

## EP COUNCIL 6/12/23 85 N. MARKET ST. 7:00 PM

Mayor Conaway called the meeting to order. Present was Ms. May, MR. Povenski, Dr. Rocco, Mr. Runnion, Mr. Simpson and Mr. Walker. Also present was Manager/Finance Director Traci Spratt, Fire Chief Keith Drabick, W/WW Superintendent Scott Wolfe, Street Superintendent Steve Baird, Park Manager Foreman Harvey, Law Director David Powers, Clerk Misti Martin and BZ Inspector CH McCutcheon. In reference to the minutes of 5/22 Mr. Walker stated he did not say "he did not see a problem" with golf carts, he only noted that the Leakes already do it. With the correction noted Dr. Rocco made a motion to approve the minutes of Dev/Fin Committee of 5/11, the special meetings of 5/16, 5/17 & 5/18, the regular meeting of 5/22 and special meeting of 6/6/23. The motion was seconded by Mr. Simpson, passed unanimously. The May 2023 department reports were passed on a motion by Dr. Rocco, seconded by Mr. Simpson. There were no clerk's, law director's, utility reports.

**AGENDA: KRISTIN WONG-NS AND PETER QUINTANILLA OF MICHAEL BAKER INTERNATIONAL TO PRESENT PARK MASTER PLAN.** Ms. Wong stated over the last couple months they have met with dozens of community members to learn about the community and what people thought of the park and it became clear that the park is the jewel of the village. She stated they received much feedback about things residents wished to see enhanced and updated. She said they also tried to focus on areas that would be revenue generating, low maintenance and sustainable in the long run without raising taxes. They also focused on maintaining the history and beauty of the park. Finally, she noted that the current plan is very high level and nothing is set in stone, if approved the next phase would be more specific design detail for the features. At this time Mr. Quintanilla gave a power point presentation showing the preliminary design for the park that includes a new pool, additional parking, updates to the Brick Pavilion, updates to the restrooms, additional shelters along the pond, interior painting/updates to Community Center, and a new amphitheater. Mr. Walker asked what material would be used for windows and if protective covers would be added, Mr. Simpson asked if this would interfere with the disc golf course, and Fire Chief Drabick stated he had safety concerns about the traffic flow with the flipping of the entrance & exit. Mr. Walker stated he knows there are various phases that will require council's approval but for the actual undertaking of the project he stated it should be put on the ballot and let the citizens decide if they want this project. W/WW Superintendent Scott Wolfe stated that he was making this statement as a resident and not a village employee; he said this is our opportunity, lets go and move forward with it. Ms. May added that council is a representative form of government. Mayor Conaway added we do need to have a public meeting about it but putting it on the ballot could cause us to lose a good opportunity. Mr. Runnion asked if the current maintenance building at the park had the capacity to store all of the new equipment. Ms. Wong stated the new pool house will have ample opportunity for storage. Law Director Powers stated we should do a resolution to allow them to move forward with the project. A special council meeting/public forum was scheduled for Monday June 19 at 7:00 pm to allow residents to ask questions about the plan and to vote on legislation to move forward with the project. Park Board member Brenda Povenski asked if there would be room in the new pool house for another space that could generate revenue. Park Board President Amanda Smith had concerns about the disc golf course; Park Board member Dan McKinstry stated our park has one of the best cross-country courses in the state and this project will alter that. McKinstry also questioned if the softball field would be removed for seating to which Ms. Wong said it would not be removed. Park Board President Smith said she felt it was a good conceptualization but she wished the board had been brought in on the project sooner as they have communication with the public; she feels we should move forward but should be additional conversation. Mr. McKinstry stated he has concerns with sustainability in the future and he urges council to be good stewards for the community. Ms. Wong stated they had heard multiple times from community members that the plan should focus on areas that generate revenue. Resident John Simon stated he is an engineer in Pittsburg and has worked with Michael Baker Int. multiples times and that the village will not be disappointed with them. Resident Matt Werner said on behalf of the people of the village who have children and want to see progress, thank you. He said the plan drawn up is a dream come true for the community and we need figure out how to make it work and not why it cannot work. Sgt./resident Brian Moore stated a lot of families drive to Walnut Grove Park in Canfield which is a fantastic park, now we need to bring those families back here.

Resident/business owner Melissa Smith said this is an opportunity for us to grow our Village. Councilwoman Rocco stated we need to set our ego's aside, come together and make this work. Resident Ron Caratelli asked about the possibility of making the pool all weather, Mayor Conaway added there is no way that could be funded and would be an added tax burden on the residents and Mgr. Spratt added we have trouble finding lifeguards for three months a year now. Resident/school board member Don Carson said we need to give our residents a reason to stay and bring in more people and we need to work together to do it.

**MANAGER:** Mgr. Spratt stated they attended the preconstruction meeting for the Park Drive Bridge project; July 10 signs will be going up; the bridge will be closed starting July 24 and tentatively will reopen October 23 with final completion date of November 30. Letters will be sent to affected residents on Park Drive. There was a preconstruction meeting for the water line project, potential start date in September. She hopes to bring legislation to Council to start the carbon filter project at the water plant at the next meeting. She stated council has before them tonight legislation to certify and accept tax levies for 2024; she noted there is a fire levy that expires in 2023 so legislation will be coming for that also. She stated in previous discussion there was talk of doing a replacement with additional mills vs. a renewal; she it is critical that the levy passes so she suggests going with the renewal for 5 more years. She the north side rr track clean is going well with estimated completion date of June and then they will work on the rest of the areas on the outskirts with estimated completion date of August/September. The air conditioning system is down in half of the Municipal Building, she is getting estimates for repair/replacement. The pool opened Memorial Weekend and it has been going well as well as the concession stand and the pool will be open until August 20. The final walk through for waste water treatment plant improvements will be June 20. The 2023 paving received one bid from Lindy Paving; option 1 was \$163,703.00 and option 2 was \$139,839.00 and that she will be entering a contract with them for option 1. All council members are again required to attend meetings in person now, zoom attendance is no longer permitted per the Ohio Open Meetings Act. Finally, she stated she needs an executive session to discuss property acquisition, personnel and legal. Mr. Runnion asked when Taggart Street will reopen, Chief Drabik stated hopefully August/September.

**MAYOR:** Mayor Conaway thanked Matt Werner and his team for the Road2Recovery event, it was an awesome sight to watch a sea of people coming down the street. The Summer Kickoff Event by NS was a great day also and thanked them. He said where we are right now, the clean up is a long process, but after what we say tonight this Village is going to be even better than it was before February 3 and to be honest, we weren't in the greatest shape on February 2. He added that it seems like NS is trying to make things right and we just need everyone's patience.

**LAW DIRECTOR:** Atty. Powers also requested executive session to discuss pending/threatened litigation.

**STREET:** In reference to golf cart's Mr. Walker said nothing has changed in regards to golf carts and if anything, the dangers have gotten even worse due to the heavy truck traffic. He said we are not the place for golf carts.

**PARK/REC/CEM:** Dr. Rocco stated that the original DOG Days was started by Joann Knight and was taken over by Larry and Sandy Wales, this was a community event with school and village participation as well as volunteers from the community. As interest in the event dwindled Mark McTrusty became Manager, legislation was created that established a DOG Days committee that consisted of three members from the schools and three members of the community to organize the event. Covid happened shortly after so it did not go any further. NS liaison Jeremy Vranesevich thought DOG Days was a good idea but it could not be called as such because of the ordinance and timeline. NS stepped in to help organize the event for this year only and it was called "day of service". The event was then cancelled due to lack of interest, Marty Grim then volunteered to help bring in people to help with the day of service projects. In the past food establishments, businesses and individuals donated to this event but due to the current circumstances they were not comfortable asking for donations; NS stepped in and offered to pay for all of the needed supplies as well as food and drink for the volunteers but they are in no way taking over the even. They are only coming in as a support system for this event so it can happen. The goal is to make the official DOG

Days happen next year. Next, she stated resident Misti Allison has been working with Dr. Erin Haynes of the University of Kentucky in reference to the possibility of a research study on the long-term effects of the chemical exposure from the derailment. They are currently looking for participants for surveys to help gather data in reference to mental/physical health as well as your experiences. The survey is for all of Columbiana County as well as neighboring counties with a goal of 1000 completed surveys. The next phase will involve participants wearing wrist bands to gauge PAH's. There would then be blood/urine samples for analysis to see how these things effect the body. All of the data will then be assembled to give us a picture of what is going on. Anyone interested in doing the survey can contact Misti Allison or Dr. Rocco. There is no compensation for the program.

**DEV/FIN:** Ms. May stated the Port Authority surveys from businesses have been turned in. She stated Senator Brown met with local manufacturing businesses in roundtable today. She said they will be meeting with RCAP in a few weeks about developmental strategies for the downtown. She stated she and Mgr. Spratt had a walkthrough with the Port Authority of some of the buildings downtown and she update council as information becomes available.

**SAFETY:** Mr. Povenski thanked the Police & Fire Chiefs and their respective departments for all of their works in the past week's activities. He noted the PD answered 496 calls in May and the FD ran 17% more calls year to date compared to 2022 to total 631 calls as of June 9. He noted the new ladder truck build is on schedule and should be here the week of 7/21. Mr. Simpson asked for an update on the MYid program, Chief Drabick stated it is still moving forward and the bracelets are being given out on a one-by-one basis.

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

**VISITORS:** Darla McElroy, John Davis, Nicole Johannes, Jenn Drabick, Ron & Peggy Caratelli, Jerry Coblentz, Connor Conaway, Rick & Karen Gorby, Dave Biggins, Brenda Povenski, Amanda Smith, Dan McKinstry, Terry Keresty, Melissa Smith, Sgt. Brian Moore, Steph Elverd, Jon Varley, Nick Reed, Jesse Lambert, Lenny Glavan, Abbey Palmer, Jeremy Vranesevich.

**LEGISLATION:** Mr. Runnion introduced Ord. 15-2023 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Walker. **An ordinance approving the editing and inclusion of certain ordinances as parts of the various component codes of the new codified ordinances; providing for the adoption of new matter in the updated and revised codified ordinances; repealing ordinances and resolution in conflict therewith; and declaring an emergency.** Mr. Runnion made a motion to suspend the rules and declare an emergency seconded by Mr. Walker. All in favor. Mr. Runnion called for a vote on Ord. 15-2023. Passed unanimously. Mr. Runnion introduced Ord., 16-2023 for a first 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 introduced Res.5-2023 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Walker. **A resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the budget commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the county auditor.** Mr. Runnion called for a vote on Res. 5-2023. Passed unanimously. Mr. Runnion introduced Res.6-2023 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Walker. **A resolution to exclude the approval of the City of Salem, which approval otherwise would be required, for an alternate method of apportionment of local government fund and local revenue assistance fund monies to be distributed in 2024, and declaring an emergency.** Mr. Runnion made a motion to suspend the rules and declare an emergency seconded by Mr. Walker. Passed unanimously. Mr. Runnion called for a vote on Res.6-2023. Passed unanimously. Mr. Runnion introduced Res.7-2023 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Walker. **An emergency resolution approving a new alternate method of apportionment of local government fund and local government revenue assistance fund monies to be distributed in 2024 and declaring an emergency.** Mr. Runnion made a motion to suspend the rules and declare an emergency seconded by Mr. Walker. Passed unanimously. Mr. Runnion called for a vote on Res.7-2023 seconded by Mr. Walker. Passed unanimously. At this time Mr. Simpson made a motion to go into executive session to discuss

personnel, pending litigation and property acquisition inviting in the Fire Chief, Mgr./Fin Dir. Spratt and Atty. Powers, the motion was seconded by Mr. Runnion. Passed unanimously.

**ADJOURN:** At approximately 9:25 p.m. Mr. Runnion made a motion to return to regular session seconded by Mr. Povenski. Mr. Runnion then made a motion to adjourn seconded by Ms. May. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

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**MISTI J. MARTIN CLERK**

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**MAYOR TRENT CONAWAY**