

EP COUNCIL 1/12/26 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. Also, present was Village Manager Antonio Diaz-Guy, Finance Director Melissa Hiner, Police Chief Chris Weingart, and Clerk Misti Martin. The minutes of the 12/29/25 meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Povenski seconded by Mr. Glavan. The December 2025 department reports were approved on a motion by Mr. Glavan seconded by Mr. Povenski.

AGENDA: Barb Kliner- EPGO Updates In reference to her request for stories/memories for a soon to be coming book of memoirs she asked that all stories/memories be submitted by the end of Jan. EPGO has partnered with the Way Station to create an indoor Winter Walking and fitness challenge. Other available activities include cornhole, puzzles, card games etc. The program will go from now until May, January will be Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9 - 4 with a goal of five days a week beginning in February. They will also be partnering with East Liverpool Hospital for health screenings. The entire program is free of charge and is adults only.

CLERK: As it was the first meeting of the year re-organization of council was required. Mr. Glavan made a motion to appoint Councilwoman Barb Herriott as Mayor Pro Tem. The motion was seconded by Mr. Povenski. Passed unanimously. All members were satisfied with their committee seat so no changes were made for 2026.

MAYOR: Mayor Conaway stated he is working on gathering the five members for the Charter Review Commission, which happens every five years.

MANAGER: Manager Diaz-Guy stated tonight in packets was legislation for both the Teamsters & FOP; a main goal this time was bring both contracts as well as the employee handbook into alignment as well as getting Village healthcare into a more marketable position. In reference to Village parking, specifically overnight parking on the street is becoming more of a problem not just in the winter months. Parking restrictions were relaxed during covid and we have not yet got back to full enforcement. We are notifying the public that we will be enforcing these ordinances as well as deciding what is/is not reasonable in these situations moving forward. Discussion followed as to the collection of parking tickets as well as potentially bringing back Mayor's Court. The goal is always to work with the residents so we are letting the public know what the regulations/expectations are, allow time for adjustments and then move forward with enforcement. In reference to the Vacant Structure Registration Program Manager Diaz-Guy stated he feels this ordinance is not fully serving the best interests of the Village. We currently have residential and commercial standards for enforcement of maintenance. There is also the Vacant Structure Registration which specifically targets vacant properties; if properties are not registered with the appropriate documentation's fees/fines will be accrued. The issue is that cooperative/supportive property owners are following the rules while property owners who are not cooperating are not complying. The suggestion is to change/remove the VSR and focus on enforcing the already existing codes. The goal is/should be to move properties and fill them. The EPCIC secured an option contract for a piece of property along SR 14 with a plan for an industrial park to increase employment opportunities; growth restriction in the past boils down to lack of utilities. Utility expansion can be funded by grants as well as loans taken out by the Village. The expansion to Unity would require a JEDD which has been discussed with the trustees' multiple times. Future

steps include agreement on a tentative JEDD contract, the agreement would then be posted for public viewing with a thirty-day notice for public hearing, and then a vote by the Village and the Trustees. Manager Diaz-Guy stated the Village will grow regardless if we do or do not have a Jedd, it just changes how that happens; we can work on growth to SR 14 and work on the downtown at the same time and we will do both. In reference to water and sewer we do have the capacity for growth; pump upgrades would be required as well as water tower. Residents along the path of utility expansion would not be forced to tie into municipal water, the sanitary side is still being clarified. Those residents who would be a part of the JEDD would still be outside village limits and would not be considered residents proper. A motion of support was requested in reference to an EPA application for Community Wide Assessment Grant, this is a zero-match grant. This will allow us to identify potential brownfield sites, provide necessary testing/remediation. Mr. Glavan made the motion of support seconded by Mr. Simon. Passed unanimously. The village is working with a set of developers in the hopes of building infill housing; there are properties in the Village for these types of projects. The Zoning Board of Appeals Public Appeals Hearing in reference to 71 N. Market St. on 1/22/26 @ 6:00 pm; this is in reference to a zoning code violation where there is a first-floor residence in the business district. Discussion followed as to a downtown vibrancy initiative grant in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce. The grant will be for existing as well new businesses coming to town.

STREET: Mr. Simon stated equipment maintenance is continuing. In reference to plowing the process is as follows. Once an initial pass of plows has been on the majority of the roads and the snow stops, they move on to curbs, corners and finally alleys.

PARK/REC/CEM: Ms. Stauffer stated the Park Phase 3 is at 100% design. Phase 2 – the trusses are up and floors are in at the new pool building and normal daily operations for the month of December.

DEVELOPMENT: Ms. Herriott stated the month of December saw 9 misc. building permits, 11 contractor registrations and one vacant structure registration. The LTT/TTL class (making a scarf) that was scheduled for December 16 has been rescheduled to 1/13/26. The CIC is working with Platz Realty for a commercial listing for the former Jasar property and can be viewed online. Demolition at the EPCIC Plaza will begin soon; the old structure will be removed to make way for a new commercial building and community space. There are talks with a potential tenant for 94 N. Market St. and repair plans for 90 N. Market St. have not yet been received. The next CIC meeting will be Tuesday January 27 @ 10:00 am.

WATER/WASTEWATER: Mr. Blythe stated there no waterline breaks in November and December 2025. The Water Plant produced 118 million gallons and the Wastewater plant treated /returned 224 million gallons of water. 104 utility disconnections notices were mailed in December; 67 second notices were hand delivered resulting in 14 accounts being shut off for nonpayment. In 2026 the department will focus on lead line replacement, routine jetting, and replacement of aged out/out of service fire hydrants.

SAFETY: Mr. Povenski stated EPPD provided security for the Christmas parade as well as raised \$2,583.00 for the 6th annual shop with a cop program. The association sponsored pictures with Santa at the Resiliency Center. Lt. Johnson worked with Hero's and Halo's providing gifts for Columbiana County children in need and Sgt. Moore assisted LEO with a Christmas shopping for the children of a fallen Ohio police officer. December saw 269 calls for service resulting in 112 reports. EPFD ran a total of 135 calls in December; 90 in the

Village, 9 in Unity and 35 mutual aid. Of the 135 calls 20 were fire, 104 were EMS and 11 combined. Community outreach included the Christmas parade, Santa, Mrs. Clause and the Grinch going around town on the fire truck and cookie distribution.

VISITORS: Jerry Coblentz, John Davis, Barb Kliner, Darla Vanni, Nicholas Hamilton, Joe Della Volle, Ron & Peggy Caratelli, Diane Zettle, John Hersch, Jason Whitehead, and John Boley.

LEGISLATION: Mr. Glavan introduced Ord. 1-2026 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Povenski. **An ordinance adopting the negotiated Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Village of East Palestine (employer) and the Teamsters (union) and declaring an emergency.** Mr. Glavan made a motion to suspend the rules and declare an emergency seconded by Ms. Stauffer. Passed unanimously. Mr. Glavan called for a vote on Ord. 1-2026 seconded by Mr. Simon. Passed unanimously. Mr. Glavan introduced Ord. 2-2026 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Ms. Stauffer. An ordinance adopting the negotiated collective bargaining agreement between the Village of East Palestine (employer) and the Fraternal Order of Police (union) and declaring an emergency. Mr. Glavan made a motion to suspend the rules and declare an emergency seconded by Ms. Herriott. Passed unanimously. Mr. Glavan called for a vote on Ord. 2-2026 seconded by Mr. Simon. Passed unanimously. Mr. Glavan introduced Ord. 3-2026 for a first reading and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Blythe. **An ordinance adopting the updated employee handbook (previously know as the “white book” for the Village of East Palestine (employer)).**

ADJOURN: Mr. Glavan made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Mr. Simon. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

MISTI J. MARTIN CLERK

MAYOR TRENT CONAWAY