

## EP COUNCIL 4/22/25 85 N. MARKET ST. 7:00 PM

Mayor Conaway called the meeting to order. Present was Mr. Blythe, Mr. Glavan, Ms. Herriot, Dr. Rocco and Mr. Simon. Mr. Povenski was absent for personal family reasons, a motion to excuse Mr. Povenski was made by Mr. Glavan seconded by Ms. Herriott. Also present was Village Manager Antonio Diaz-Guy, Law Director David Powers, Police Chief Jim Brown, and Clerk Misti Martin. At this time Dr. Rocco read out loud her letter of resignation effective immediately and then left the meeting. The minutes of the March 24<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Glavan seconded by Mr. Simon. The March 2025 department reports were approved on a motion by Mr. Glavan seconded by Mr. Blythe. There was no clerks or law directors' reports.

**MAYOR:** Mayor Conaway announced letters of interest for the vacant council seat will be accepted until Friday May 9 and noted council should also be considering who will fill the EPCIC vacancy left by Dr. Rocco's resignation.

**MANAGER:** Manager Diaz-Guy stated park updates continue to be posted online and the tentative Phase 1 completion date is May 29. Phase 2 of the park project will include re-routing of traffic pattern to maintain a safe working environment; the change will be published at a later date. Updates for what the various village teams are working on will continue to be posted. The plan for systematic exterior housing inspections will be ramping up. The ODOT paving project has begun the 150-year celebration for the Village is set for July 12 with a tentative event map to be published in the next newsletter. The Community Volunteer Program is up and running, stop in the Municipal Building for an application and we will source a project for you. A cleanup project will be held at the PNC lot is scheduled for April 23. In reference to the NS settlement funds received by the village those monies have been secured in a series of one-, two- or three-year cd's to generate interest while waiting for purposeful use projects. The money was allocated as follows: 2.17 million in a six-month investment which includes some of the required match for the safety complex, the depot renovations, ongoing attorneys/legal fees and \$500,000.00 for additional economic development as council sees fit. 7.2 million in a one-year investment, this is allocated for infrastructure repair including roads, additional matching funds for the safety service complex, a variety of ambulance/fire truck needs and one million will go towards additional economic development as council sees fit.; specifically, the east end where heavy truck traffic occurred. The infrastructure funds will not be used until all truck traffic is complete at which time a paving/culvert repair plan will be designed. There is 4 million unallocated dollars in a two-year investment fund and 9 million in a three-year fund for future projects not yet defined. A motion was then requested to approve the CRA (Tax Abatement) application for Robert/Marilyn Figley. Ms. Herriott made the motion seconded by Mr. Glavan. Passed unanimously. It was noted these abatements are anywhere from five to fifteen years to help incentivize residential/commercial property improvement. The residential program can be completed up to six months after and the commercial application must be completed prior to the start of the project.

**STREET:** Mr. Simon stated patch work/catch basin cleaning continues. Cleaned/maintained recycling bin areas as well as the Bridgers at Liberty & Walnut St. as well as dug and re-based Mead Lane off of McCalla. Pot hole repair and bridge cleaning will continue through out the coming weeks.

**PARK/REC/CEM:** Mayor Conaway stated the new mower was received, normal daily operations and turned water on to all winterized facilities, finished landscaping at the duck

pond, made repairs to Rainbow Dreamland, maintained ball fields and prepping for the disc golf tournament.

**FINANCE/DEVELOPMENT:** Ms. Herriott stated the first leadership training workshop was well received and the next one will be May 5<sup>th</sup>. The start up business workshop set up by the Chamber through RCAP was completed on April 10. She stated she, Melissa Hiner and Roberta Seiffert met with Lance Willard of Columbiana about youth engagement and also met with Emily Randolph at the high school about a youth council. The EPCIC has engaged Strollo architects out of Youngstown to do full design at the Depot; they have also met with a future tenant and are designing the space for their use. Grant pre-applications have been submitted to ARC seeking a \$250,000 grant; they will be seeking another \$250,000 grant from another source so the project will be mostly grant funded if successful. Strollo has also been asked to come up with a preliminary design for the PNC lot to create visitor draw including a green space. The next EPCIC meeting is May 27.

**WATER/WASTEWATER:** Mr. Blythe stated things are operating as normal. A hydrant was replaced on E. North, did work on Hamilton Booster.

**SAFETY:** Mayor Conaway stated the PD has answered 1287 calls year to date resulting in 371 reports, Officer Brian Moore is working on the 2025 DARE program. Officers also spent time on foot patrol in the business district. FD has 124 calls, 18 fire only and 93 EMS. On March 19<sup>th</sup> between 4 and 6 pm the department rain 6 calls, zero calls were dropped during this time.

#### **THERE WERE NO VISITORS COMMENTS ON CURRENT LEGISLATION**

**VISITORS:** Steph Elverd, Scott Wolfe, Dave Biggins, Dan MckInstry, Jerry Coblentz, Dot Herbert.

**LEGISLATION:** Prior to the start of legislation Mr. Glavan made a motion to appoint Mr. Chad Randolph and Mr. Curtis Veiock to the Zoning Board of Appeals, the motion was seconded by Mr. Blythe. Passed unanimously. Mr. Glavan introduced Ord. 1-2025 for a seconded reading and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Simon. **An ordinance amending § 1068.05 (r) Cemetery regulations of the codified ordinances of East Palestine, Ohio.** Mr. Glavan introduced Ord. 2-2025 for a second reading and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Simon. **An ordinance authorizing the Municipal Manager to advertise for public bids for construction/paving to be known as the 2025 street resurfacing project and to further award and enter into a contract with the lowest and best bidder as relates to the contract, pursuant to the specifications and bidding requirements as determined by the Municipal Manager and in compliance with law.** Mr. Glavan introduced Ord. 4-2025 for a second reading and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Blythe. **An ordinance amending sections of Chapter 888 of the codified ordinances of the East Palestine, Ohio.** (CRA Program). Mr. Glavan introduced Ord. 5-2025 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Simon. **An ordinance authoring the Finance Director to make supplemental appropriations for the City of East Palestine, Ohio for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2025 and declaring an emergency.** Mr. Glavan introduced Res. 7-2025 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Blythe. **A resolution authorizing and directing the village Finance Director to encumber the sum of five million two hundred seventy-six thousand dollars (\$ 5,276,000.00) as the potential required local match for the fifteen million eight hundred thousand dollar (\$15,800,000.00) grant from the United States**

**Department of Agriculture (USDA) for the purpose of construction of a new municipal structure, including police and fire department facilities, and further authorizing the finance director to disburse said funds, in the amount of twenty-five percent (25%) per construction draws as submitted to and approved by the USDA, Rural Development Agency and the Village of East Palestine Manager.** Mr. Glavan called for a vote on Res.7-2025. Passed unanimously. Mr. Glavan introduced Res.8-2025 seconded by Mr. Blythe. **A resolution authorizing participation in the odot road salt contracts awarded in 2025.** Mr. Glavan called for a vote on Res. 8-2025. Passed unanimously.

**ADJOURN:** Mr. Glavan made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Mr. Blythe. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

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**MISTI J. MARTIN CLERK**

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**MAYOR TRENT CONAWAY**