

**EP COUNCIL 1/13/25 85 N. MARKET ST. 7:00 PM**

Mayor Conaway called the meeting to order. Present was Mr. Blythe, Mr. Glavan, Ms. Herriott, Mr. Povenski, Dr. Rocco and Mr. Simon. Also present was Law Director David Powers, Finance Director Melissa Hiner, Police Chief Jim Brown, W/WW Superintendent Scott Wolfe, Street Superintendent Steve Baird, and Clerk/Interim Manager Misti Martin. The minutes of the 1/13/25 meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Povenski seconded by Mr. Glavan. The December 2024 department reports were approved on a motion by Dr. Rocco seconded by Mr. Blythe. There was no development committee report.

**AGENDA: DEBRA SHORE-USEPA REGION 5 ADMINISTATOR- Ms.** Shore stated she was proud that they were able to support OEPA, EPFD, and all of the other departments who responded to the derailment in Feb 2023. She called it one of the most consequential environmental emergency responses in US History. Responding organizations used all of their resources/authorities to protect and clean up after disaster so people could be made whole again. They worked hand in hand with state/local partners, other federal agencies and the community to ensure efforts would be effective. She stated as of January 2025 cleanup operation is substantially complete with nearly 220,000 tons of contaminated soil has been removed and disposed of properly; nearly 70,000,000 gallons of contaminated water/precipitation/runoff from the derailment site has been collected and managed; 83 homes cleaned at the homeowner's request and large-scale confirmation sampling has been completed. Sediment cleanup/assessment in Leslie and Sulphur Run has been completed. In the spring EPA will require NS to complete any additional assessments and any other clean up needed. Restoration work is also in progress and in May 2023 DOJ & EPA announced a settlement with NS holding the company accountable for environmental damage. Shore thanked everyone involved in helping move past the disaster and that some work still remains including restoration work, some excavation work in the east end and months/years of monitoring of streams & wells to ensure public health. She stated her position at the EPA would end on January 20 but EPA will stand by their commitments to East Palestine and that they have selected a project manager to oversee long term projects including health and environmental monitoring, Michelle Kerr. She thanked everyone in EP for their determination and resilience to overcome the challenges of the last two years.

**CLERK/INTERIM MANAGER:** Martin stated there's not much to update at the park, contractors are off site due to weather and pool plans should be submitted to the state health department with final corrections hopefully this week. On January 6<sup>th</sup> Rube Ginder started as the new BZ Inspector and Chad Lewis started at the Street Department. As this is the first meeting of the year council will need to vote on a Mayor Pro Tem as well as make decisions on council committees. The next CIC meeting will be on 1/28 at 10:00 am. Advertisements for the law director position have been posted with a deadline of 1/24.

**MAYOR:** Council committee reassignments were discussed/made; a new list will be available by the next meeting. Mr. Glavan made a motion to appoint Dr. Rocco as Mayor Pro Tem for 2025, the motion was seconded by Mr. Blythe. Passed unanimously.

**LAW DIRECTOR:** A special meeting was called for January 27 at 6:00 pm prior to the regular meeting to discuss pending litigation.

**STREET:** Mr. Glavan reviewed Superintendent Baird's report and asked if during snow events residents could try to avoid parking on the streets.

**PARK/REC/CEM:** Dr. Rocco stated that at the Park/Rec/Cem Committee meeting held earlier the discussion focused on if the current pool should be opened this summer since the new pool would not be completed. It centered around safety concerns at the current pool and we would be reaching out to Michael Baker Int. to ask for advice on potentially closing the park to speed up renovations. She added it was nice seeing people still using the park this winter however as the renovations continue safety concerns will increase so that will be a consideration. Dr. Rocco made a motion to not open the park pool for the 2025 season due to safety concerns for staff as well as safety of children in the park during construction, the motion was seconded by Mr. Glavan. Passed unanimously.

**UTILITY:** Mr. Blythe stated the utility feasibility study was completed by MS consultants outlining utility expansion to Rt. 14. Wastewater collection/treatment are normal operations. He noted last year 200 million gallons of waste water was treated. Under water treatment it is normal operations and the asset management plan was completed under EPA requirements. In 2024 130 million gallons of treated water was produced.

**SAFETY:** Mr. Povenski reviewed the December police and fire reports. Dr. Rocco congratulated Brittany Hill for achieving paramedic status and everyone in the department taking Ems classes.

#### **THERE WERE NO VISITORS COMMENTS ON CURRENT LEGISLATION**

**VISITORS:** Brenda Povenski, Becky Westover, Barb Kliner, Dot Herbert, Carol Harvey, Karen Gorby, Pam Figley, Bennet Bruno, Austin Cope, Nicole Drabick, Chris Hunsicker, Jerry Coblenz, John Davis, Amanda Hoon, Ron & Peggy Caratelli, Steph Elverd and David Peters, Traci Spratt.

**LEGISLATION:** There was no legislation however Dr. Rocco made a motion to go into executive session per ORC 121.22 G1 to discuss the appointment and compensation of a public employee inviting in Atty. Powers, Finance Director Melissa Hiner, Traci Spratt, and Misti Martin, there would be no business to follow. The motion was seconded by Mr. Glavan and passed unanimously.

**ADJOURN:** At approximately 9:00 pm Dr. Rocco made motions to return to regular session as well as adjourn the meeting. The motions were seconded by Mr. Povenski. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

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**MISTI J. MARTIN CLERK**

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**MAYOR TRENT CONAWAY**