accessibility issues which should be understood and those who are users of the waterway are being taxed to pay for these additional services.

Roll Call on the motion: Yeas: Pervis Brown, Dan Kaman, John Hamilton, Kim Nuesse, Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington and Brett Fuqua, 7. The President declared the motion passed.

Dan Kaman said when the budget process started, the city had a \$1.7 million beginning deficit which has now been reduced to \$522,000. He said he hopes in the next four months, this will be reduced to \$11,000. He said the process has been painful and we have fewer employees. He said we are running a lot leaner; we are not eliminating any departments and we are still providing services, it may just take more time to provide them. He has been asked about the Golf Course and it will not be closed this season. He said the burden has been placed on the Department Heads to run their Departments better and he thanked all of them for making some tough decisions and doing the heavy lifting. He said he hopes for good weather this summer for Cedar Point and if they have to hire more people, this will also help with our Income and Admissions Tax revenues. Dave Waddington said he attended the last few Audit/Finance meetings and asked if there was any follow-up to investigate further layoffs the city may not be aware of from other businesses in the city. Ed Widman said he has checked into this during the last few months. Ed Widman said there was nothing specifically which was paid late that could have put us in a better place this year to date. He said there were a couple of exceptions where taxes were paid earlier which would have given us an opportunity to be more depressed about the way things are currently. He said we do now send out a monthly report and as of March 1, there has been some improvement. Dave Waddington said we should continue to check with local companies each month about retention and if there are any employees being let go, Greg Sherman could perhaps help them out.

Kim Nuesse asked if the Fire and Police Department pension appropriations are currently funded in our General Fund budget and Hank Solowiej said the property tax levy generates 0.3 mills which are allocated to the Police and Fire Departments through the General Fund which generates approximately \$150,000/year. The gap between the property taxes and the pension costs are then subsidized by the General Fund. For this year's budget, that number is \$586,000 for Fire subsidy and \$411,000 for Police subsidy. Kim Nuesse said a lot of communities have issues where things are paid for in the future and her concern is being able to pay this if we need to; she asked if money is being set aside to cover this. Hank Solowiej said we are current in our obligations and we do have money to cover this. Ed Widman asked if she was referring to termination pay when employees leave the city's employ and if so, this is an actual debt service and not part of the equation. He said the city is offered a discount for taking advantage of the debt service and it saves us money. Kim Nuesse asked what the current amount is and Hank Solowiej indicated staff in the Finance Department is in the process of compiling the 2009 report which usually takes several months. He said he believes this number is somewhere between \$1 and \$2 million. Kim Nuesse asked if these figures will be available for the City Commissioners on Monday and Hank indicated they could be made available.

Under Audience Participation during the Public Hearing, the following persons offered their comments:

Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street, asked if a figure was available of the project overruns for 2009. Hank Solowiej indicated these could be made available at Monday's meeting. Sharon Johnson asked how revenues are projected and Hank Solowiej said these are arrived at through historical data during the previous two years and current trends and market rates. He said the city also knows what will be received through the County Auditor and from the State of Ohio's Local Government Funds. He said the members of the Audit/Finance Committee scrutinize the numbers to provide these projections. Sharon Johnson said there are many vacant homes in the city and property valuations are slipping and asked how these will be projected. Ed Widman said property tax information is provided by the County Auditor and they are flat so far this year and this is always a risk.

Diedre Cole, 807 Hancock Street, asked about the line item for travel and training which amounted to \$44,000 as she believed travel had been suspended for city employees. Dan Kaman said travel is restricted to in-state only and is at the City Manager's discretion. Diedre Cole asked about the line item for Community Development as she thought these positions were currently vacant. Dan Kaman said no decision has been made about the position of Economic Development Specialist, but believes this budget also includes salaries for Carrie Handy and some of the employees in Community Development.

A.J. Oliver, 1112 Wayne Street, asked the City Commissioners what the expenses were for the Marina District project and what account these monies came from. Don Icsman said these costs were cumulative over a number of years and an account is normally established for projects. He said this information is available to the public if they request it. He said similar accounts are set up for projects

such as the Chesapeake walkway, the marina project, etc. Ed Widman said the Finance Office prepares regular reports for things such as the housing redo's and believes approximately \$28,000 was spent on legal fees for the Marina District. He said this project is one of a number of projects and financial information can be made available for anyone who requests it.

Tim Schwanger, 362 Sheffield Way, said he believed tonight's Public Hearing is the first time the budget document has been presented and asked why it was not available before the meeting this evening. Dan Kaman said this has been available for quite a while. Tim Schwanger stated he understands there are persons who are not paying the watercraft tax and it is not being enforced and bills go unpaid. He said there were 42 – 46 rescue calls last year and asked if this was for both Police and Fire. Assistant Chief Paul Ricci said these were all water rescue calls. Dan Kaman said he agreed if we are not enforcing this tax, we should get rid of it. Tim Schwanger said there are several examples on the last page of the budget which may have been bad decisions made by past City Commissioners including the City Service Center, the Cold Creek subdivision project and the new fire station. Dan Kaman said we could put these costs together. Ed Widman said the notice of the draft budget was advertised in the newspaper this weekend at a cost of \$250. He said the entire document is not published, but is made available for the public. Ed Widman said today is the first of three sessions for public comment and the draft budget is published to stimulate interest.

Dennis Timple, 553 Bimini Drive, asked about the long-term debt for the Columbus Avenue underpass project as we are still paying for this yet it is failing and repairs are needed.

There were no further comments and Dan Kaman declared the Public Hearing closed at 5:53 p.m.

Upon motion of Pervis Brown and second of Julie Farrar, the Commissioners moved to accept all communications. All Ayes. The President declared the motion passed.

ITEM #1 - by Scott A. Miller, Director of General Services

Budgetary Information: No General Fund money will be required for this piece of equipment. This purchase has been budgeted for in the cemetery general maintenance endowment fund and sufficient funds are available to purchase the unit.

ORDINANCE NO. 10-014: It is requested an Ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to **purchase a new Kubota U45 Compact Excavator from Streaker Tractor Sales, Inc., of Fremont, Ohio, through the State of Ohio Cooperative Purchasing Program as authorized by O.R.C. Section 125.04(c) for use at the Oakland Cemetery;** 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 Pervis Brown, the Commission authorized the passage of this Ordinance under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

Discussion: Dave Waddington said as the Liaison to the Cemetery Board, he wished to point out this recommendation was approved by the Board members and no General Fund money will be used to make this purchase. He said this is a safety issue. Dan Kaman said we plan to replace other equipment in the future through a plan similar to that used by the Fire Department. This will include the purchase of cruisers for the Police Department.

Roll Call on the motion: Yeas: Pervis Brown, Dan Kaman, John Hamilton, Kim Nuesse, Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington and Brett Fuqua 7. The President declared the Motion passed. Roll Call on the Ordinance: Yeas: Pervis Brown, Dan Kaman, John Hamilton, Kim Nuesse, Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington and Brett Fuqua, 7. The President declared the Ordinance passed.

ITEM #2 – Submitted by Scott A. Miller, Director of General Services

Budgetary Information: No General Fund money will be required for this Agreement. The City of Sandusky will charge the City of Huron Fire Department \$58/hour for labor in quarterly increments.

ORDINANCE NO. 10-015: It is requested an Ordinance be passed authorizing and **directing the Execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Huron to provide routine maintenance service and repairs for the City of Huron's Fire Department vehicles;** 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 Dave Waddington, the Commission authorized the passage of this Ordinance under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

Discussion: John Hamilton asked what type of work will be performed on these vehicles and if it is for such things as oil and/or fluid changes or replacement of pumps. He stated there may be liability for performing work on things such as bucket trucks. Dan Kaman said he understood this contract will be for generally scheduled maintenance items. Dan Kaman expressed his appreciation for those employees in our Mechanics Division who are looking at ways to become self sufficient and ways to make money which is a good first step for us.

Roll Call on the motion: Yeas: Pervis Brown, Dan Kaman, John Hamilton, Kim Nuesse, Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington and Brett Fuqua 7. The President declared the Motion passed. Roll Call on the Ordinance: Yeas: Pervis Brown, Dan Kaman, John Hamilton, Kim Nuesse, Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington and Brett Fuqua, 7. The President declared the Ordinance passed.

ITEM #3 – Submitted by George Poulos, Program Administrator

Budgetary Information: There is no impact on the City's General Fund. All projects in the program will be paid for through the CHIP grant funds.

RESOLUTION NO. 010-10R: It is requested a Resolution be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager of the City of Sandusky, Ohio, **to file an Application for Financial Assistance from the FY 2010 Community Housing Improvement Program through the Ohio Department of Development's Office of Housing and Community Partnerships;** and declaring that this Resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

Upon on motion of Pervis Brown and second of Dave Waddington, the Commission authorized the passage of this Resolution under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter. Roll Call on the motion: Yeas: Pervis Brown, Dan Kaman, John Hamilton, Kim Nuesse, Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington and Brett Fuqua, 7. The President declared the Motion passed. Roll Call on the Resolution: Yeas: Pervis Brown, Dan Kaman, John Hamilton, Kim Nuesse, Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington and Brett Fuqua, 7. The President declared the Resolution passed.

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

Budgetary Information: Based on service for pickup five (5) days per week and a contract for nine (9) months, the estimated amount for the 2010 Yard Waste Collection Service is \$31,320 based on a 5% increase in customers for 2010. This amount is subject to change due to additions and deletions of customers to the program. The cost of this service will be charged back to the customers.

ORDINANCE (passed at first reading): It is requested an Ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to **enter into a contract with F.S.I. Disposal/Fultz & Sons, Inc., of Clyde, Ohio, for the 2010 Yard Waste Collection Service which is available for the period April 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010;** 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 authorized the passage of this Ordinance, at first reading, under Section 13 of the City Charter. Roll Call on the motion: Yeas: Pervis Brown, Dan Kaman, John Hamilton, Kim Nuesse, Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington and Brett Fuqua, 7. The President declared the Motion passed. Roll Call on the Ordinance: Yeas: Pervis Brown, Dan Kaman, John Hamilton, Kim Nuesse, Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington and Brett Fuqua, 7. The President declared the Ordinance passed under Section 13 of the City Charter and at first reading.

Discussion: Don Icsman said if the intent was to pass this Ordinance under Section 13, it would be read twice and then take effect 30 days after the second reading. He believes this could cause a problem because of the timeline for the contract which is scheduled to begin on April 1. Kathy McKillips said this would cause a problem for the city as the current contract will run out prior to its passage. Kim Nuesse stated her intent was to approve this under the normal process or with three readings. Don Icsman said this could be passed after two readings if passed under emergency measures at the March 22 regular meeting. Kim Nuesse said she would be okay with passing this Ordinance as an emergency at the second reading on March 22.

ITEM #5 – Submitted by Ed Widman, Finance Director

Budgetary Information: This Submerged Lands Lease is payable by the City of Sandusky as the leaseholder. The Chesapeake Lofts Condominium Association, Mid-States Development Corporation's

assigned sub-lessee will reimburse the city for the cost of the lease payment pursuant to Submerged Lands Lease Agreement SUB-2119B-ER between the City, Mid-States Bayfront Development, LLC and the ODNR. ODNR does not allow a sub-leaseholder to make a Submerged Lands Lease payment on the city's behalf. The amount due requires an Ordinance approved by the City Commission.

ORDINANCE NO. 10-016: It is requested an Ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to **make payment to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Office of Coastal Management, for rental payment on Submerged Lands Lease File No. SUB-2119B-ER for the period of April, 2010 through March 2011;** 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 authorized the passage of this Ordinance under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter. Roll Call on the motion: Yeas: Pervis Brown, Dan Kaman, John Hamilton, Kim Nuesse, Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington and Brett Fuqua 7. The President declared the Motion passed. Roll Call on the Ordinance: Yeas: Pervis Brown, Dan Kaman, John Hamilton, Kim Nuesse, Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington and Brett Fuqua, 7. The President declared the Ordinance passed.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Don Icsman said he was distributing the **Boat Launch Rules & Regulations** which were discussed at the last regular meeting. He said these are being adopted under the authorization of the City Manager according to the Ordinance.

Don Icsman said a letter was received from Lance Warner requesting a **letter of support from the city for a project involving the Feick Building. Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Pervis Brown, the Commissioners voted to provide a letter of support for the Job Ready Sites Grant for the project at the Feick Building. Lance Warner's request focuses on three distinct areas including energy consumption, historic rehabilitation and building code issues such as geothermal and window replacement and lighting upgrades. All Ayes. The President declared the motion passed.**

Don Icsman said **a request has been made by Firefighter James Snyder to attend a two week Fire/Arson training course at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland** from March 22 through April 4. All of his expenses, except the meal allowance, are being paid for by the National Fire Academy. The meal allowance is \$232.20 and has been budgeted in the 2010 draft budget. **Upon motion of Kim Nuesse and second of Dave Waddington, the Commissioners voted to allow this out-of-state travel and pay for Firefighter Snyder's meal allowance.**

Discussion: Kim Nuesse said this particular training is not offered in the State of Ohio and is a good deal for us. Dan Kaman asked if this travel will affect scheduling in the Fire Department and Assistant Chief Paul Ricci said it would not. He said most of the time being used by Firefighter Snyder is his off-duty time or his days off and will not have a significant impact on staffing.

Don Icsman said the city received an **Assistance to Firefighters Grant from the Department of Homeland Security to purchase equipment and provide training to supplement the underwater dive rescue and recovery team.** He said the grant provides funding to purchase ten underwater dry suits, five buoyancy compensators, five dive breathing air tanks and training for ten underwater divers in advanced water diving and rescue diver certifications. He said a matching share of \$3,500, or 10%, is required and will be paid with funds from the city's Equipment Replacement Fund – EMS Billing Fund – as authorized by Resolution 012-09R which was passed on July 13, 2009. **Upon motion of Brett Fuqua and second of Dave Waddington, the Commissioners voted to accept this grant and provide the match. All Ayes. The President declared the motion passed.**

Don Icsman stated he was presenting information to the City Commissioners with a proposed **Vehicle Replacement Schedule for 2010.** He said this information is being distributed tonight so that it can be looked at while having discussions regarding the 2010 budget. There are vehicles in Water Distribution, Sewer Maintenance, a street sweeper, a pickup truck for the golf course and some police cruiser issues noted. Vehicle information and photographs are attached as well as financial information. Don Icsman said there is money for replacement of the water and sewer vehicles but the police cruisers are tougher issues. He also distributed a memorandum from Ed Widman explaining where we are with the schedule. Don Icsman said this will be discussed at the next regular meeting. Kim Nuesse said she thought it a good move to project replacements for vehicles and equipment and is a fiscally responsible practice to take into consideration what is needed to do job. She commended Don Icsman for taking on

this task. Dan Kaman said there is currently not a schedule to replace police cruisers and an attempt is being made to schedule a rotation of four each year. Currently, we could get hit with replacement of 14 cruisers in one year.

Don Icsman provided an update for the recent **Weed and Seed Conference in Washington D.C.** He wished to point out one issue of significance. Sandusky was very fortunate to have been awarded this grant as there were only 15 communities in the country receiving it and most were larger cities such as Huston, Dallas, Cleveland, Baltimore, Indianapolis, Washington, D.C. and San Diego.

Don Icsman said **members of the Tree Commission and city staff will be attending the North Coast Urban Forestry Conference on March 12** including Tom Speir, Cynthia Ball, Jim Arthur, Joe Viviano and Breann Hohman. The cost of \$25 per person will be paid for through the Green Fund.

Don Icsman said **members of the Tree Commission and city staff will be attending the Tree City USA Awards Banquet in Hudson, Ohio on March 17** including Scott Miller, Cynthia Ball, Jim Arthur and Joe Viviano. The cost of \$35 per person will be paid for through the Green Fund. Sandusky will be recognized for its 20th year as a Tree City USA recipient. Jim Arthur was in the audience and said monies donated to the Green Fund are primarily used to purchase replacement trees and only occasionally for these types of things.

Upon motion of Kim Nuesse and second of Dave Waddington, the Commissioners voted to allow the Acting City Manager to implement the rules and regulations for the Boat Launch facility. All Ayes. The President declared the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Kim Nuesse asked Don Icsman where he was with the item on **the Unfinished Business List to provide training on Sections 13 and 14 for passage of legislation.** Don Icsman said this is all ready to go but it has not yet been implemented.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Julie Farrar, the Commissioners voted to sign off on the title to the Rieger Lofts building, if necessary, so that Mr. Spatz can pursue the transfer of this property to Jonathan Sandvick.

Discussion: Dave Waddington said the city received a letter from Mr. Spatz indicating he has been turned down for every possible financing strategy and would like to transfer title for the property to the architect, Jonathan Sandvick, so that new developers can be sought without the loss of the Historic Tax Credits. Dave Waddington said he would not want to see this property come back to the city but would rather provide an opportunity to Jonathan Sandvick so that it can be developed. He said a 90 day window was provided to the city to see if we wanted to do anything with it. Pervis Brown asked Don Icsman what the legal ramifications were, if any, for liability which the city could incur. Don Icsman said he is not sure what Mr. Spatz is looking for as he (Don) does not believe the city, nor the Foundations, have any interested in the title. Dave Waddington said he is asking the city to do what is possible for a clean handoff as in a recent meeting with Mr. Spatz, the clock was running for the Historic Tax Credits. Dan Kaman said his main concern is that this does not end up being another Keller Building for the city and we should do whatever we need to do to transfer the property. Julie Farrar said she knows Jonathan Sandvick is one of the number one preservation architects and has a lot of respect in his field. She is hopeful this will go through for him. Kim Nuesse said she understands the motion made is to make sure the title is cleared from the city's end so that this can move forward. **Vote on the motion: All Ayes. The President declared the motion passed.**

Julie Farrar asked Kathy McKillips if she any luck in **recruiting college students for the city building energy audit/study.** Kathy McKillips said she distributed information to four colleges and has heard back from two colleges: Terra Tech and Cleveland State University. She said this would involve a small amount of money and is just waiting for final word back from one of the two colleges.

Julie Farrar said she will miss **the budget meeting next Monday as she will be traveling out of state.** She asked if any of the other City Commissioners were able to cover the **ADA Advisory Board meeting for her on March 18 at 1 p.m.**

Julie Farrar said at a recent coffee meeting, Sharon Johnson had asked about **city employees shutting off equipment and lights and she (Julie) understands this is being done at the end of each workday.**

NEW BUSINESS

Dan Kaman said he would like to address **the appointments for the 2010 Charter Review Committee**. He said each City Commissioner has two choices for this Committee and the members were appointed as follows:

Dan Kaman: Dick Brady and Lance Warner

Dave Waddington: Rev. Herman Robinson and Wendy Dempsey

Brett Fuqua: Stuart Abrams and Naomi Twine

Pervis Brown: Darwitt Garrett and Wesley Poole

John Hamilton: Sharon Johnson and Dennis Timple

Kim Nuesse: Steve Poggiali and Jim Recker

Julie Farrar: Jim Corso and Lovey Leavell

Julie Farrar said she has been approached by community members about **installing signage to honor our local State Champions and she understands the city used to provide this recognition at our corporate limits stating "Sandusky - Home of . . . State Champion" with the name and the winning sport**. She would like to form a committee to discuss installing a Walk of Fame at one of our city parks which she understands was discussed before but was not successful due to funding issues or lack of grant monies. Julie Farrar said she would like to start this Committee and already has persons willing to serve from Sandusky Central Catholic, Sandusky High School and the local foundations. She would like to see this Walk of Fame include a brick paver walkway dating back to the first State Champions from both schools and a brick added for each new State Champion. She would hope this Walk of Fame would be filled with park benches. Julie Farrar said she has heard different reasons why the previous State Champ signs were taken down but feels the city needs to recognize its State Champions and feels this would be an attraction and something for all of us to be proud of. She would like to have the initial Committee meeting by the first of April. Dan Kaman said he thought this was a great idea and thanked Julie Farrar for taking this up.

Upon motion of Julie Farrar and second of Pervis Brown, Julie Farrar requested that in the meantime, pending donations, signage be made and erected at four entrances to the city for the two State Champions who were here tonight as well as Alex Slattery (Pole Vault from SCCS) and Dailyn Moore (Hurdles from SHS) who were 2009 State Champions. These signs would be up for a maximum of two years, are estimated to cost approximately \$300, and space is to be made available at the bottom for future years.

Discussion: Julie Farrar said other communities do this and it may not be her name on the sign, but she sometimes may know the mother or the sister of the Champion. Kim Nuesse said she loves the idea of creating a Walk of Fame with brick paver walkway; she said achievements are wonderful and a good example of school spirit, but feels signage should be in the schools, not on our roadways. Dan Kaman said he is not in favor of the signs as he knows the city has missed persons in the past. He said the City Commissioners provide certificates or recognition but does not want us to put signs up as he knows family members were upset before when they were taken down. He said he hopes we stick with what we are doing currently and discuss further the creation of a new walkway. Brett Fuqua said he is in favor of creating this signage and does remember when we used to have them at the entrances to the city. He said he does not think it is a big deal, especially if donations will be given toward the costs. Brett Fuqua said other cities recognize their champions and he does not believe persons will be forgotten as they will let us know. Dave Waddington said he has thought about this and if there are donations toward the costs for the three signs, he can live with a two-year limit. He said as far as the Walk of Fame is concerned, we should go back historically to recognize students from St. Mary Central Catholic and Sandusky High School back to the 1920's when the city had its first State Champion. He suggested this not be limited to high school sports but also include Olympians. He likes the idea of a Walk of Fame. John Hamilton said he is for a park but that we should consider expanding the scope to include Olympic Champions and to not recognize only sports, but accomplishments by the debating team, Eagle Scout Awards, Art competition winners, etc. Dan Kaman said these are some of the things the past Commissioners heard when the policy was changed and he does not want to repeat history. Pervis Brown said he is in favor of recognition for athletes or other achievements, both statewide and national accomplishments, as we are a poor city if we cannot recognize our youth. He said we should do a better job of not forgetting to include all accomplishments and shame on us if we cannot do this as the city is already suffering and this is a positive thing for us to recognize. He said there is no harm in doing this and it is not hurting anyone. Dave Waddington said he has first dibs on recognizing Knute Rockne if

we do this. Julie Farrar said there are many accomplishments that could be recognized including Jackie Mayer as Miss America and these ideas can be discussed by the Committee members and not stop at recognizing State Champions.

Roll Call on the motion: Yeas: Pervis Brown, John Hamilton, Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington and Brett Fuqua, 5. Nays: Dan Kaman and Kim Nuesse, 2. The President declared the motion passed.

Dave Waddington said there will be a **walk through at the former Sandusky Cabinets property on March 16** at 10 a.m. if any of the other City Commissioners would like to attend.

Upon motion of Kim Nuesse and second of Julie Farrar, the Commissioners voted to allow the City Manager to look at restructuring in some of the Departments because of the supervisory gaps. The motion included directing the City Manager to advertise for a new Director of Engineering Services. Roll Call on the motion: Yeas: Pervis Brown, Dan Kaman, John Hamilton, Kim Nuesse, Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington and Brett Fuqua, 7. The President declared the Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Upon motion of John Hamilton and second of Pervis Brown, the Commissioners voted to have an Executive Session regarding Land Acquisition. Roll Call on the motion: Yeas: Pervis Brown, Dan Kaman, John Hamilton, Kim Nuesse, Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington and Brett Fuqua, 7. The President declared the Motion passed.

Upon motion of John Hamilton and second of Kim Nuesse, the Commissioners voted to have an Executive Session regarding Personnel, Collective Bargaining. Roll Call on the motion: Yeas: Pervis Brown, Dan Kaman, John Hamilton, Kim Nuesse, Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington and Brett Fuqua 7. The President declared the Motion passed.

Upon motion of John Hamilton and second of Kim Nuesse, the Commissioners voted to have an Executive Session regarding Land Acquisition. Roll Call on the motion: Yeas: Pervis Brown, Dan Kaman, John Hamilton, Kim Nuesse, Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington and Brett Fuqua 7. The President declared the Motion passed.

Julie Farrar asked if the Commissioners planned to come out of Executive Session and Dan Kaman said he would anticipate another open session after the first of three Executive Sessions.

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

Joe Hayberger, 4308 Westwind Drive, thanked the City Commissioners for agreeing to recognize student athletes and said this is the least we can do. He asked when the last time anyone remembers a standing ovation like the students received tonight. Joe Hayberger said these students are an inspiration to younger athletes and they are emulated by younger students. He said he loves the idea of the brick paved walkway and volunteered to help on the Committee.

Jerry Garrett, Executive Director for the N.A.A.C.P., said he echoed these comments regarding the signage for student athletes and recalls two members of his family, his father, Paul, Sr. and his brother, Paul, Jr., who were both State Champions in 1936 and 1963 respectively and when he went to school, members of the football team were called the "monsters of the seaway" so to speak. He said the value of this accomplishment should not be under estimated.

Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street, asked if the new hire for Engineering Services would be over Kathy McKillips and asked what the salary would be. Dan Kaman indicated this position would be over Kathy McKillips and the salary has not yet been determined. Sharon Johnson said the Rieger building was not owned by the city and asked why the city would have title to the Rieger Lofts property. Dan Kaman said he understood the city needs to be involved with the title transfer process even though we do not own the property. Sharon Johnson asked the city's status with the Sandusky Yacht Club and Dan Kaman said we are still negotiating. Sharon Johnson asked what the current status is for the study being performed regarding the downtown area and Carrie Handy said the contract has been signed and work is slated to begin the first week of April. Sharon Johnson asked about the status of drilling the three holes as discussed by the Brownfields Committee and Don Icsman said the Committee was tasked with seeing that this work is performed and is moving forward with the work. She asked if this could be added to

the Unfinished Business List. Sharon Johnson asked about the status of the Employee Handbook and Don Icsman said this is a work in progress and is being done the right way. Kelly Kresser said the Unfinished Business List only includes those items discussed by the City Commissioners from January 1, 2010 forward, and are established according to the Minutes.

Diedre Cole, 807 Hancock Street, thanked the City Commissioners, especially Dave Waddington and Brett Fuqua, for their work in supporting the recent 2010 Census Rally during which over 70 applicants were screened. Diedre Cole asked about the city's vision and mission statement and asked that this be expanded to the Finance Department to align with the city's goals. Diedre Cole said there are so many who have done things in the community and made significant achievements, including Wesley Poole's mother who was the first African American woman to attend Nursing School. She asked that these achievements be defined to be inclusive of everyone.

A.J. Oliver, 1112 Wayne Street, spoke about the friendliness to visitors through a free bicycle program in Punta Gorda and asked the Recreation Board to consider implementing this here. A.J. Oliver expressed his satisfaction with a recent encounter one of his neighbors had with the city's Housing Department. He asked for someone to outline the steps to make contact about housing issues and Carrie Handy said the Code Enforcement Division accepts complaints through email or in writing for junk vehicles, weeds or trash and these can be anonymous although some type of verification must be presented.

Dennis Timple, 553 Bimini Drive, said the Census mailing is due to go out March 15 and there are ten simple questions to answer upon receipt. This equates to approximately \$13,200 per person over the next ten years for the community and urged all to fill these out and send them in.

At 6:48 p.m., the Dan Kaman adjourned the regular session for a five minute recess; an Executive Session began at 6:55 p.m. regarding Collective Bargaining. **At 7:43 p.m., upon motion of Kim Nuesse and second of Brett Fuqua, the Commissioners voted to return to Open Session. All Ayes. The President declared the motion passed.**

Upon motion of Kim Nuesse and second of Dave Waddington, the Commissioners voted to approve the tentative agreement reached between the City of Sandusky and the IAFF Local 327 as summarized in a Memorandum presented to them tonight. Roll Call on the motion: Yeas: Pervis Brown, Dan Kaman, John Hamilton, Kim Nuesse, Julie Farrar, Dave Waddington and Brett Fuqua 7. The President declared the Motion passed.

At 7:45 p.m., upon motion of Kim Nuesse and second of Julie Farrar, the Commissioners voted to adjourn the open session and return to Executive Session. All Ayes. The President declared the motion passed.

The Commissioners then went into two separate **Executive Sessions, both pertaining to Land Acquisition.** At 8:45 p.m., the City Commissioners returned to the table and Dan Kaman declared adjournment.

Kelly L. Kresser
Clerk of the City Commission

Daniel J. Kaman
President of the City Commission