

EP COUNCIL 7/13/26 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. Also present was Village Manager Antonio Diaz-Guy, Finance Director Melissa Hiner, Police Chief Chris Weingart, Officers Sherrill Milliken and Peyton Adkins and Clerk Misti Martin. The minutes of the 6/22 regular meeting were approved on a motion by Ms. Herriott seconded by Mr. Blythe. June department reports were approved on a motion by Mr. Glavan seconded by Mr. Povenski, passed unanimously.

AGENDA: Janice Cartwright, Everly Crist, Charlotte Greene, Vivian Glavan, Santanah Powers and Adriana Powers. Students gave a presentation explaining the Learn to Teach, Teach to Learn program which is a part of the EP ACT group and what they did each month. Projects included wristband keychains, finger knitted scarves, pumpkin bread, gnocchi, made Christmas cards for residents of Covington, homemade soap and in June they teamed up with the Cardio Drummers group to do line dancing downtown at the Street Fair. This program is at no cost to the students and is sponsored by various organizations around town. **Traci Spratt-Charter Review Suggested Amendments.** Ms. Spratt stated the 2026 Charter Review Commission consisted of Ron & Peggy Caratelli, Curtis Veiock, Mark Rhodes and herself. Commission members are suggesting two amendments to the Charter for Council consideration. The **first** is to allow the Village to eliminate the requirement that notices be published in the newspaper allow them to be published instead on the Village website. Commission members agreed that newspaper publication is becoming obsolete and that the associated costs are excessive. The **second** corrects miscellaneous typographical errors and changes the requirement for removing a council member from a unanimous vote to a two-thirds vote of the remaining council members.

CLERK: Martin stated a public hearing in reference to the Jasar Alley vacation request made by the EPCIC would be prior to the next council meeting on 7/27 at 6:30 pm and the third reading of the ordinance for the vacation would be at the regular meeting that night.

MAYOR: Mayor Conaway swore in new fulltime Police Officer Brant Moore. He thanked the Fireman's Association as well as everyone involved in making the Fireworks a success including the Bed Races which were one of the highlights of the event.

MANAGER: Manager Diaz-Guy stated the electric panel has finally arrived on site, it is being wired as we speak. The plaster date is being held right now on August 3rd, the pool will be filled after the plaster and ran at which time we will be doing our final permitting process, occupancy inspections as well as the health department inspections. Phase three notices of commencement have been sent (roads, sitework, playground), the agreement for the Village to directly procure the playground equipment and be reimbursed in 60 days has been signed. Agreements with the equipment providers have also been signed, once paid we will receive the equipment and then submit our reimbursement requests. In reference to Gov't Services Complex Wetland credit paperwork showed a cost decrease from \$250,000 to \$40,000 for the construction budget. The cost of the previously passed a nuisance abatement for 303 N. Walnut was \$75.00 plus the cost of mailings; these fees will be put on the property

as special assessments. An emergency demolition notice has been issued for a garage that is collapsing at 501 N. Market St.; a plan for the demo must be received by 7/20. On the agenda for council tonight is legislation to permit application for a letter of intent to apply for an AMLER grant; this is a no matching funds grant. EP high school just completed three 3-week boot camps; one in Ems/stna, one in cybersecurity/ai security, and one in manufacturing fundamentals. 16 individuals graduated from the programs which equates to 12 credits towards graduation. Manager Diaz-Guy stated he is also working with a group of high schools' students on the Pocket Park project working on profession communication, how to address a letter, how storm water works and also how to do an "elevator pitch" and that he can see the progression of them turning into young professionals.

STREET: The Street Department reported installing 180 feet of asphalt curb on Howell Road to improve water runoff and reduce soil erosion. Staff repaired multiple drainage ditches throughout the Village, reconfigured an alley off Western Avenue to redirect water away from nearby garages, and performed routine catch basin maintenance, including repairs to two basins prior to paving. The department also completed routine grounds and cemetery maintenance, removed storm damage, conducted regular street sweeping, removed a large bee swarm from the traffic signal at the intersection of Market and Martin Streets, assisted the Water Department with a water leak, and completed nine work orders. Finally, congratulations to Travis Cope for obtaining his CDL.

PARK/REC/CEM: The Parks Department reported June Park revenue of \$495.00. Staff completed normal daily operations and worked on several projects, including hosting the EPMS Field Day, participating in the Phase 2 construction walkthrough and Phase 3 pre-construction meeting, repairing and maintaining mowing equipment, staining the dog park, removing storm debris, completing the dugout project, setting up the stage for Music in the Park, preparing the gazebo for a wedding, and maintaining the overall appearance of the park. The pet and bike parade sponsored by Park Board on July 4th had a good turn out; the next Park Board meeting is Wednesday 15th @ 6:00 pm. Friends of the Park fundraisers totaled around \$600.00; they will also meet on the 15th @ 5:00 pm. F.O.P will be holding a karaoke night at the park on 7/31 @ 6:30pm.

FIN/DEV: Staff reported that 29 residential building permits, one demolition permit, and two commercial permits (through Elevate) were issued in June. Permit revenue totaled \$1,111.55, with an additional \$850.00 collected in contractor registrations and \$100.00 in vendor registrations. Marketing updates noted that the top Facebook posts for June were the new playground renderings and Music in the Park, with a goal of reaching 10,000 followers by Summer 2027. On Instagram, the Historic Log Cabin reel and Music in the Park photos were the top-performing posts for the month. A total of 1,497 newsletters were emailed during June. Staff also announced the implementation of the East Palestine Progress Letterhead, a one-page monthly newsletter recap that will be available at the Municipal Building, Post Office, Library, and local schools. In ref to EPCIC the Plaza project is going to be re-bid; they are also preparing a pitch deck for the Vibrant Communities Grant to help with funding. There will be a pre-construction meeting for the Depot project 7/2. Work continues with Platz on the sale of all/parts of the former Jasar property. 94 N. Market St. has been leased to Lydi Jones for Medicare insurance. The next CIC meeting is 7/28 @ 10:00 am at the Municipal Building. The EP Act group is already working on events for next year. The EP Education group is working

in conjunction with the school on the Bulldog Blitz on 8/21 prior to the first football game which will include a home & business decorating contest.

WATER/WASTEWATER: Staff reported that lead and copper samples were collected from 20 locations throughout the Village, with all results below action limits. Both the water and wastewater plants operated under normal conditions during the month. Two hydrants were replaced at E. Grant & Columbia and the dead end of E. Grant at a cost of \$15,129.25, and a service line leak on N. Market Street was repaired for \$1,443.00. During June, 10.841 million gallons of water were produced, and 15.055 million gallons of wastewater were treated. Staff also mailed 93 disconnection notices and hand-delivered 48 second notices, resulting in eight water shutoffs for non-payment.

SAFETY: The Police Department launched its new Facebook page, East Palestine Division of Police, which continues to gain followers. Chief Weingart and School Resource Officer Brindisi participated in a tabletop emergency exercise with the East Palestine School District, Fire Chief Drabick, Paramedic Nicole Drabick, and school staff. Officers also attended funeral services for retired Officer Sonny Coon. The department was awarded the 2025–2026 DART Grant, supporting officer training in crisis peer support, overdose survivor assistance, and related services. Lt. Johnson and Patrolman Monteleone are members of the support team. During June, officers responded to 398 self-initiated calls and calls for service, resulting in 141 reports. The Fire Department responded to 29 incidents, including 13 in the Village, 12 in Unity Township, and four mutual aid calls. The department also participated in a joint rope rescue training with Darlington, Negley, and New Waterford. EMS responded to 131 incidents during June, including 83 in the Village, 18 in Unity Township, and 30 mutual aid calls. Fifteen calls were dropped due to unavailable crews, with seven occurring while squads were already on calls and eight due to no on-duty crew. In reference to Ems staffing Manager Diaz-Guy reported staffing is up but hours are down; he has an upcoming meeting to review hours/wages. Mr. Povenski noted dropped calls are trending up. Discussion followed as to if we are required to respond to Ems calls outside the Village with Manager Diaz-Guy noting we have no formal obligation to respond to those calls however he has directed the Chiefs/crews to use their discretion; if the call is life threatening to cover it but that is a risk for the Village. The alternative is not going, and the crew stays in EP and do not get a call.

VISITORS: John Davis, Janice Cartwright, Everly Crist, Melinda Crist, Tiffany Greene, Charlotte Greene, Ron & Peggy Caratelli, Kent Chapman, Mark Rhodes, Roy McCutcheon, Jan Mohrbacher, Curtis Veiock, Dan McKinstry, Carol Harvey, Jenna McCutcheon, Joey Gragg, Heather Pellegrini, Traci Spratt, Brant Moore, Adyson Glavan, Vivian Glavan, Elizabeth Powers, Santanah Powers, Adrianna Powers, Larissa Blythe, Zella Blythe, Cora Blythe, Jason Whitehead, John Cozza.

LEGISLATION: Mr. Glavan introduced Ord. 20-2026 for a second reading and motioned it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Simon. **An ordinance approving the execution of a Community Reinvestment Area agreement among the Village of East Palestine, The East Palestine Community Improvement Corporation and Small Batch LLC, doing business as Full City Roastery.** Mr. Glavan introduced Ord. 21-2026 and motioned it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Blythe. **An ordinance adopting the budget and estimated resources for the Village of East Palestine, Ohio, for fiscal year beginning January 1, 2027, and declaring an emergency.** Mr.

Glavan motioned to declare an emergency seconded by Ms. Stauffer. Passed unanimously. Mr. Glavan called to vote seconded by Mr. Simon. Passed unanimously. Mr. Glavan introduced Ord. 22-2026 and motioned it be read by title only seconded by Mr. 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. Glavan motioned to declare an emergency seconded by Ms. Stauffer. Passed unanimously. Mr. Glavan called to vote seconded by Mr. Simon. Passed unanimously. In reference to the increase in road salt cost in the appropriations Manager Diaz-Guy stated ODOT does an annual road salt cooperative purchase. This year the cost of road salt went from \$56.00 per ton to well over \$150.00 per ton for Columbiana County, we have since opted out of this purchase and made plans with a private supplier at a cost of approximately \$110.00 per ton. This is still a significant increase but less than the state program. Mr. Glavan introduced Ord. 23-2026 for a first reading and motioned it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Simon. **An ordinance initiating certain amendments to sections 3.03, 4.13, 4.15, 4.16, 8.05, and 10.05 of the Village of East Palestine Charter.** Mr. Glavan introduced Res. 30-2026 and motioned it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Povenski. **A resolution authorizing the abatement of a nuisance condition consisting of litter, debris, rubbish, and other unsanitary or unsightly materials located at 284 West St., East Palestine, Ohio 444133, parcel #68-00899.000, authorizing the Village Manager to cause such abatement to be completed and authorizing the certification of costs to the Columbiana County Auditor pursuant to Ohio Revised Coder sections 731.51 through 731.54.** Mr. Glavan called to vote seconded by Mr. Simon. Passed unanimously. Mr. Glavan introduced Res. 31-2026 and motioned it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Simon. **A resolution declaring certain municipal personal property to be obsolete, unneeded, and unsuitable for Municipal use; authorizing the Village Manager to dispose of said property as scrap; and declaring the same to be a matter of municipal administration.** Mr. Glavan called to vote seconded by Mr. Simon. Passed unanimously. Mr. Glavan introduced Res. 32-2026 and motioned it be read by title only seconded by Ms. Stauffer. **A resolution authorizing the Village Manager to prepare and submit a pre-application and if applicable, a full application for funding through the Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization (“AMLER”) program administered by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources in an amount of up to \$1,500,000 to support the East Palestine Business Park, utility expansion, and related economic development infrastructure.** Mr. Glavan called to vote seconded by Mr. Simon. Passed unanimously. Resident Mark Rhodes asked when the remainder of Brookdale Avenue would be paid as well as what the daily fine for 501 N. Market St. would be. Manager Diaz-Guy noted that in reference to the Market St. garage, they have 24 hours to notify us of a plan, 3 days to make the property safe, and 20 days to begin/continue abatement/demolition until complete. If they do not, every day is a separate violation. Brookdale Avenue from the large bridge south that connects Main & Bacon is part of a County project and we did not want to pave that as it will likely be paved as part of the County project. At this time Ms. Herriott motioned to go into executive session per ORC 121.22 G 1, 2 & 8; to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion or demotion of a public employee, to consider the sale of property, and to consider confidential information related to specific business strategy,

inviting in Manager Diaz-Guy and Finance Director Melissa Hiner. The motion was seconded by Mr. Glavan. Passed unanimously. There would be no business to follow.

ADJOURN: Mr. Blythe motioned to return to regular session seconded by Ms. Stauffer. Passed unanimously. Mr. Blythe then motioned to adjourn seconded by Ms. Herriott. Passed unanimously.

MISTI J. MARTIN CLERK

MAYOR TRENT CONAWAY