

EP COUNCIL 2/26/24 85 N. MARKET ST. 7:00 PM

Mayor Trent Conaway called the meeting to order. Present was Mr. Glavan, Ms. May, Mr. Povenski, Dr. Rocco. Mr. Blythe and Mr. Simpson were absent. The absences were excused on a motion by Mr. Povenski seconded by Mr. Glavan. Also present was Village Manager Chad Edwards, Finance Directors Traci Spratt & Melissa Hiner, Law Director David Powers, Street Superintendent Steve Baird, Clerk Misti Martin and BZ Inspector CH McCutcheon. The minutes of the 2/12/24 were approved on a motion by Dr. Rocco seconded by Ms. May. There were no department reports, Clerks, Law Director's, Utility Committee reports.

AGENDA: NS TO TALK ABOUT REINTRODUCING WATER BACK INTO THE NORTH/SOUTH DITCHES.

Chris Hunsicker of NS stated this water is not any of the water that has been collected in the blue tanks, that water is still being tested and shipped offsite. It will be clear areas of the site that will be returned back to normal, the water into the cleared ditches will also be tested and once the all clear is received only then will it be able to flow freely. Mr. Hunsicker stated it will not be all areas at once, it will done one site at a time and they want to be sensitive to flows into Sulphur Run. In reference to the freshwater bypass system, as the restoration moves along things will begin to even out and less surges will be seen. He stated a major concern is what will happen to the areas downstream during the restoration he said that conditions in the creeks are improving, areas of impact are improving and the sheen scores are not as high; there is more stream work coming. Finally, he added they have been dealing with storms for sometime now and those storms have not caused materials to migrate downstream. Mr. Glavan asked the source of the water being reintroduced, Mr. Hunsicker said it is all storm/rain water that since the derailment has been being contained. Once they are able to show the areas and the water is clear they would then allow the water to flow back into Sulphur Run where it used to. Finance Director Traci Spratt asked if they would be going in order or if they would be jumping around as far as reintroduction sites would go, Mr. Hunsicker said they would be jumping around. Resident Mark Walker asked if the ditches were being dredged, Mr. Hunsicker said no and that everything has already been dug out of the ditches and that downstream there will be additional mitigation measures but not dredging. Resident Peggy Caratelli asked if the water being reintroduced was the clean wastewater from the site the Village was considering accepting, Mr. Hunsicker said this water is completely separate from that. The clean wastewater from the site continues to be tested and shipped offsite. Mayor Conaway stated the question of the Village potentially accepting the clean waste water from the site is not happening, it's not even a discussion anymore. Ms. May asked if we had a rainy spring if that would slow down this process, Mr. Hunsicker said it would not. Mr. Glavan asked if the remediation process has ensured that in the future there would not be areas where water is retained and causing flooding issues on property that butts against them; Mr. Hunsicker said that is very much a part of their plan and that they are committed to restoring all areas to where they were before and work with property owners as necessary.

MAYOR: Mayor Conaway stated that we had a visit from President Joe Biden and everything went well. Finally, he stated this will be the final meeting with Finance Director Traci Spratt after 30 plus years with the Village as she is retiring and she will be sorely missed.

MANAGER: Manager Edwards stated Dog Days would be May 18th this year and that the committee is working on coming up with various service projects. He added he would like to spearhead a window cleaning project for the downtown businesses. He and Street Superintendent Baird are working on the paving list for 2024. He said a few weeks ago he attended the Columbiana state of the city address with Lance Willard and that he would eventually like to implement something similar here eventually. He said he is working with BZ inspector on a list of properties that need immediate attention and that he would like to have all condemned structures down by the end of the year, money and time are factors in this and that he would be working with the Land Bank as much as possible.

STREET: Mr. Glavan stated one benefit of now having much snow this winter is that the Street Dept. has gotten a head start on some spring activities. Mr. Glavan noted that the downtown is not the greatest right now and thanked the business owners for their patience. He said he isn't happy with it either but we have to give them time to get it right and that if it doesn't look any better in a week, we will take our own actions to clean it up.

PARK/REC/CEM: Dr. Rocco stated we are looking for lifeguards for the park pool this summer, all ages are welcome and that they are looking at partnering with the Bulldog Café from the school

with the concession stand. At this time Park Board member Becky Westover gave a presentation in reference to having alcoholic events at the park, she added this would not be an opportunity to bring coolers to the park and drink all day, this is for specific controlled events. Ms. Westover stated they would like to see legislation allowing specific events at the park that could include alcohol, the current ordinance prohibiting alcohol would remain in effect. They are only requesting permission for specific events, exceptions would need approved by the manager, a specific written application would be required and security, insurance and limited areas would be strictly controlled. All costs for security, utilities, insurance and possible damage would be at the event holders expense not the village. Any events with alcohol would not be permitted inside the pool. In reference to blackout dates, Dr. Rocco added there are a few days that are not conducive to this. She said they have discussed not having a concrete list of blackout dates but rather letting it evolve and see how it works and because it will be at the discretion of the manager and council it can be reevaluated if needed. Resident Ron Caratelli asked if those planning the event would be responsible for security, Dr. Rocco said yes. Resident Peggy Caratelli said she thinks it's a wonderful idea and if managed properly it would be a very good thing. She added they are working on Dog Days projects; registration will be available online or at the Municipal Building. She said Mr. Kneifer has asked his advisory committee to help with the renovation of the gazebo so instead of building a gazebo at Elder Park they will work on getting the park gazebo up to date. Finance Director Traci Spratt added that the Smith family donated money a couple years ago to help with upgrades to the gazebo and those funds are still available. Council will accept project ideas for Dog Days through the end of the week. Becky Westover stated there a lot of sidewalks throughout town that the grass is overgrown that need cleaned up.

DEV/FINANCE: Ms. May stated there would be a Port Authority meeting on March 5th to look at projects for the Streetscapes program throughout the county and also that RCAP would be meeting within the next month. Mayor Conaway added that council needs to appoint board members to the CIC however he said he didn't think council wanted to move forward with that as two members were not present. Mayor Conaway then called a special council meeting to appoint CIC board members on Monday March 4 at 6:15 pm and for everyone to come to the meeting with a list of potential members. Atty. Powers stated that he suggested that Manager Edwards be the executive director (a non-voting member) of the CIC as opposed to being a board member and that he strongly recommends no more than a five-member board as one of the purposes of a CIC is to be able to move quickly.

SAFETY: Mr. Povenski thanked Chief Brown and the police department for their work in keeping everyone safe during the Presidential visit. In January the PD received 468 called resulting in 143 reports; Fire/EMS ran a total of 117 calls in January resulting in 42 transports and that progress is being made on the EMS front.

THERE WERE NO VISITORS COMMENTS ON CURRENT LEGISLATION

VISITORS: Rich Spratt, John Davis, Ron & Peggy Caratelli, Dan Sebrell, Ann Weigle, Becky Westover, Jerry Coblenz, Mark Walker, Rick & Karen Gorby, Kent Chapman, Dan McKinstry, Bennet Bruno, Brenda Povenski, Tim Weigle, Duane Nickel, Pam Figley, Dan McKinstry.

LEGISLATION: Dr. Rocco made a motion to table Res. 5-2024 until the special meeting on March 4, the motion was seconded by Mr. Glavan, passed unanimously. Mr. Glavan introduced Ord. 1-2024 for a second reading and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Dr. Rocco. **An ordinance adopting a negotiated contract modification between the Village of East Palestine (employer) and the Teamsters Union and declaring an emergency.** Mr. Povenski made a motion to go into executive session per ORC 121.22 G 1 to discuss employment contracts and invited in Finance Directors Traci Spratt, Melissa Hiner, Manager Edwards with no action to follow. The motion was seconded by Dr. Rocco and passed unanimously.

ADJOURN: At approximately 8:25 Mr. Povenski made a motion to return to regular session and adjourn the meeting, both motions were seconded by Ms. May. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

MISTI J. MARTIN CLERK

MAYOR TRENT CONAWAY