

EP COUNCIL 6/24/24 85 N. MARKET ST. 7:00 PM

Mayor Conaway called the meeting to order. Present was Mr. Blythe, Mr. Glavan, Ms. May, Mr. Povenski, Dr. Rocco and Mr. Simpson. Also present was Manager Chad Edwards, Finance Director Melissa Hiner, Law Director David Powers, Street Superintendent Steve Baird, W/WW Superintendent Scott Wolfe, Chief Jim Brown, and Clerk Misti Martin. The minutes of the 6/10/24 meeting were approved on a motion by Dr. Rocco seconded by Mr. Povenski. There were no department reports or law director's report.

AGENDA: JUSTIN POWERS/MELISSA SMITH OF THE THINK TANK-OVERVIEW OF THE ENVISION PROJECT. Mr. Powers stated the goal of the group was to create a unified development vision for the community as well as strategic initiatives. He stated they have already completed the community input process which included surveys, focus groups, interviews and workshops to try and understand what people want to see here. The next step included vision and strategy development and identifying specific strategic initiatives for development opportunities. The next steps will include asset identification as well as prioritizing goals/objectives with the final aspect being a strategic implementation plan with what the community needs/wants. The outcomes are where we will hopefully see local businesses, the CIC or even the school's base future development off of the work that has been done. The three key areas to success will be buy in from the community, collaboration amongst area stakeholders and community leaders, and finally marketing EP as an opportunity for investment. Melissa Smith stated that RCAP has many success stories throughout the region. Community input was very important in this process, knowing the roots of the community, what was important in the past and what is important in the future. The goal is taking all of this information to council, chamber and the CIC and fund ways to fund investment and grow ideas. Ideas that people want to see that won't take a huge investment are pocket parks, art/music in the downtown area. Another big want for the downtown is a coffee shop. Mr. Powers added there is downtown workshop planned for July 29 at the Way Station and finally that community development is a long play, there is no short gain. Melissa added that the key is working together and having the community stand behind and make things work. Resident Peggy Caratelli asked about incentives to entice people to bring a business here, Mr. Powers said there are a lot of things available but having a cohesive vision for the community will greatly assist that process, Smith added that there are also opportunities that from the Port Authority, OMEGA, EPA has an economic development grant, and the Youngstown Business Incubator. Finally, Mr. Powers stated there are a lot of successful alumni from EP and we as a community need to do a better job of reaching out to them also. **ERIC BALL-USPA-PROJECT UPDATES** Mr. Ball stated the organizational structure has been operating under a concept called "unified command", they are now transitioning to a step-down group called a "mac" group (multi agency coordination group). Chris Hunsicker of NS added that they are not going anywhere, this change is strictly administrative. In reference to the removal of the tanks Mr. Hunsicker stated the tanks themselves should hopefully be gone in the next few weeks; everything will be certified clean and shipped out and the top layer under the tanks will also be stripped away in case there any leaks and they are just waiting on final approval from the landfill. There will also be double checks of the entire area and then they will work the property owners in reference to returning things to how they were before. In reference to the steel piling, they will begin pulling a lot of that out however some on property that NS owns will stay so as not to effect surrounding structures; additionally, the water run off issue on the foster property has been taken care of. Resident Mark Rhodes asked what if anything in the future would cause testing of air/streams to ramp up, Mr. Hunsicker stated seeing any type of increase in the trend would be cause for additional testing and clean up standards would be the same as they have been. Resident David Mahoney asked who would be responsible for the testing holes that were drilled into Locust Alley, he stated after testing the holes were filled in but they now keep bubbling up. Mr. Hunsicker stated he is not familiar but would like to discuss it further. Mitigation activities are still continuing as well as more assessments in the streams and everything looks good for now. Mr. Ball said last summer they only had 5 detections of anything in reference to the human health risk assessment number in the fall that number dropped to 2 and those are believed to associated with legacy chemicals. In reference to sheen assessments, they are only finding very minor sheens showing up sporadically and they are developing a work plan for those. Mr. Hunsicker stated on the NS Making It Right website there is a "site progress" page which will have weekly updates as they are trying to

do better on keeping everyone updated. Finally, Mr. Ball noted there three pockets of vinyl chloride detected as part of the double check process, those areas have been excavated and hauled away for disposal; he noted those pockets were not high levels that would be a concern for human health but rather very low levels that are only concerns environmentally/ecologically.

CLERK: Clerk Misti Martin stated there would be a special meeting on Monday July 8 at 6:00 pm prior to the regular meeting to hear from Mission Critical Partners on the After-Action Report.

MAYOR: Mayor Conaway stated the fireworks will be at 10:00 pm on July 4th sponsored by the EP Fireman's Association with other activities throughout the day. Beginning July 2 at noon the disc setup/cleanup.

MANAGER: Manager Edwards stated the results of the Long-Term Recovery Plan will be brought to council in the coming weeks. He said he is working on the possibility of a DORA. He said he needed council to decide if they will keep the Train Depot or donate it to the CIC. Mr. Povenski stated he felt this should be a separate discussion at the next meeting and Atty. Powers added there may be a way for it to stay titled to the Village but allow the CIC to operate it as they are an agent of the Village. He said he is still waiting on the title work for the property purchase on Brookdale Ave and that he would like to do some amendments to the personnel book (white book) and that he is working on a 501c3 application for the Park Board. In reference to NIMS training there will be police officers trained in the command structure as well as Street Superintendent Baird. The state legislature has approved one million dollars for the village to help with the match on the USDA loan for the new public safety complex. The low bid for paving is from Lindy at \$122,000.00. He said he attended the Unity Township meeting on the 18th to discuss the possibility of forming a JEDD. Finally, he said he met with Hagerty to discuss the implications of the federal settlement.

STREET: Mr. Glavan stated the street crew has been working Brookdale Ave. He added we are coming up on the deadline to do the final walk through from the waterline project.

PARK/REC/CEM: Dr. Rocco stated the Park is looking good and the pool was busy last week despite not having a heater. Park Board met to discuss plans for July 4th and future plans. Mr. Glavan asked about using the side entrance/exit of the park on the 4th, Mr. Edwards we won't be utilizing it as that is where the ambulances will be parked. Mayor Conaway noted that even though legislation was passed to allow alcohol in the park for events, it is not allowed at all on July 4th.

DEV/FIN: Ms. May stated the members of the CIC had a preliminary meeting with the Lake Ro River organization, the group that the state has allowed Ashtabula, Mahoning, Trumbull and Columbiana counties to have our own economic development region. She noted the CIC met on June 18 and on June 20 County leaders met in Leetonia with a Professor of Geography from YSU and discussed opportunities for tourism in Columbian County. July 29 will be a workshop for the Envision Project through RCAP/Think Tank.

UTILITY: Mr. Blythe stated new carbon filters went live June 20. The cost of the building/filters was approximately \$661,000.00. These filters were a proactive approach to keeping our water safe and not a direct result of the derailment. The current sand filters were installed in 1990, the new carbon filters are essentially a polishing mechanism for the water.

SAFETY: Mr. Povenski stated site work started at the old Jasar property for the new training center.

VISITORS: Ron & Peggy Caratelli, Dave Biggins, Jeremy Vranesevich, Mark Rhodes, Rick & Karen Gorby, Missy Smith, Justin Powers, David & Gina Mahoney, Jerry Coblentz, John Davis, Dan McKinstry, David Peters, John Hamner, Steph Elverd.

LEGISLATION: Mr. Simpson made a motion to amend the agenda to add Res.15-2024, Contract for the Welcome to EP sign. The motion was seconded by Dr. Rocco. Passed unanimously. Mr. Simpson introduced Ord. 8-2024 for a second reading 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, 2025.** Mr. Simpson introduced Ord. 9-2024 for a second reading and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Dr. Rocco. **An ordinance amending ordinance 1951 passed February 14, 1977, in reference to permitted uses of proceeds of the Electric Utility Plant Sales Fund.** Mr. Simpson

introduced Res. 13-2024 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Dr. Rocco. **A resolution to exclude the approval of the City of Salem, which approval would otherwise be required, for an alternate method of apportionment of local government fund and local government revenue assistance fund monies to be distributed in 2025 and declaring an emergency.** Mr. Simpson made a motion to suspend the rules and declare an emergency seconded by Mr. Povenski. Passed unanimously. Mr. Simpson called for a vote on Res. 13-2024. Passed unanimously. Mr. Simpson introduced Res. 14-2024 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Dr. Rocco. **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 2025 and declaring an emergency.** Mr. Simpson made a motion to suspend the rules and declare an emergency seconded by Ms. May. Passed unanimously. Mr. Simpson called for a vote on Res. 14-2024 seconded by Ms. May. Passed unanimously. Mr. Simpson introduced Res. 15-2024 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Ms. May. **A resolution authorizing the Village Manager to enter into an agreement with the State of Ohio, Department of Transportation to develop, plan, construct, install and maintain a local government community gateway monument/landscaping project at the interchange of State Route 14 and State Route 170 also known as North Market Street.** Mr. Simpson made a motion to suspend the rules and declare an emergency seconded by Ms. May. Passed unanimously. Mr. Simpson called for a vote on Res. 15-2024 seconded by Ms. May. Passed unanimously. In reference to the vacant Planning Commission position Mayor Conaway stated he would like to take letters of interest for an additional two weeks. Mr. Simpson stated council needs to do an evaluation for Finance Director Melissa Hiner. The same evaluation forms used for the manager would be used and should be turned to the clerk by Friday July 5 at noon. Dr. Rocco made a motion to go into executive session per ORC 121.22 G 1 inviting in the Manager and the Finance Director and Law Director. The motion was seconded by Mr. Povenski and passed unanimously. There would be no further business conducted afterwards.

ADJOURN: At approximately 8:55 pm Mr. Povenski made motions to return to regular session as well as adjourn the meeting. Both motions were seconded by Mr. Simpson. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

MISTI J. MARTIN CLERK

MAYOR TRENT CONAWAY