

**EP COUNCIL 7/10/23 85. N MARKET ST. 7:00 P.M.**

Mayor Conaway called the meeting to order. Present was Ms. May, Dr. Rocco, Mr. Runnion, Mr. Simpson and Mr. Walker. Mr. Povenski was absent due to work. Mr. Simpson made a motion to excuse Mr. Povenski seconded by Dr. Rocco, passed unanimously. Also present was Interim Village Manager/Finance Director Traci Spratt, Police Chief Jim Brown, Officer Darius Elkin, Law Director David Powers, W/WW Superintendent Scott Wolfe, Clerk Misti Martin and BZ Inspector CH McCutcheon. The minutes of the 6/26/23 meeting were approved on a motion by Dr. Rocco seconded by Mr. Walker. The June 2023 department reports were approved on a motion by Dr. Rocco seconded by Ms. May. Mr. Wm. Vanzin who was scheduled to speak on the agenda cancelled. There was no law directors', Utility or Safety Committee reports.

**CLERK:** Martin stated a special council meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 7/11 at 6:00 pm with Korn Ferry in reference to the Village Manager and Finance Director positions.

**MAYOR:** Mayor Conaway thanked everyone for their work on the fourth of July, it was a great event with what they believe is the biggest crowd ever. He stated the detour signs went up today for the Park Drive Bridge project; beginning July 24 the entrance will be closed and the temporary entrance will be the old exit off of Carbon Hill Rd.

**MANAGER:** Mgr. Spratt stated Dan Hunt from NS would speak to an update on the cleanup. Mr. Hunt stated they have completed the main line soil removal as well as the tracks have been restored. They have moved on the car scrapping area across from Leake Oil behind Brave Industries, they are scraping and sampling that soil continuously, after that they will move on to the Leake property and continue on to the South ditch behind Ceramfab. He stated Taggart St. will remain closed until remediation is complete, probably mid-September, and that heavy truck traffic will continue on Pleasant Drive. Dr. Rocco asked if things were going as planned and if he felt there would be any challenges moving forward, Mr. Hunt stated that the on the Leake property would be a very sophisticated excavation they are working through the plan with engineers right now. Ms. May asked about time frame and Mr. Hunt said hopefully it would be around mid-September. Mayor Conaway asked about the mats that are covering the catch basins, Mr. Hunt said they are a preventative measure that is a part of their storm water prevention plan to help protect the streams from sediment from the roads. Mayor Conaway stated the mats are causing an issue for a local business, McKim's Honeyvine, to which Mr. Hunt said they would gladly speak to them in hopes of finding a solution. Mr. Runnion asked if Taggart could at least have one lane opened for traffic as it is a main thoroughfare to PA, Mr. Hunt stated to do that would cause a major safety issue because of the amount of truck traffic. Next to speak was Jeffry Harris of Bricker Graydon LLC to speak on an economic development plan. Mr. Harris stated they wanted to work with the village on economic development so we would be in the best position to move forward after the derailment, and the goal is to increase the tax base. He said there are multiple tools throughout the state of Ohio to help with that. He stated Bricker Graydon could help decide what program would work best here and how the village can help grow its economic future such as an industrial park or a JEDD; they would help determine what the village should do vs. what we are allowed to do. With their proposal they would work with the village for 12 months; They would have a "boots on the ground" economic developer in the community who specializes in rural communities and work with the Port Authority to be on the ground finding out what the businesses need, chart out what the village could do within a 12-to-24-month period and finally work on a five-year long-term plan. Mgr. Spratt stated she has received one other proposal in addition to Bricker & Graydon and that she has reached out to NS as they have expressed interest in fund an economic development plan for the village but she has not heard back as of yet. Mr. Harris stated they would be the centralized hub for all of the development conversations going on. A Development Committee meeting was scheduled for July 24 at 6:30 pm prior to the regular meeting to hear from Trail Blaze Creative LLC in reference to their economic development proposal.

**STREET:** In reference to the Ord. 16-2023 Mr. Walker stated it is ludicrous; he also noted it states the vehicles cannot be operated at speeds over 20 mph and that that will bottleneck the entire village if it passed. He said he is opposed to this ordinance and that it only creates problems. He

also stated there is not a speedometer requirement so there is no way to know how fast they are going.

**PARK/REC/CEM:** Dr. Rocco said the Park was nicely done for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, it was nice to see full and that the FD did a wonderful job as usual. She thanked everyone involved in making it happen.

**DEVELOPMENT:** Ms. May updated everyone on the event that Lamppost Farms would be holding on August 5 for the Village, there will be food trucks, Birdfish Brewing will be there and they will be giving tips on how to detoxify garden soil. She stated there will be conversation coming with Congressman Johnson and Senator Browns office about some upcoming projects. And finally, she noted that the Think Tank would be meeting again with RCAP in the coming weeks.

**VISITORS:** Ron & Peggy Caratelli, Jerry Coblantz, Kent & Darlene Chapman, Rich Spratt, Jeffrey Harris, Mike Jacoby, Mike & Ashley Mckim, David Peters, Dave Biggins, Tim Weigle, John Davis, Steph Elverd, Mark Durno.

**LEGISLATION:** Mr. Runnion introduced Ord. 16-2023 for a third reading and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Walker. **An ordinance creating and enacting chapter 447 of the Codified Ordinances of East Palestine, Ohio related to the use of under-speed vehicles, golf carts or utility vehicles on the public streets of the Village.** Mr. Runnion called for a vote on Ord. 16-2023. Ms. May-y, Dr. Rocco-y, Mr. Runnion-y, Mr. Simpson-y, Mr. Walker-n. Passed 4 to 1. Mr. Runnion introduced Ord. 17-2023 for a second reading and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Dr. Rocco. **An ordinance repealing and replacing 832.03 of the Codified Ordinances of East Palestine, Ohio related to licensing of solicitors, peddlers and door to door sales persons.** Mr. Runnion introduced Ord. 18-2023 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Dr. Rocco. **An ordinance adopting the budget and estimated resources for the Village of East Palestine, Ohio for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2024 and declaring an emergency.** Mr. Runnion called for a vote on Ord. 18-2023. All in favor. Mr. Runnion introduced Res. 9-2023 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Walker. **A resolution requesting the County Auditor to certify certain tax valuation information in anticipation of levying a tax in excess of the ten-mill limitation.** Mr. Runnion called for a vote on Res. 9-2023. Ms. May-y, Dr. Rocco-y, Mr. Runnion-y, Mr. Simpson-y, Mr. Walker-n. Passed 4 to 1.

**ADJOURN:** Dr. Rocco made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Mr. Runyon. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

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MISTI J. MARTIN CLERK

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MAYOR TRENT CONAWAY