

## EP COUNCIL 2/23/26 85 N. MARKET ST. 7:00 PM

Mayor Conaway called the meeting to order. Present was Mr. Blythe, Mr. Glavan, Ms. Herriott, Mr. Povenski, Mr. Simon and Ms. Stauffer. Ms. Snedeker was absent due to a band concert. Also, present was Village Manager Antonio Diaz-Guy, Finance Director Melissa Hiner, Police Chief Chris Weingart, and Clerk Misti Martin. The minutes of the 2/9 regular meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Povenski seconded by Mr. Glavan. There were no mayor's, street, park/rec/cem, water/wastewater, safety, or student rep reports.

**CLERK:** Martin stated the first Charter Review meeting was held on 2/19. Members are Ron & Peggy Caratelli, Mark Rhodes, Curtis Veiock and Traci Spratt who was appointed chair. Future meeting schedule is 3/26, 4/30 & 5/18 all at 6:00 pm at the Municipal Building. Also, included in council's packet were the minutes of the 12/9/25 regular EPCIC meeting. These minutes will be included in all future council packets and are available to view at [epohio.org](http://epohio.org).

**MANAGER:** Manager Diaz-Guy stated appointed Amanda Wilson to the vacant Park Board seat created by Karen Gorby's passing. Mr. Simon made a motion in support of Ms. Wilson's appointment seconded by Ms. Herriott. Manager Diaz-Guy stated he would be traveling to Columbus in March to support a request from the Capital Budget plan; the request will total approximately 2.5 million dollars. The project will be finalized and presented to council at the next meeting. As an update on the JEDD, we are close to having a finalized contract for consideration of council and Unity Township; once a finalized contract is reached there will a time period to allow for notice to the public and a public hearing will be scheduled at which time a vote will be taken. During the specified time period property owners within that specific area will be petitioned (the allows the formation of a JEDD with 51% property owner approval) with the hopes of getting 100% consent. This only applies to commercial properties and vacant agricultural properties; existing residences are completely excluded from the JEDD. Legislation for the contract will go for three readings with the final reading being the date of the public hearing. In reference to the Trump/Vance administration promising ten million dollars in economic development assistance to the Village it was noted the funds will come in the form of either one/two federal grants from the EDA. These funds will assist in infrastructure and other needed projects and without them it would have been reflected in higher water/sewer rates over a longer period of time. Questions from the public include why is this funding coming to EP and why do we care about economic development; Manager Diaz-Guy stated a strong economy is necessary for the town survival, for the growth of tax base, economic barriers are the number one roadblock to long term health in any community and finally the funding itself came from the Economic Development Administration. A recent rate study shows the water/sewer department are no longer funding themselves due to lack of increases which indicates a rate increase is necessary; a rate study also takes into account all capital improvement projects. Much of the new funds will go towards reducing the cost of necessary infrastructure improvements. The savings will be seen by the residents in a decrease in what would have been substantially larger rate increases. In reference to the first responder training center there is an upcoming meeting to begin the design process as well the conceptual drawing for the business park location (the old Carlson property) has been completed; the business park would also be a part of the JEDD should it pass. The 22-acre Unity Township annexation is completed and will be filed this week. The contract for the Village to purchase the parking area owned by the American Legion has been executed;

a boundary survey and an environmental study are both forthcoming. Note environmental studies are recommended any time commercial property is purchased.

**DEV/FIN:** Ms. Herriott stated the Feb EP Act LTT/TTL session learned to make home gnocchi and served a family style meal that evening with another class coming in March. The group also held their quarterly meeting with Roberta Streiffert of RCAP. The slightly restructured groups will be continuing; they will be reinstating the Friends of the Park with Councilwoman Stauffer being in charge. EP Act now hath at has their own Facebook page for more information. There will be a Home Repair Fair on April 18<sup>th</sup> at the Way Station in conjunction with Project EP/Builders Trade class at the high school and the Chamber of Commerce. The goal is to bring much needed resources to the community as well as introduce vendors. The CIC will begin drawing on the short-term loan from the Village and will work at making sure council and residents are fully informed of the goings on of the CIC. CIC Plaza demo is complete; repair proposals for 90 N. Market have not yet been received and they are still in need of a tenant for 94 N. Market. The next CIC meeting will be February 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.

**VISITORS:** Jerry Coblenz, Kent Chapman, Dot Herbert, Barb Kliner, Ron & Peggy Caratelli, Travis Smith, Dan McKinstry Nicholas Hamilton.

**LEGISLATION:** Mr. Glavan introduced Ord. 6-2026 for a first and made a motion that it be read in its entirety seconded by Mr. Simon. **An ordinance authorizing the Municipal Manager to advertise for public bids for the construction and paving project known as the 2026 street resurfacing project and to further award and enter into a contract with the lowest and best bidder, pursuant to specifications and bidding requirements determined by the Municipal Manager and in compliance with applicable law.** Mr. Glavan introduced Res. 7-2026 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Simon. **A resolution of East Palestine Village Council adopting the Columbiana County Hazard Mitigation Plan.** Mr. Glavan called for a vote on Res.7-2026 seconded by Mr. Simon. Passed unanimously. At this time Ms. Herriott made a motion to go into executive session per ORC 121.22 G1 to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of public employee or official and G5- Matters required to be kept confidential by federal law, regulations or state statutes, inviting in Manager Diaz-Guy, Melissa Hiner, Misti Martin and Barb Kliner. There would be no business to follow. The motion was seconded by Mr. Glavan and passed unanimously.

**ADJOURN:** At approximately 8:55 pm Ms. Stauffer made motions to return to regular session as well as adjourn the meeting. Both motions were seconded by Ms. Herriott. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

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**MISTI J. MARTIN CLERK**

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**MAYOR TRENT CONAWAY**