

## EP COUNCIL 2/10/25 85 N. MARKET ST. 7:00 PM

Mayor Conaway called the meeting to order. Present was Mr. Blythe, Mr. Glavan, Ms. Herriot, Mr. Povenski and Mr. Simon. Dr. Rocco was not present, her absence was excused on a motion by Mr. Glavan seconded by Mr. Simon. Also present was Interim manager/clerk Misti Martin, Law Director David Powers, Finance director Melissa Hiner, Police Chief Jim Brown, Street Superintendent Steve Baird, and Fire Chief Keith Drabick. The minutes of the regular meeting of 1/27 and the special meeting of 1/28 were approved on a motion by Mr. Glavan seconded by Mr. Blythe. The January 2025 department reports were approved on a motion by Mr. Povenski seconded by Ms. Herriot. There were no agenda items or law directors report.

**CLERK/INTERIM MANAGER:** Martin stated that per NS/Michael Baker that phase one of the park project should be completed by the end of May; the bids for revised phase two of the park project were in but still being reviewed. The Welcome to EP sign is still on schedule for early/mid spring and has a 90-day completion schedule once started. NS is still working on the bill of sale/long term lease for the train depot. Bricker Graydon is throwing their hat in the ring for the law director position when Atty. Powers retires next year, a proposal was in council packets.

**MAYOR:** Mayor Conaway stated the Fire Association has opted to not hold the fireworks this year because of safety issues with the ongoing construction at the park.

**STREET:** Mr. Simon stated the Street Crew continued to plow/salt as necessary, Christmas decorations were removed, equipment cleaned/maintained and that Superintendent Baird is looking into a BWC grant for mowing equipment. The two new trucks for the department are now delayed possibly May.

**PARK/REC/CEM:** Mayor Conaway stated the tennis courts will not be started until May so the tennis should be good to have most of their spring season at the park. At this time Martin stated that there are now budgetary concerns due to bid pricing that need to be addressed. Michael Baker provided some suggestions as far as potential cuts to save money. A special meeting was called for Tuesday February 18 at 6:00 to review the project as whole. Mayor Conaway requested that Michael Baker be in attendance the meeting and bring detailed financial information for discussion.

**DEV/FIN:** Ms. Herriot stated in meeting with Robert Streiffert of RCAP there are leadership programs available for council members/department heads. It is an 8-hour workshop that she would teach; at the end of the program there will be an action plan to help council set goals for the year that can then be passed along to the new manager. Ms. Herriot stated there is also a business development plan that RCAP will also host; the course will provide a foundation for a business plan for new startups or a refresher for existing business owners. This program will be through Chamber of Commerce. They also discussed the RCAP/Think Tank group; they will be holding a place audit for the pnc lot and that she is also working on reorganizing the group and if anyone has suggestions for the group to please let her know so they can get the group moving again. The last thing they discussed was youth engagement; they have met with the leadership class at the high school and they are working on a project to present to council. She added council had previously discussed a youth position for council and wanted to know what everyone thought about it, if everyone was in favor she would gather more info on the project.

**UTILITY:** Mr. Blythe stated it was normal operations/routine maintenance at both plants and he congratulated Graeme O'leary for obtaining his water license.

**SAFETY:** Mr. Povenski stated for the month of January PD responded to 453 calls for service and FD responded to 105 calls; EMS missed six calls all due to the squad already being out. Mayor Conaway stated a Safety Committee meeting was needed in the near future to discuss training for the PD & FD since the training center was taken away.

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

**VISITORS:** Nicole Drabick, Mark Rhodes, John Davis, Jerry Coblenz, Ashley Murphy, David Peters, Barb Kliner, Dave Biggins, Dan McKinstry, Ron & Peggy Caratelli, Rick Gorby, Kent Chapman, Steph Elverd and Traci Spratt.

**LEGISLATION:** Mr. Glavan introduced Res. 3-2025 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Povenski. **A resolution authorizing the interim manager to accept a 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.** Mr. Glavan called for a vote on Res. 3-2025 seconded by Mr. Simon. Passed unanimously. Mr. Glavan introduced Res.4-2025 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Blythe. **A resolution establishing a special fund for the proceeds from a settlement agreement with Norfolk Southern Railway Company and Norfolk Southern Corporation and committing such proceeds to amelioration of damages resulting from the Norfolk Southern Train Derailment.** Mr. Glavan called for a vote on Res.4-2025 seconded by Mr. Blythe. Passed unanimously. At this time Mr. Povenski made a motion to go into executive session per ORC 121.22 G 8 to consider confidential information regarding marketing plan/business strategy and G 1 to consider the appointment of a public employee inviting in Atty. Powers, Misti Martin, Melissa Hiner and Traci Spratt. The motion was seconded by Mr. Simon and passed unanimously. There would be no business afterwards.

**ADJOURN:** At approximately 8:30 pm Mr. Povenski made motions to return to regular session as well as adjourn the meeting. Both motions seconded by Mr. Glavan. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

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**MISTI J. MARTIN CLERK**

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**MAYOR TRENT CONAWAY**