

EP COUNCIL 2/9/26 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, Ms. Stauffer and student representative Olivia Snedeker. Also, present was Village Manager Antonio Diaz-Guy, Police Chief Chris Weingart and Clerk Misti Martin. The minutes of the January 29, 2026 council meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Povenski seconded by Ms. Stauffer, passed unanimously. The January 2026 department reports were approved on a motion by Mr. Glavan seconded by Mr. Povenski, passed unanimously. There was no Mayor's report.

CLERK: The clerk stated the first meeting of the 2026 Charter Review Commission was set for Thursday February 19th at 6:00 pm. Additionally resident Bob Lalley had stated that he was willing to take another term on the Zoning Board of Appeals; as this is a Council appointment Mr. Glavan made the motion to appoint Lalley seconded by Mr. Simon. Passed unanimously.

MANAGER: Manager Diaz-Guy began by stating he submitted for Council's review the 2025 Annual Report and noted that it will be posted on the Village government website. In reference to the condemned property at 101 S. Market St. a summary judgement was agreed upon; the house has been cleaned out with some repairs being made to the outside. It is currently not habitable. The agreement states before the property can be habited/leased it must pass an occupancy inspection to be in compliance with the housing code. The goal is to have properties in good condition, safe and respectably habitable. There is a list of additional properties that we will continue to move forward with one at a time. One piece of legislation on the agenda tonight is to permit the Village to take part in the county chip and seal program for the entirety of Kemple Dr. Additionally, there will be legislation at the next meeting for 2026 paving; proposed roads are East Main Street and all or parts of Brookdale depending on available funding opportunities.

STREET: Mr. Simon stated the Street crew with the help of the Water/Crew continued to work on snow removal, Christmas decorations were taken down and during breaks in the weather crews worked on cold patching potholes. It was noted this was just a temporary fix for the winter months. Several graves were marked at the cemetery with special thanks to Tom Brittain for assistance with equipment for snow removal. Resident David Peters asked about additional snow removal at the corners of intersections as well taking the streets back to curbs. Resident Jerry Coblentz asked why the streets weren't "curbed" when the snow was new as it can't be done now because it's froze.

PARK/REC/CEM: Ms. Stauffer stated repairs have been made to disc golf signage, additional trees have been cleared from the walking trail as well as plowing/salting at the park. Seasonal maintenance on equipment, prepping for the upcoming season and a plan for the pool opening is being worked on. The next Park Board meeting is 2/25 @ 6:00 pm at the Municipal Building.

FINANCE/DEVELOPMENT: Ms. Herriott stated one building permit was issued for the month of January at a cost of \$110.15, contractor registrations totaled \$1600.00, commercial vacant structure registrations totaled \$400.00 and residential vacant structures totaled \$2,200.00. The next EP Act LTT/TTL will learn to make pasta and then serve the pasta meal to those who signed up. These classes are at no cost to the students or the community. Ms. Herriott stated she, Manager Diaz-Guy and Roberta Strieffert of RCAP met with High School admin about student participation in an upcoming EP Act project which is

a home repair fair in April. The Project EP class will be meeting with Ms. Strieffert about an entrepreneur leadership program. The CIC is applying for CDBG funding for the Train Depot through the County; the demo is complete on the Plaza however the bottom of the vault still needs removed weather permitting and the lease for the building should be signed this week. The property on SR 14 that is being considered for the future business park soil boring results show some unconsolidated fill material from past mining activity which was expected. A proposal is forthcoming for repairs at 90 N. Market St. 1 and they are still looking for a tenant for 94 N. Market. A special CIC meeting will be held 2/1 @ noon to allow for the payment approval of various invoices with the next regular meeting being 2/24 @ 10:00 am. In reference to timeline for groundbreaking at the Plaza at the latest it should be April, at the earliest the end of March as the timing depends on receiving completed construction documents for the project.

WATER WASTEWATER: Mr. Blythe stated there zero water main breaks in the month of January; this is due to upgrades over the last few years. 10.2 million gallons of water were produced and 15.2 million gallons of wastewater was treated. 92 disconnection notices were mailed; 42 seconded notices were hand delivered by crews resulting in 11 accounts being shut off for nonpayment.

SAFETY: Mr. Povenski stated FD responded to 15 calls in the month of January; 10 in the Village, 2 in Unity and 3 mutual aid calls resulting in 107-man hours. EMS responded to 139 calls; 92 were in the Village, 11 were in Unity Township and 12 were mutual aid. 3 calls were dropped. Mayor Conaway swore in new part time officer Morgan Newton. PD continued providing security to home basketball games. Officers began OPATA mandated CPT training. The 2026 health and fire inspections of the temporary holding facility were completed. January saw 338 self-initiated calls for service resulting in 144 reports. Dispatch answered 2,497 calls for the month.

STUDENT REP: Ms. Snedeker stated Council was given copy of a proposal for the school; the students would like renovate the courtyard to make it an outdoor space that can be used for eating and studying. The courtyard would require items such as table, trash bins, shade canopies and landscaping. Multiple student clubs such as NHS, Project EP and Rotary Interact have joined in the help with fundraising for the project. They are asking Council and the public to help them make connections to assist in funding the project.

VISITORS: Jerry Coblenz, Barb Kliner, Dot Herbert, Ron & Peggy Caratelli, Nicholas Hamilton, Dan McKinstry, Roberta Streiffert, John Davis, Travis Smith and Dave Peters.

LEGISLATION: Mr. Glavan introduced Ord. 3-2026 for a third reading and made a motion that it would be read by title only seconded by Mr. Simon. **An ordinance adopting the updated employee handbook, previously known as the “white book” for the Village of East Palestine (employer).** Mr. Glavan called for a vote on Ord. 3-2026 seconded by Mr. Simon. Passed unanimously. Mr. Glavan made a motion to amend the agenda to add Res. 6-2026 seconded by Mr. Povenski. Passed unanimously. Mr. Glavan introduced Res. 6-2026 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Povenski. **A resolution authorizing the Village Manager to enter into an agreement with the Columbiana County Engineers for participation in the county’s annual chip and seal program for the entirety of Kemple Drive, East Palestine.** Mr. Glavan called for a vote on Res. 6-2026 seconded by Mr. Simon. Passed unanimously. At this time Ms. Herriott made a motion to go into executive session per ORC 121.22 (G) (8), inviting in Manager Diaz-Guy and Clerk Misti Martin. The motion was seconded by Mr. Glavan, passed unanimously.

ADJOURN: Ms. Herriott made motions to return to regular session and adjourn the meeting. The motions were seconded by Mr. Simon and passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned.

MISTI J. MARTIN CLERK

MAYOR TRENT CONAWAY