

EP COUNCIL 4/13/26 85 N. MARKET ST. 7:00 PM

Mayor Conaway called the meeting to order, present was Mr. Glavan, Ms. Herriott, Mr. Povenski and Ms. Stauffer. Mr. Blythe and Mr. Simon were absent due to work obligations, they were excused on a motion made by Mr. Glavan seconded by Ms. Herriott. Student Representative Olivia Snedeker was also not present. Also present was Village Manager Antonio Diaz-Guy, Clerk Misti Martin and Police Chief Chris Weingart. The minutes of the 3/23 meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Glavan seconded by Mr. Glavan. The March 2026 department reports were approved on a motion by Mr. Glavan seconded by Mr. Povenski.

CLERK: Martin stated the Electronics Recycling event is 6/20/26 from 10 am to noon and the Yard Debris pick up program is ongoing until 5/15/26.

MAYOR: Mayor Conaway noted the Kids Fishing Tournament at the Duck Pond was big success and the Community Foundation would be holding their annual golf outing on June 30th.

MANAGER: Manager Diaz-Guy stated the primary location for the new pocket park would be the Municipal Building parking area; the mission is/was to beautify the downtown and integrate the students at the school (Project EP Class) giving real world experience on construction projects. The Village will now take over running the project and anyone we work with must integrate the students. A \$30,000.00 private donation for the project has already been secured and this will be the subject of an upcoming CDBG application for funding. The public parking lot purchase agreement is complete and recorded at the County. In reference to utilities (electric) the Village would be responsible for the account as school districts are not set up to do outside school property accounts, it would basically become part of our park department. The EDA (\$10,000,000) application for infrastructure projects is moving forward with documentation being submitted/accepted; we are waiting for the final grant award. Tonight's legislation also includes the donation of unneeded splash pad equipment to the Village of Lisbon. 25 new nuisance abatement letters (which require a 21-day time frame for compliance) have been mailed out to problem properties; we will be using local as well as ORC which focuses on unsanitary, unsafe and nuisance properties. After the 21-day time frame if abatement has not been completed each property will go to council for a vote on being a nuisance at which time either the Village or a private contractor will remove the debris and cost will be assessed to property taxes. As well as the yard debris pick up program, we are also working on a clean up day to help residents clean up their properties so they avoid becoming a nuisance. In reference to the 2026 road paving, that will go out to bid after the 30-day waiting period is up. The legislation for the ARC/GOA grant is applied for by the Port Authority for other communities is asking for authority to apply for the funding to help eliminate sanitary bottlenecks in the system. The award would be \$250,000 with a match of the remaining funds; we would then go after EPA and Ohio Public Works funding for the match. There is now a liquor agency license available for EP, they are issued by the State of Ohio and go up for auction with May 12 being the deadline. The Youngstown Warren Chamber of Commerce DC Fly In is a networking event; the fee is \$800.00 for two days plus the hotel. Manager Diaz-Guy stated he would drive there and pay for his own transportation and meals; he is asking for Council's approval to attend. Mr. Glavan motioned to approve the request for attendance including fees and meals seconded by Mr. Povenski. Passed unanimously. Permission from Council was requested to donate five single pool passes to raffle at the upcoming Home Repair Fair. Ms. Stauffer made the motion seconded by Mr. Povenski. Passed unanimously. In reference to the new Gov't Services Complex, a requirement for this project (which is already in the budget) is to purchase wetland replacement credits; this basically means if a wetland is disturbed due to construction you basically have to purchase a wetland in another location at a high cost; the credit we must purchase is approximately \$260,000.00. Councilwoman Herriott who previously worked in the mining field would look into if there are any other more reasonable options for purchasing the credits. Mayor Conaway stated previous discussion was held in reference to a plaque at the cemetery/mausoleum for recognizing the efforts of resident/Park Board member Karen Gorby to which Manager Diaz-Guy stated he would look into it.

STREET: March's monthly report for the Street Dept. listed normal facility/equipment maintenance, various street signs were replaced as well as "one way" and "do not enter" signage

placed at the top of the hill of the park entrance, cold patching and catch basin maintenance were performed, various jobs at the cemetery including marking and leveling off graves, continue yard debris/storm damage pick up. Discussion followed as to the issue of ongoing traffic going out the park entrance and how it should/would be handled.

PARK/REC/CEM: Ms. Stauffer noted the fish stocking at the Duck Pond is complete (anyone sixteen or over fishing at the pond must have a valid fishing license), the Easter weekend events had a great turnout. Phase 2 of the park project is still on schedule with the hope of opening the pool Memorial weekend. Phase 3 is moving forward with a pre-construction meeting forthcoming. Park rentals totaled \$350 for the month of March. Normal operations, prepping the pond for stocking, prepping baseball fields for the upcoming season as well as demolishing/cleaning up of dug outs. Fencing has been replaced on the walking trail, Brick Pavilion and restrooms have been opened for the season. Park Board will meet on 4/15 at the Municipal Building, DOG Days May 9th with sign up forms available at the office or online, walk ins are welcome. Ms. Stauffer motioned for the Village Manager to look into finding a suitable solution for a roof at the new stage in the park within his spending threshold; Mr. Glavan seconded the motion, passed unanimously. In reference to the baseball fields Ms. Stauffer noted a lot of people would like to see the sport brought back to the park; she motioned for the Village Manager to research/develop a suitable solution also within his spending threshold to get the fields ready to play on this season.

DEV/FIN: Ms. Herriott stated fifteen residential permits totaling \$495 were issued in the month of March and three commercial permits issued by Elevate, contractor registrations totaled \$900.00 and \$600.00 in vacant structure registrations. A six-million-dollar CDARS deposit with Huntington Bank matured on April 2, 2026 generating \$247,280.00 in interest; all funds were transferred into a Huntington ICS account which is earning interest at a rate of 2.35%. The March digital newsletter was emailed to 1499 residents; businesses can purchase advertisements from epohio.org; these ads help offset the cost of the printed newsletters. In reference to social media, FB posts will be made between 6:00 and 8:00 pm which is the most active time frame; followers are favoring community activity, community improvement and positive posts. Ms. Herriott attended a Direction Home meeting with Barb Kliner to learn about available programs for the aging community. The EP Act group in coordination with Project EP Class, the Builders Trade class and the Chamber will be holding a Home Repair fair on 4/18. An update for the CIC includes the soil borings for the Plaza should be done in the next week with design calls resuming this week, the lease with the new tenant of the Train Depot has been signed, the CDBG Flex Grant has been approved however we are waiting on the hard copy. In reference to the former Jasar property the board has decided to sell the property as opposed to renting and they are still working with the Land Bank for the Welcome Home Ohio Grant for the house on the property. They will also be reviewing estimates for repairs for 90/94 N. Market St. which are costly so they have asked for new bare bone's estimates. There will be a special meeting on 4/20 to approve the 2025 financial statements as well as various invoices that need paid and approving the sale of 367 Clark St. to the Land Bank for the Welcome Home Ohio Grant.

WATER/WASTEWATER: Austin Cope started with the WS Departments filling the open position left by Denny Griffiths retirement. March's rain/snow totals contributed to the 3rd highest monthly total of treated water at the WW Plant in the last 5 years. The EQ basin continues work helping to prevent sewer backs up and sanitary sewer overflows. The entire water system was checked for leaks in an effort to stay proactive. Repairs: Hydrant repair on Garfield \$331.00, water main break Liberty \$2435.00, hydrant replacement n. Liberty \$7624.00, service line leak E. North Ave. \$238.00. March water production 11.579 million gallons, waste water treated 32.375 million gallons. 84 disconnection notices were mailed, 48 second notices were hand delivered resulting in 6 accounts being shut off for non-payment.

SAFETY: Mr. Povenski stated Chief Weingart recently completed a new chiefs training program in Dublin Ohio, Sgt. Moore continues to teach DARE to 6th graders, March saw 307 calls for service resulting in 122 reports. FD saw 41 fire incidents in March, assisted PD twice and responded 15 times for wires/trees down. They attended firefighter survival/ladder training and completed yearly ladder/hose testing. The new Sutphen engine was placed in service as of March 31. Ems activity totaled 116 incidents; 79 in the village, 18 mutual aid and 6 in New Waterford. 11 calls were dropped; 7 the squad was already on duty and no one duty crew for the other 7.

VISITORS: John Davis, Barb Kliner, Peggy Caratelli, Rick Gorby, Carol Harvey, Dan McKinstry, John Hersch, and Jason Whitehead.

LEGISLATION: Mr. Glavan introduced Res. 7-2026 for a third reading and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Ms. Stauffer. **An ordinance amending the charges and rent for use of the village of East Palestine's sewer and waterworks system.** Mr. Glavan called for a vote on Ord. 7-2026 seconded by Ms. Stauffer. Passed unanimously. Mr. Glavan introduced Ord. 8-2026 for a third reading and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Povenski. **An ordinance amending the codified ordinances of the Village of East Palestine to establish Chapter 248.10 "Rate Structure-Marketing Department" authorizing marketing and advertising fees.** Mr. Glavan called for a vote on Ord. 8-2026 seconded by Ms. Herriott. Passed unanimously. Mr. Glavan introduced Ord. 9-2026 for a third reading and motioned that it be read by title only seconded by Ms. Stauffer. **An ordinance amending chapter 248.5 Parks and Recreation of the codified ordinances of the Village of East Palestine to update and reaffirm park, facility and pool rate structures; establish residency definition; and adopt administrative, refund, weather and damage provisions.** Mr. Glavan called for a vote on Ord. 9-2026 seconded by Ms. Stauffer. Passed unanimously. Mr. Glavan introduced Ord. 11-2026 for a second reading and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Ms. Stauffer. **An ordinance approving the execution of a Community Reinvestment Area agreement among the Village of East Palestine, the East Palestine Community Improvement Corporation, and Black Diamond Brewing and Distribution Company LLC doing business as Black Diamond Brewery/Distillery.** Mr. Glavan introduced Ord. 12-2026 for a second reading and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Povenski. **An ordinance amending ordinance No. 12-97 of the Village of East Palestine to modify regulations governing monuments and markers within Glenview Cemetery.** Mr. Glavan introduced Ord. 13-2026 for a first reading and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Povenski. **An ordinance amending codified ordinance 242.02 the age requirements for original appointment to the Police division/auxiliary police unit.** Mr. Glavan introduced Res. 13-2026 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Ms. Stauffer. **A resolution requesting the County Auditor to certify certain tax valuation information in anticipation of levying a tax in excess of the ten-mill limitation.** Mr. Glavan called to vote seconded by Ms. Herriott. Passed unanimously. Mr. Glavan introduced Res. 14-2026 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Ms. Herriott. **A resolution authorizing the Village Manager to transfer and donate surplus splash pad equipment to the Village of Lisbon, Ohio.** Mr. Glavan called to vote seconded by Ms. Herriott. Passed unanimously. Mr. Glavan introduced Res. 15-2026 and motioned it be read by title only seconded by Ms. Herriott. **A resolution authorizing the Village Manager to pursue grant funding and engage professional design/engineering services for the East Palestine Downtown Pocket Park Project.** Mr. Glavan called to vote seconded by Ms. Herriott. Passed unanimously. Mr. Glavan introduced Res. 16-2025 and motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Povenski. **A resolution designating the East Palestine Community Improvement Corporation as agent, for the purpose of developing, leasing, selling or otherwise encouraging economic development on specified real estate owned by the Village of East Palestine, Ohio.** Mr. Glavan motioned to vote seconded by Ms. Herriott. Passed unanimously. Mr. Glavan introduced Res. 17-2025 and motioned it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Povenski. **Authorizing participation in the ODOT road salt contract awarded in 2026.** Mr. Glavan called the vote seconded by Ms. Herriott. Passed unanimously. Mr. Glavan introduced Res. 18-2026 and motioned it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Povenski. **A resolution authorizing the Village Manager to coordinate with the Columbiana County Port Authority for the application, administration and execution of documents related to an Appalachian Regional Commission/Governor's Office of Appalachia (ARC/GOA) grant for sanitary infrastructure improvements.** Mr. Glavan motioned to vote seconded by Ms. Herriott. Passed unanimously.

ADJOURN: Mr. Glavan motioned to adjourn seconded by Ms. Stauffer. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

MISTI J. MARTIN CLERK

MAYOR TRENT CONAWAY