

EP COUNCIL 12/30/24 85 N. MARKET ST. 7:00 PM

Mayor Conaway called the meeting to order. Present was Mr. Blythe, Mr. Glavan, Ms. Herriott, and Mr. Povenski. Dr. Rocco was absent, Mr. Glavan made a motion to excuse the absence seconded by Mr. Blythe. Also present was Finance Director Melissa Hiner, Law Director David Powers, Fire Chief Keith Drabick, and Clerk/Interim Manager Misti Martin. At this time Mr. Glavan made a motion to appoint John Simon to the vacant council seat, the motion was seconded by Mr. Povenski. Passed unanimously. Mr. Simon was then sworn in. There were no department reports, mayor's, park/rec/cem, development/finance reports.

AGENDA: NS/EPA PROGRESS UPDATE- Mr. Chris Hunsicker of NS reiterated that they seeing nothing indicative of the need to remove the railroad tracks and that they are still seeing low level impacts in the water in a very localized area at the east end of the site. Taggart St. is now open without speed limitations, there will be future work around the site but that will be done with flaggers. There is no intention to close Taggart again. Areas of previous spot digs are being restored back to previous conditions. Very soon they will begin removing the sheet piling around the areas where the large blue tanks were located and begin restoration there also. Eric Pohl of EPA stated the double check sampling is completed and reviewing all of the data to make sure everything is still good. The east end sampling is also complete; this data is also being analyzed to help address the last small piece of property near the state line. **BARB KLINER EP GO-** Ms. Kliner stated EPGO is now a 501C3 organization. She stated they are now partnering with the Golden Friends Program; they will pair volunteers with homebound people to go and visit them twice a month. There is a required training to be a volunteer and that cost is covered by a grant. They will hold a meeting at the Moose Lodge on Tuesday January 7 at 10:00 am to give additional information on the program. The training focuses on suicide prevention; she added the suicide rate is very high for older people, especially men. She added that she has also given out five applications for the Habitat for Humanity home repair program.

CLERK/INTERIM MANAGER: Martin stated things are slowing down on the park project due to weather/holidays. The sport court curb work has been completed and the electrical services are being built. In reference to phase II, the pool plans will hopefully be submitted to the state health department around the first of the year. A Park/Rec/Cem Committee meeting will be held on the 13th at 6:00 pm prior to the regular meeting to discuss the 2025 pool season and how it should be handled. The two new 8-ton trucks for the Street Department that were paid for by grants are in and are currently being outfitted, we hope to have them on the road by the end of February. Council will need choose a member to fill the vacancy on the CIC Board left by Linda's passing, per ORC/CIC Rules this is a council appointment and should be a member of the village/council. Finally, Martin requested an executive session under ORC 121.22 G1 to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensations of a public employee.

MAYOR: At this time Mayor Conaway asked for nominations to the CIC Board. Mr. Povenski stated he feels Ms. Herriott would be an asset to the board and nominated her. Mr. Glavan seconded the motion.

LAW DIRECTOR: Atty. Powers requested an executive session under ORC 121.22 G3 to discuss pending litigation.

STREET: Mr. Glavan thanked Ohio Edison who responded to the power outage due to a weather event.

UTILITY: Mr. Blythe noted that with the power outage there were two booster pumps on the North side of town working off of generators so there will be no loss of flow/pressure.

SAFETY: Mr. Povenski thanked the safety service forces as well as the Street Dept. who were out working during the storm. At this time Fire Chief Drabick stated previously there was a significant lull in information on the new training center, that has since changed after a meeting with NS where discussion took place about several changes that were needed to the plans. The architects are working on the changes and another meeting for more updates will take place the end of January, more information is forthcoming.

THERE WERE NO VISITORS COMMENTS ON CURRENT LEGISLATION

VISITORS: Barb Kliner, Nicole Drabick, Kent Chapman, Rick & Karen Gorby, Jeremy Vranesevich, Dan McKinstry, Antonio Diaz-Guy, Christina Dilworth, Steph Elverd, Kim Brock and Traci Spratt.

LEGISLATION: Mr. Glavan made a motion to amend the agenda to add ordinance 21-2024, law director contract, the motion was seconded by Mr. Povenski, all in favor. Mr. Glavan introduced Ord. 17-2024 for a third reading and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Blythe. * Note that Mr. Simon abstained from voting on legislation as he was just sworn in and didn't have a chance to read it ahead of time* **An ordinance adopting the negotiated addition to the terms of the collective bargaining agreement between the Village of East Palestine (employer) and the Fraternal Order of Police, Ohio Labor Council, inc. (union) related to the canine officer terms of employment, effective January 1, 2025.** Mr. Glavan called for a vote on Ord. 17-2024. Four yes to pass. Mr. Glavan introduced Ord. 18-2024 for a third reading and made a motion that it be read by title only, seconded by Mr. Povenski. **An ordinance adopting a wage scale and other updates to be incorporated in the personnel policy handbook (white book).** Mr. Glavan called for a vote on Ord. 18-2024. Four yes to pass. Mr. Glavan introduced Ord. 20-2024 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Blythe. **An ordinance authorizing the Finance Director to make supplemental appropriations for the City of East Palestine, Ohio for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2024 and declaring an emergency.** Mr. Glavan made a motion to suspend the rules and declare an emergency seconded by Mr. Blythe. Four yes to pass. Mr. Glavan called for a vote on Ord. 20-2024. Four yes to pass. Mr. Glavan introduced Ord. 21-2024 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Povenski. **An ordinance authorizing the village manager to enter into a contract with David P. Powers, to serve as the municipal attorney for a one-year term, commencing January 1, 2025, in accordance with the terms of the previous contract, which is hereby incorporated by reference.** Mr. Glavan made a motion to suspend the rules and declare an emergency seconded by Mr. Povenski. Four yes to pass. Mr. Glavan introduced Res. 24-2024 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Blythe. **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. Povenski then made a motion to direct the clerk to advertise for a new law director as Atty. Powers will be resigning at the end of 2025. Mr. Glavan seconded the motion, passed unanimously. Mr. Glavan called for a vote on Res. 24-2024. Four yes to pass. At this time Mr. Povenski made a motion to go into executive session (see the previous requests) per ORC code sections 121.22 G1 and G3 inviting in Atty. Powers, Finance Director Melissa Hiner, Traci Spratt and Clerk/Interim Manager, there would no business to follow. The motion was seconded by Mr. Glavan and passed unanimously.

ADJOURN: After executive session Mr. Glavan made motions to return to regular session as well as adjourn the meeting, the motions were seconded by Mr. Blythe and passed unanimously.

MISTI J. MARTIN CLERK

MAYOR TRENT CONAWAY