

**E.P. VILLAGE COUNCIL 2/14/22 85 N. MARKET ST. 7:00 PM**

Mayor Conaway called the meeting to order, present was Ms. May, Dr. Rocco, Mr. Runnion, Mr. Simpson, and Mr. Walker. Mr. Povenski was out of town; Mr. Simpson made a motion to approve the absence seconded by Mr. Walker. Also present was Manager Mark McTrusty, Finance Director Traci Spratt, Law Director David Powers and Clerk Misti Martin. The minutes of the Dev/Finance Committee meeting and the regular meeting of 1/24/22 were approved on a motion by Mr. Walker seconded by Mr. Runnion. The January 2022 monthly reports were approved on a motion by Mr. Walker seconded by Dr. Rocco. There were no agenda items.

**CLERK:** Clerk Misti Martin stated that a Planning Commission meeting would be held Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm to review a request for replat from John Varley and Mary Ellen Robinson and also reminded Council that a Finance/Development meeting was to be held on Feb 28 at 6:00 pm prior to the regular meeting.

**MAYOR:** Mayor Conaway stated the East Palestine Community Foundation is hosting a Family Feud Trivia Night at the Eagles on March 5.

**MANAGER:** Manager McTrusty stated that in reference to the EQ basin project all items that needed installed for the occupancy permit have been completed as well the occupancy permit for the buildings has been issued. The generator has been installed and is waiting on inspection, he paving and the SCADA system will not be complete until the end of 2022. McTrusty stated he gave Council copies of the renewal for our discharge permit at the sewer plant. In reference to personnel McTrusty stated the Fire Chief Drabik has been in office this week and will be at the Council meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> with his family for a formal introduction, Zach Gorby was chosen for the open Street Department position and finally he stated that Kelly Sheerer will be retiring from the Water/Sewer billing office. He said Kelly has been with the Village since 1984 and thanked her for her years of service. Applications are currently being accepted for the position, additionally the new payment system Council approved in 2021 may be slightly delayed so as to allow the new billing clerk to train; the utility line insurance program is also on hold for the same reason. McTrusty stated he would like to have Park/Rec/Cem Committee meeting to discuss increasing pool and rental fees at the park as well as discussing allowing alcohol on park property. Mr. Walker noted that the sewer plant discharges hexavalent chromium saying that there are both good and bad versions of the chemical and asked which we are discharging. McTrusty stated he didn't have specific knowledge of that but that all discharges are closely monitored by the EPA which means anything we do discharge is legally permitted to be done. In reference to allowing alcohol in the Park Mr. Walker said he feels it is "opening pandoras box". Manager McTrusty stated the idea of allowing alcohol in the park has been brought to him a couple times in the last year to which Mayor Conaway said he felt it could be a good thing if done right. McTrusty added an event such a beer and wine festival held in New Waterford last year brought in around \$20,000. Resident & Asst. Fire Chief Rick Gorby stated the Fireman's Association would like to have alcohol allowed for July 4. Gorby said New Waterford and Columbiana both do it with Columbiana now trying to expand with the idea, he feels that the Village is always trying to play catch up with other communities instead of doing something first. Gorby said they don't want alcohol allowed in the park at any time, but only for special events that will be policed and it is a good money maker for the organization holding the event.

**LAW DIRECTOR:** Atty. Powers stated he is continuing doing research on vacant structure legislation and that he has a call into the auditor's office to review our current ordinance and see if there is a possibility of enforcing through their office.

**STREET:** Mr. Walker commended the Street Dept. for their work during the last snow event.

**PARK/REC/CEM:** Dr. Rocco called a Park/Rec/Cem Committee meeting for March 14 at 6:15 pm prior to the regular meeting to discuss the possibility of increasing park/pool fees.

**DEVELOPMENT/FINANCE: NO REPORT,** Finance Director Traci Spratt stated the 2021 audit has started, council will be receiving emails from the auditors so please keep checking for those. She also reminded new council members that they still need to do their training for the Sunshine Laws and there is a virtual meeting on March 8.

**UTILITY:** Mr. Simpson stated that he received information from Ohio Edison that they are also offering an insurance program for electric lines. He said he felt it was decent deal and the only bad thing he could see is the first year is a 50% discount, around \$145 for a year.

**SAFETY: NO REPORT**

**VISITORS:** Jerry Coblentz, Rick & Karen Gorby, Dave Biggins, John Rettig Jr., CH McCutcheon, Danielle Garner.

**THERE WAS NO LEGISLATION**

**ADJOURN:** Mr. Walker made a motion to adjourn seconded by Dr. Rocco. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

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**MISTI J. MARTIN CLERK**

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**MAYOR TRENT CONAWAY**