

EP COUNCIL 1/29/26 85 N. MARKET ST. 7:00 PM

Mayor Conaway called the meeting to order. Present was Mr. Blythe, Ms. Herriott, Mr. Povenski, Mr. Simon and Ms. Stauffer. Mr. Glavan was not in attendance; his absence was excused on a motion by Mr. Simon seconded by Ms. Herriott. Also, present was Village Manager Antonio Diaz-Guy, Police Chief Chris Weingart, Fire Chief Keith Drabik, Finance Director Melissa Hiner, and Clerk Misti Martin. A moment of silence was held to honor Village resident, business owner and community volunteer Karen Gorby. The minutes of the 1/12/26 meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Povenski seconded by Ms. Herriott. There were no department reports as well as no Clerk, Park/Rec/Cem, Finance, Water/Waste Wastewater or Safety Committee reports.

MAYOR: Mayor Conaway swore in new part time patrolwoman Morgan Newton. Mayor Conaway nominated the following for the 2026 Charter Review Commission: Traci Spratt, Ron Caratelli, Curtis Veiock, Mark Rhodes and Peggy Caratelli. Mr. Simon motioned to approve the mayor's nominations seconded by Mr. Povenski. Passed unanimously. Police and Fire were also thanked for their work during the snow storm.

MANAGER: Manager Diaz-Guy began by stating on 2/2 @ 6:00 pm there is a community meeting at the high school for the NIEHS research teams; the following day they will be opening a permanent research location at the Way Station. A motion was requested to appoint the following members to the Volunteer Fire Fighters Dependency Disability Fund. The appointees are as follows; Councilmen Povenski and Glavan, Firefighter Josh Foster and Chief Drabik, and Ron Caratelli. Mr. Simon made the requested motion seconded by Mr. Blythe. Passed unanimously. Discussion will be forthcoming on updates to pool & rental rates as well as marketing rates. There is legislation on the agenda tonight for the appropriation for Municipal Net Profit Income Tax Refund. In reference to the park project, specifically the playground, there is an opportunity to make sure the budget stays in tact by direct sourcing the playground equipment from Omnia Partners Cooperative Purchasing. This would entail removing this portion from the budget, take the discount on the hardware and also save the surcharge (upwards of 33%) that comes from it being a part of the entire project and then be reimbursed by NS. There is also legislation to enter into a purchase agreement (\$13,000.00) for the American Legion parking lot where the recycling bins are; in looking forward at downtown revitalization we need to improve parking and we cannot seek funding to improve property we do not own. The long-term goal is level it, stripe it and add lighting & signage.

STREET: Mr. Simon thanked all of the departments for their work during the snowstorm this past weekend. Manager Diaz-Guy added the Street crew also worked to clear out the cemetery and the Water crew also helped the school district with additional snow removal. The Street crew will be out overnight Sunday 2/1 to do snow removal from sidewalk areas in the downtown.

DEVELOPMENT: Ms. Herriott stated the EP Act Group LTT/TTL learned to make scarves and then taught community members how to make them; on Feb 10 they will be learning to make pasta. The EPCIC continues to work with Platz on the former Jasar property. Demo was started at the EPCIC Plaza to make room for a new commercial structure/community space; the lease with the future tenant is almost complete. 94 N. Market St. is still for rent and we have received a list of needed repairs to bring 90 N. Market St. up to code. The next CIC meeting will be Tuesday 2/24 @10:00 am.

VISITORS: Ron & Peggy Caratelli, Mark Rhodes, Travis Smith, and Brenda Povenski.

Mr. Blythe introduced Ord. 3-2026 for a second reading and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Povenski. **An ordinance adopting the updated employee handbook previously known as ordinance" for the Village of East Palestine (employer).** Mr. Blythe introduced Ord. 4-2026 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Simon. **An ordinance adopting a negotiated contract modification between the Village of East Palestine (employer) and the Teamsters (union) and declaring an emergency.** Mr. Blythe made a motion to suspend the rules and declare an emergency seconded by Mr. Povenski, passed unanimously. Mr. Blythe called for a vote on Ord. 4-2026 seconded by Mr. Simon. Passed unanimously. Mr. Blythe introduced Ord. 5-2026 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Ms. Blythe. **An ordinance authorizing the Finance Director to make supplemental appropriations for the City of East Palestine, Ohio for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2026 and declaring an emergency.** Mr. Blythe made a motion to suspend the rules and declare an emergency seconded by Mr. Povenski. Passed unanimously. Mr. Blythe called for a vote on Ord. 5-2026 seconded by Mr. Povenski. Passed unanimously. Mr. Blythe introduced Res. 1-2026 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Simon. **A resolution accepting the annexation of 22.729 acres, more or less, from Unity Township, Columbiana County to the Village of East Palestine, Ohio.** Mr. Blythe called for a vote on Res. 1-2026 seconded by Mr. Simon. Passed unanimously. Mr. Blythe introduced Res. 2-2026 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Simon. **A resolution ratifying and confirming actions previously taken by the Village Manager and Mayor and formally adopting the Secretary of the Interior's standards for rehabilitation in connection with the Train Depot renovation project at 58 West Taggart St.** Mr. Blythe called for a vote on Res. 2-2026 seconded by Mr. Simon. Passed unanimously. Mr. Blythe introduced Res. 3-2026 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Ms. Stauffer. **A resolution authorizing the Village Manager to enter into an agreement with Ohio Edison Company for an underground easement to provide electrical service to East Palestine Park.** Mr. Blythe called for a vote on Res. 3-2026 seconded by Mr. Povenski. Passed unanimously. Mr. Blythe introduced Res. 4-2026 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Povenski. **A resolution authorizing the Village Manager to negotiate and enter into an agreement for the purchase of certain real property located along Walnut Street and to complete all necessary survey, documentation and recording related thereto.** Mr. Blythe called for a vote on Res. 4-2026 seconded by Mr. Simon. Passed unanimously. Mr. Blythe introduced Res. 5-2026 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Simon. **A resolution to approve the adoption of a goal of zero fatalities and serious injuries in the Village of East Palestine by 2045.** Mr. Blythe called for a vote on Res. 5-2026 seconded by Mr. Povenski. Passed unanimously.

ADJOURN: Mr. Povenski made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Ms. Herriott. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

MISTI J. MARTIN CLERK

MAYOR TRENT CONAWAY