

JUNE 25, 2007

5:00 P.M.

At 5:00 p.m. a **regular meeting was held by the Sandusky City Commission** in the City Building Commission Chambers, 222 Meigs Street, with City Commissioners Craig Stahl, Dannie Edmon, Dan Kaman, Dennis Murray, Brian Crandall, Brett Fuqua and Dave Waddington in attendance; as well as the Charter Officers of the Interim City Manager (James L.) Don Miers, Law Director Don Icsman, Finance Director Ed Widman and the Clerk of the City Commission B. Joyce Brown; the Administrative Staff of the Director of Engineering Services Kathy McKillips, Police Chief Kim Nuesse, Fire Chief Mike Meinzer, Administrative Services Director Warrenette Parthemore, and Economic Development Specialist Scott Schell. It was an open meeting with the news media present.

Mr. Stahl offered the **prayer**, everyone stood for the **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**; and the Clerk called the **roll** with the following Commissioners present: Stahl, Edmon, Kaman, Murray, Crandall, Fuqua, Waddington.

Mr. Waddington moved the **minutes of June 11, 2007**, be approved as written and dispense with the formal reading of same. Mr. Fuqua seconded, carried.

PRESENTATION – Introduction/recognition of newly promoted police sergeants, lieutenants and newly hired officers. Sgt. Tracey Susana, Sgt. Richard Braun, Sgt. Richard Cottrill, Sgt. John Orzech, Lt. Robert VanScoy, Lt. Mel Burns, Officer Scott Dahlgren, Officer Eric Constante, Officer Jody Showgren, Officer Jason Zsebik

PRESENTATION – Sandusky Area YMCA - Brett Kinzel, President Board of Trustees

PRESENTATION - Regional Dispatch of Fire Departments – Dr. Thomas Pascarella

PUBLIC HEARING - President Kaman declared the public hearing open for an **application for an amendment to the Zoning Map for Parcel #5700162000 and Parcel 570498000 (0 and 1022 C Street) from “R1-40” Single-Family Residential to “GB” General Business District submitted by Balconi Monuments, Inc.** The purpose of this rezoning is to allow for the construction of a new building to allow for expansion of the existing business operation on the subject property. As there were no comments forthcoming from the Commission or the public, President Kaman declared the public hearing closed and returned to the table.

ITEM# 1 – Communication – Jeffrey W. Rosekelly, Project Engineer

ORDINANCE NO. 07-032 - Determining to proceed with the improvement of Monroe Street between certain termini by grading, paving, resurfacing, constructing curbs, gutters, sidewalks, driveway approaches and curb ramps, and adjusting manholes, catch basins and a water valve box to grade, all together with the necessary appurtenances thereto. It was moved by Mr. Stahl and seconded by Mr. Waddington that this Ordinance be passed under suspension of rules in full accordance of Section 14 of the City Charter. Thereupon the Clerk called the roll on the motion and the vote was as follows: Yeas: Stahl, Edmon, Kaman, Murray, Crandall, Fuqua, Waddington, 7. Nays: 0. Thereupon the Clerk called the roll on final passage of the Ordinance and the vote was as follows: Yeas: Stahl, Edmon, Kaman, Murray, Crandall, Fuqua, Waddington, 7. Nays: 0. The President declared the motion passed.

ITEM#2 – Communication - Warrenette Parthemore, Director of Administrative Services

ORDINANCE NO. 07-033 - Enter into a contract with Robert L. Heneman, PH.D. of Columbus, Ohio, for Professional Consulting Services for a Job Classification and Compensation Study. Moved by Mr. Crandall, seconded by Mr. Edmon to be passed under suspension of rules in full accordance of Section 14 of the City Charter. **Discussion** – Mr. Waddington said under the budget impact, *“Although this project was not included in the 2007 appropriations, it can affect current and future budgets by establishing an equitable basis for wages and negotiations.”*, how are we going to fit this in? Mr. Widman said obviously utility funds are fairly healthy and the biggest concern I assume is on the General Fund. It would not be the full amount, but probably the largest percentage if you’re using the number of employees that we

currently have to be included in the review. If you approve it, we will have to pay for it. Mr. Stahl asked are we or the union prepared for what is going to happen if the rates go up or down? Mr. Edmon said for years we have been operating in the blind by not knowing what those classifications were or what they were supposed to be. It was mentioned enough times so I don't understand where the question is coming from now that we didn't know it was coming.

Mr. Murray said I don't understand what the ramifications are if it turns out that we have more employees that are classified downward correctly than upward? Mr. Icsman said I would echo what Mr. Edmon said about having been a couple of years ago trying to meet with Mr. Edmon and Mr. Crandall about this very issue and spending a lot of meetings together with Margaret Rudolph, who proceeded Warrenette. I think it was collective that Commissioners that were involved and Mr. Will, we all decided that this was a necessary fundamental foundation for fairness in any pay structure that you had and it had not been done here probably in over a decade. By the way it's not employees. It's positions. So it wouldn't be equal to the number of employees necessarily. Mrs. Parthemore said this would not obligate us to raise the rates or lower the wages or anything like that. But what it would do is give us the structure for making management decisions based upon criteria that are established ahead of time and it also includes training for our management staff, as well as for the HR (Human Resources) people. For instance right now I have a number of requests for job title changes for people who believe their job classifications should change based on changes in their duties and things like that. So once we have the structure in place, we can use it for years and years to come. It is my understanding that antidotally between 10 and 15 years ago the City did this, but we can't find that documents anywhere. If we have this system in place, it becomes a living useful document, it is maintained and updated, job descriptions are kept up to date. We can use it to make valid decisions in the future when people come to us to make requests, when a new job is created, we know where to put them in our pay structures.

Mr. Crandall said our unions sat down and bargained in good faith for our contract, which expires December 31, '09 and the labor contracts have nothing to do with the issue at hand. It's for getting a study done for in the future because the pay scales are so far out of line. It's just to have everyone treated fairly and make sure the citizens of Sandusky are paying someone for the job that they do. Discussion.

President Kaman said I guess I'll be the lone "no" on this vote. I understand that we need it. What aggravates me is that we did this five or six years ago, the past Commission, and for reason now we can't find it and obviously we didn't keep it up. How much did we pay for that audit then? Mrs. Parthemore said my understanding was that it was like 10 or 15 years ago and I don't know how much. President Kaman said at this time it is not in the budget, but it should be. We just passed the contract for the three unions where they got nice raises, three percent, there's no health care costs to share in that. I think I disagree with Mr. Murray. I feel we need to look at Section 145 for our Salary Employees first. Sometime in leadership you have to go after the top salaries first before you go after the blue-collar workers. And this is a situation where we have three years now and we should look at 145 first and then as things improve and we find the money and we can put it in next year's budget, then we do this. I just don't think 60% of that \$39,000 should be coming out of the General Fund monies. I just can't support this. Mr. Fuqua said obviously finance is an issue, but I think the main objective is to just get a guideline. And even if we did have the study that was done 10 or 15 years ago, it wouldn't be relevant today because everything has changed 10 to 15 years ago in the private sector and the public sector. Discussion ensued. Thereupon the Clerk called the roll twice, first on the motion and then final passage as follows: Yeas: Stahl, Edmon, Murray, Crandall, Fuqua, Waddington, 6. Nays: Kaman, 1. Ordinance passed.

ITEM#3 – Communication – Ed Widman, Finance Director

ORDINANCE NO. 07-034 - Authorizing and directing the City Manager and/or Finance Director to make payment to the North Central Ohio Municipal Finance Officers Workers Compensation Group Rating Plan. Moved by Mr. Waddington, seconded by Mr. Murray to be passed under suspension of rules in full accordance of Section 14 of the City Charter. Thereupon the Clerk called the roll twice, first on the motion and then final passage as follows: Yeas: Stahl, Edmon, Kaman, Murray, Crandall, Fuqua, Waddington, 7. Nays: 0. Ordinance passed.

ITEM#4 – Communication – Kim A. Nuesse, Chief of Police

ORDINANCE NO. 07-035 - Enter into a Mutual Aid Contract with the Board of Perkins Township Trustees for the Interchange and Use of Police Personnel and Equipment. Moved by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mr. Crandall that this Ordinance be passed under suspension of rules in full accordance of Section 14 of the City Charter. **Discussion** – Mr. Edmon asked was the language different? Chief Nuesse said you're seeing the mutual aid agreement that was drafted 20 years ago (1980). Now the language is simpler and delineates the responsibilities more clearly.

Mr. Murray questioned the mutual aid calls and do they already operate on the same channel? Chief Nuesse said with Perkins Township we have some degree of inner operability on where they can switch to our channel or if we're responding into their jurisdiction at their request, we can switch to their channel. We're a little better because some elements are only with car radios, others are some portable, not all. So that's something we're working towards with them and Huron.

Fire Chief Mike Meinzer said we have a mutual aid contract with most of the communities in our immediate jurisdiction. It's dated about three years ago. Also the whole state in 2002 passed IMAC (Intrastate Mutual Aid Compact), where we can request mutual aid and we work with Toledo. The Clerk called the roll twice, first on the motion and then final passage: Yeas: Stahl, Edmon, Kaman, Murray, Crandall, Fuqua, Waddington, 7. Nays: 0. Passed.

ITEM#5 – A motion was made at meeting of June 11th

ORDINANCE NO. 07-036 - Enter into an agreement with Circuit Rider Management Group of Granville, Ohio, for assistance in the recruitment and selection of a new City Manager. Moved by Mr. Crandall, seconded by Mr. Waddington to be passed under suspension of rules in full accordance of Section 14 of the City Charter. Thereupon the Clerk called the roll twice, first on the motion and then final passage as follows: Yeas: Stahl, Edmon, Kaman, Murray, Crandall, Fuqua, Waddington, 7. Nays: 0. The President declared the Ordinance passed.

ITEM#6 – Communication from the Ohio Department of Liquor Control

Ohio Department of Liquor Control submitting a transfer request of D1, D2, D3, D3A, and D6 from PKM Inc. dba Margaritaville, 212 Fremont Avenue & Patio, Sandusky, Ohio 44870 to Cabana Bob LLC dba Margaritaville, 212 Fremont Avenue & Patio, Sandusky, Ohio 44870. Mr. Waddington moved the Clerk notify Liquor Control the City has no objections. Mr. Crandall seconded, carried.

Under the **City Manager's Report**, Mr. James L. (Don) Miers said we have three **contributions to Sandusky Transit System**: \$150/The Merry-Go-Round Museum. Mr. Crandall moved, Mr. Murray seconded, accepted. Dennis Murray/\$100. Mr. Edmon moved, Mr. Crandall seconded, accepted. Craig & Susan Stahl/\$100. Mr. Edmon moved, Mr. Crandall seconded, accepted.

Under **Old Business**, Mr. Waddington asked the Commission to support having **staff actively looking into hybrid cars or small pick ups for any future new vehicle replacements**. Mr. Miers said the day after I challenged staff and we are working on that already and getting a list together to see which ones apply.

Mr. Edmon said at an earlier meeting we took a look at the **minutes and we kind of downsized them for efficiency** and I'm questioning if we downsized them too much. In the past if we wanted to find out why Commissioners made certain decisions, we'd go back and look at the minutes and that would tell us the discussion that they had and it would give us a clear indication of why they were making decisions. President Kaman asked did he want to work with Mrs. Brown on that? Mr. Edmon said and any other Commissioners that are interested. Mr. Murray said most public corporations have minutes that are a quarter of the length of ours for the same amount of meetings. And I understand that there are different rules that apply to public office. I don't necessarily care about having more details, but what I care about is being able to flag an issue and taking a look at the minutes themselves.

Mr. Crandall inquired of the **ballot language (Marina District)**. Mr. Icsman said I got something a week from Commissioner Murray that was forwarded to bond counsel for review for the next meeting. Mr. Murray said I had made the motion to

put it on the ballot so I took the liberty of working with Don Mears, and Gary and Scott were involved, and we took a look at different formulations of what the language might look like. I sent that proposed language to the two citizens' groups that expressed the most interest in this for feedback.

President Kaman asked how many people did we have downtown on Saturday night during **Bike Week**? Mr. Mears said I was told 65,000 for the three days and I've heard a guesstimate of 15,000 on Saturday. President Kaman said I received a letter from five-business owner's downtown. It says would you Mr. Kaman and Mr. Stahl close off the streets in front of your businesses at your busiest time of the year? We doubt it. Well if they could close off Perkins Avenue or 52nd Street and bring me 15,000 people to my business, please do so. I can't believe that I would get this letter and I'm sorry those owners were upset, but you have my answer on your letter. Mr. Stahl said one of those business owners does a lot of weekend business and his sales were about \$12. Maybe if the City were to keep a couple of spaces open in front of his business next year on his biggest sales day of the year. Mr. Fuqua asked could they **tone the concert down** and remind them of the noise ordinance because there are private residences around these businesses. I don't want it to end though.

Under **New Business**, Mr. Waddington said Mr. Murray and I am working with Care & Share planning a fundraising event on July 7th at the Murray Building & Marina and The Tall Ship Niagara will be at their dock from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Stahl said I move to **nominate Mr. Lee Wieber to the Finance Committee**. Mr. Waddington seconded, and all Commissioners voting "Aye", motion carried.

Mr. Stahl said I **request that on July 23rd, the next Commission meeting, that the Finance Committee be the only presentation on the City Commission agenda to give a first six months of the year report and our budget projections for the remainder of the year and the next two and a half years**. Mr. Murray suggested having hard copies beforehand. *President Kaman said just an executive summary six-month review, you don't need department by department budget.*

Under **Audience Participation**, Mr. Carl Wolf, 221 E. Jefferson Street, said on the West End Overpass ODOT passed out a flyer that said should the total cost exceed \$12,052,732, which was the total amount set in March 2005, the City of Sandusky is responsible for the additional amount. Legislation was prepared in March 2005 clearly stating the City also agreed to pay 100% of the ODOT cost above the ODOT maximum of \$10,193,000, not including the City's part or the railroad's part. Is the City going to be ready to meet unknown financial obligations when that is built?

Barry Riddle, 1338 Fifth Street, commented on blue-collar workers and the fairness of how wages are received in the way of actual money or percentages.

Mr. Bob Rengel, Shelby Street, commented on the handicap ramp at the end of First Street and Wildman needing dirt; trees with samplings growing up around them that needed trimming; on Third Street there was a dead tree with poison ivy growing up; and a tree stub at Farwell and Third where you can't cut the grass around.

Mr. Ginty commented on agenda numbers. Mr. Murray moved that they always include them in the summary of items, the specific amount that is proposed to be spent where it calls for an expenditure of money. Mr. Waddington seconded, carried.

Mr. Scott Meyers, "Mr. Taxi", Cleveland Road; Mr. Tony Butts, 1106 W. Washington; and Mr. Starlin Jackson, 1407 Pierce Street, commented on improper licensing and the disparity of treatment of different taxi companies. The Police Chief explained her department would not be regulating taxis who were fighting because of competition between them. And when there were violations, they were cited.

Mr. Don Schwanger, Perry Street, commented on handicap accessibility of the pier. Mr. Crandall said on that handicap ramp at Jackson Street Pier and it wasn't done yet. Mr. Crandall said there was a motion made and I want it done.

At 7:37 p.m. President Kaman returned to the table and Mr. Fuqua made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Mr. Crandall and carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

B. JOYCE BROWN
CLERK OF THE CITY COMMISSION

DANIEL J. KAMAN, PRESIDENT
SANDUSKY CITY COMMISSION