

EP COUNCIL 4/27/26 85 N. MARKET ST. 7:00 PM

Mayor Pro Tem Barb Herriott called the meeting to order, Mayor Conaway was absent. Present was Mr. Blythe, Mr. Glavan, Mr. Povenski, Mr. Simon and Ms. Stauffer. Also present was Village Manager Antonio Diaz-Guy, Finance Director Melissa Hiner, Police Chief Chris Weingart and Clerk Misti Martin. The minutes of the 4/13 meeting (with a correction of the CF Golf outing date being the 20th not 30th) were approved on a motion by Mr. Glavan seconded by Mr. Povenski. There were no reports from the following: Mayor, Street, Water/Wastewater, or Safety.

MANAGER: Manager Diaz-Guy stated May 8th will be launch of a Village wide software update, Microsoft 365/Entra. Before council is a proposal for ball field upgrades including fence line repair and new dugouts with a plan for bleachers to be developed at a later date. In reference to the wetland issue at the location of the new government service complex it was stated the Army Corps of Engineers dictates the wetland study and also where the credits are to be purchased; they must be purchased from a provider within the same water shed. Additionally in simplifying the design of the complex by condensing the footprint the structure can be moved/rotated on the site which will get a portion of the building out of the wetland area. In reference to the Marketing Coordinator position update it is basically pivoting the role from part time to full time. In reference to the Small Business Grant Program, it was stated the plan would be administered by the Chamber of Commerce. It will be a 50/50 matching grant for property & business owners that would have to be paid back if not performed or done on time and forgiven if completed. Mr. Glavan motioned for Manager Diaz-Guy to draw legislation to move forward with the grant program with the initial seed money of \$25,000 to the Chamber coming from settlement funds. The motion was seconded by Mr. Simon. Passed unanimously. In reference to the JEDD, it was stated the idea is the Village would move certain services to certain areas of Unity Township with commercial, agricultural and vacant parcels in exchange for the ability to levy an income tax equal to that inside Village limits, it legally excludes existing residences. There is an agreed upon contract between the Village & the township. The EPCIC has an option contract on a business park property on Rt. 14, funding has been secured for utility expansion/design in the area. Letters of interest from parties interested in moving into a future business park have been secured. A planned utility expansion would go up Howell Rd., across Rt 14 to service the business park and down Brookdale (this would require a water tower). Joining the JEDD is 100% optional. Required documentation includes the JEDD contract, the Economic Development Plan, a map with all included parcels, plus signed petitions from business/property owners within the district consenting to be in; there is then a thirty-day notice for public hearing during which time all documentation will be available for public viewing as well as legislation being read at the township and Village Council. After the public hearing it will then be voted on by both the Village and Township at which time Board will be established consisting of one landowner and one business owner from the Township, one land owner and one business owner from the Village and a fifth member chosen by the other four.

PARK/REC/CEM: Ms. Stauffer noted DOG Days Is May 9th with lunch to be provided by Park Board and EPGO. Planning for a concert in the park at the Gazebo in June is in process. In reference to the gas line for the park, the project is moving quicker than expected so there is a possibility the tie in could happen before originally expected. Everything else is going as planned with the expectation of finishing by Memorial Day. State inspections are required and those cannot be scheduled until the project is complete. In reference to Phase 3 we are making efforts to cap our overall cost exposure to overages.

DEV/FIN: Council chose to continue the student representative for next school year. Ms. Herriott stated the EP ACT Home Repair Fair in conjunction with the Chamber and other organizations was held on 4/18 with well over 150 people attending. In reference to the EPCIC, soil borings on the plaza were performed last week, it will go out to bid after results are received; we excited to announce Black Diamond Distillery to the Train Depot. They continue to work with Platz Realty on a prospective sale/lease at the former Jasar property. The board also toured 90 N. market St. (the old Chinese restaurant). The goal was for all members to see the property prior to making any decisions and explore cost effective ways for needed repairs. 94 N. Market is still for rent with the rent being negotiable. A special meeting was held last week to approve yearly financial filings as well as payment of certain invoices. The sale of 367 E. Clark St. to the Port Authority for the

Welcome Home Ohio Program is completed and the next regular EPCIC meeting is 4/28 @ 10:00 am. Mr. Glavan thanked the Community Foundation for a grant in the amount of \$4125.00 for the Chamber of Commerce to purchase a mobile putt putt course. This will be used for fundraising and to rent out to local events. Manager Diaz-Guy noted the Pocket Park project with the students is moving forward and that he and Marketing Coordinator Courtney will work with the students to apply for CDBG funding for the project

VISITORS: Dot Herbert, Barb Kliner, John Davis, Mark Rhodes, Joe Della Volle, Pam/ Figley, Carol Harvey, Dan McKinstry, Dave Biggins, Laura Lynn Rainville.

LEGISLATION: Mr. Glavan introduced Ord. 11-2026 for a third reading and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Simon. **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 called for a vote seconded by Mr. Simon, passed unanimously. Mr. Glavan introduced Ord. 12-2026 for a third reading and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Ms. Stauffer. **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 called for a vote seconded by Mr. Povenski, passed unanimously. Mr. Glavan introduced Ord. 13-2026 for a second reading and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Ms. Stauffer. **An ordinance amending codified ordinance 242.02 the age requirements for original appointment to the Police division/auxiliary police unit.** Mr. Glavan introduced Ord. 14-2026 for a first reading and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Ms. Stauffer. **An ordinance amending the classification of the marketing coordinator position from part time to full time within the Village of East Palestine.** Mr. Glavan introduced Res. 19-2026 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Simon. **A resolution declaring it necessary to levy a renewal tax (in excess of the ten mill limitation) for two (2.0) mills, for the purpose of providing and maintaining motor vehicles, communications, other equipment, buildings and sites for such buildings used directly in operation of a police department, for the payment of salaries of permanent or part time police, communications, or administrative personnel to operate the same, including the payment of any employer contributions required for such personnel under section 145.48 or 742.33 of the revised code.** Mr. Glavan called for a vote seconded by Mr. Blythe. Passed unanimously.

ADJOURN: Prior to adjournment resident discussion happened in reference to Ord. 13-2026 (lowering age requirements to 18 for appointment to the police division/auxiliary police) with residents Laura Lynn Rainville and Joseph Della Volle both stating they think it is a bad idea due to maturity levels and brain development. Manager Diaz-Guy stated lowering the age to 18 does not mean they will be immediately employed or a full-time officer, we do hire auxiliary which is basically an officer in training. They must complete OPATA classes which takes upwards of a year and half as well as complete the departments rigorous training program prior to being on patrol which would take them to almost 20 years old. Police Chief Chris Weingart stated the current age for auxiliary police is also 19. Diaz-Guy stated the goal is not to specifically hire 18-year old's, it is to expand the overall ability to hire the best candidate for the job. Councilman Simon added that each candidate needs to be looked at individually, it is possible to have an 18-year-old who is more competent than a 24-year-old in the same job position. With no further business Mr. Glavan motioned to adjourn the meeting seconded by Mr. Blythe. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

MISTI J. MARTIN CLERK

MAYOR PRO TEM BARBARA HERRIOTT