

## **EP COUNCIL 6/9/25 85 N. MARKET. 7:00 PM**

Mayor Conaway called the meeting to order, present was Mr. Blythe, Mr. Glavan, Ms. Herriott, Mr. Simon, Mr. Povenski and Ms. Stauffer. Also present was Village Manager Antonio Diaz-Guy, Finance Director Melissa Hiner, Law Director David Powers, W/WW Superintendent Scott Wolfe, Fire Chief Keith Drabick, Police Chief Jim Brown and Clerk Misti Martin. There was no clerks or law director's reports. The minutes of the 5/28/25 meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Glavan seconded by Mr. Povenski. Passed unanimously. The May 2025 department reports were approved on a motion by Mr. Povenksi seconded by Mr. Simon. Passed unanimously.

**MAYOR:** At this time Carol Harvey, Scott Grim, Jeff Justison and Jim Crawford of the East Palestine Eagles presented a check to the Village in the amount of \$13,266.00 for repointing of the repointing of existing and new signage for Glenview Cemetery. Next Mayor Conaway stated the EPCF Golf outing is this Saturday at the Country Club in Negley.

**MANAGER:** Manager Diaz-Guy stated the village website now has forms available for basic requests such as potholes, registration applications are now live under "Business/Forms". The Community Calendar is also now live; people can submit events to be published so the community can see what is happening. An appeal to council in reference to the demolition order for 101 S. Market St. will take place at a public hearing before council on June 23 @ 6pm prior to the next regular documentation; Manager Diaz-Guy stated council should review all documentation and have list of questions ready for the hearing. A stick drops off event will be held at the park on 6/10 for residents, this is the first part of a long-term maintenance plan to come as far as limb pickup is concerned. The next 150-year anniversary meeting will be 6/11 at 6:00 pm at the Municipal Building. Council received a Gant chart from Kinley Construction in reference to Phase 2 of the park project; the anticipated start date is June 16<sup>th</sup> which start immediately after setting up a safety perimeter. In reference to the security plan during construction residents will see the entirety of the basketball and Community Center parking lots roped off, this does not mean the Community Center is closed, it is just the barrier for the demolition phase. Additional guidance/information is forthcoming. Finally, the EPFFA was thanked for putting on a memorial service for their fallen members.

**STREET:** Mr. Simon noted the Street Dept. notified downtown businesses in person of the ODOT paving project which received positive feedback. Berm work continued on Bacon Ave, replaced signage around town and are prepping to repave water ditches around town. Future projects include stormwater repairs on Brookdale/Martin and replacing various asphalt curbs to help with storm water mitigation.

**PARK/REC/CEM:** Ms. Stauffer noted benches were repainted for the street fair, the gazebo was prepped for Memorial Day. Upcoming projects for June will include clearing out pool/pumphouse, prepping Rainbow Dreamland for demolition. Phase 2 is scheduled to start on Monday June 16.

**DEV/FINANCE:** Ms. Herriott stated the Education Action group that came out of the Think Tank have completed the first of three learning events; information sheets with QR codes for sign up are available for the other two events. They are working on setting up DIY learning opportunities with the Housing group to help with needed repairs for community members. The Downtown group event, The Sizzle-n-Sing was postponed until July 11 due

to weather. The EPCIC was awarded a \$30,000 grant from the Huntington Bank Foundation for the development of the EPCIC Plaza; Omega informed us the application for ARC funding for the depot project did not get invited as a full application and the CDBG pre application has been filed and we hope to know by July if we are invited for a full application. In reference to the depot the CIC may do some selective deconstruction before design completion to uncover any unknown conditions so as to avoid costly change orders in the future; this will not impact the historical character of the building. The CIC will also be seeking proposals from Geotech Studies for the plaza. The next meeting will be Tuesday June 17 @ 10:00 am. At this time Finance Director Melissa Hiner reviewed the financial information from the settlement funds. On 2/5 a new deposit agreement was signed as the current account was not permitted to have a deposit as large as the settlement so she had to increase the number of active deposits up to the max, on 2/11 a new ICS Bucket was opened at Huntington Bank. Last year she had also opened three ICS buckets that did well with interest so she opened a fourth strictly for the settlement funds once it was agreed on; on 2/25 the 22 million in settlement funds were received in the general account at Huntington and transferred the same day to the ICS account so they could immediately begin accumulating interest which was at a variable rate of 4% which is why they couldn't be left there however the rate is still at 4% as of today. On 3/31 13 million dollars was wired from Huntington to Farmers where they were invested in two 2-million-dollar cd's for two years with an apy of 4.04%, three 3-million-dollar cd's for three years also at an apy of 4.04%. On 4/1 8 million was transferred from an ICS to the General account per Huntington's request to prepare for the CEDARS Investment; 2 million was invested for six months at 4.21% and six million was invested for 52 weeks at 4.05% with one million still remaining in the ICS account. At this time Ms. Herriott made a motion to approve the aforementioned settlement funds' investments and the financial institutions that were involved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Blythe, passed unanimously.

**W/WW:** Mr. Blythe stated UV disinfection started 5/1 and will run through October. Sampling is still occurring monthly for any train derailment contamination. Two curb stops were replaced at a cost of \$700 and two hydrants/valves were replaced at a cost of \$6700. In reference to the Water Plant expansion Manager Diaz-Guy stated that was originally put together as one comprehensive plan which was going to be taken out for funding this year but in looking at the timeline we are likely going to pull back and do only preliminary studies and move everything into fiscal year 2026. Finally, Mr. Blythe noted that w/s disconnection notices (first mailed notice) will be outsourced starting in July due to the forms/programming becoming obsolete. Time frames and charges will remain the same. These changes will save approximately \$200 per year.

**SAFETY:** Mr. Povenski stated PD was busy in the month of May providing security for track meets, street fair and Memorial Day Parade, the OCJS wage grant was awarded and will go towards wages of a full-time officer. For the month of May they received 426 calls for service resulting in 117 reports. EPFD logged 95 calls in the month of May: 6 were fire only, 82 were Ems only and seven combined. Five calls were dropped however all were due to squads already being out.

**VISITORS:** Carol Harvey, John Davis, Jerry Coblentz, Mark Rhodes, Barb Kliner, Dot Herbert, Ron & Peggy Caratelli, Kent Chapman, Scott Grim, Jeff Justison, Jim Crawford, Janice Crawford, Dan McKinstry, Rick & Karen Gorby, Dave Biggins, Steph Elverd, Officer Milliken, Officer Koehler, Nicole Drabick, Brodi Conover.

**LEGISLATION:** Mr. Glavan introduced Ord. 6-2025 for a third reading and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Simon. **An ordinance repealing Ordinance 13-2024 – setting a maximum rate the Village will pay for the burial of indigent persons, as required by Ohio law.** Mr. Glavan called for a vote on Ord. 6-2025. Passed unanimously. Mr. Glavan introduced Ord. 7-2025 for a second reading and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Simon. **An ordinance repealing/replacing Chapter 446 of the Codified Ordinances of the Municipality of Ohio.** Mr. Glavan introduced Ord. 8-2025 for a first reading and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Simon. **An ordinance updating section 1060.01 F of the Codified Ordinances of the Municipality of Ohio.** Mr. Glavan introduced Ord. 9-2025 for a first reading and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Simon. **An ordinance adopting the budget and estimated resources for the Village of E. Palestine, Ohio for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2026.** Mr. Glavan introduced Ord. 10-2025 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Simon. **An ordinance authorizing the Village Manager, on behalf of the Village of East Palestine, Ohio, to enter into a contract with MS Consultants, Inc. for the various services, including but not limited to site design, permit application assistance and architectural design services, all as more fully set forth in the exhibits attached hereto, for the East Palestine Safet Center Complex and declaring an emergency.** Mr. Glavan made a motion to suspend the rules and declare an emergency, seconded by Ms. Stauffer. Passed unanimously. Mr. Glavan called for a vote on Ord. 10-2025 seconded by Ms. Stauffer. Passed unanimously. Mr. Glavan introduced Res. 11-2025 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Blythe. **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. Glavan called for a vote on Res. 11-2025 seconded by Ms. Herriott. Passed unanimously. At this time Mr. Povenski called for executive session per ORC 121.22 G 1 to consider the appointment/employment of a public employee and conduct an interview inviting in Atty. Powers, Manager Diaz-Guy and Atty. Brodi Conover. There would be no business to follow. The motion was seconded by Ms. Stauffer and passed unanimously.

**ADJOURN:** Mr. Povenski made a motion to return to regular session seconded by Mr. Blythe, passed unanimously.

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**MISTI J. MARTIN CLERK**

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**MAYOR TRENT CONAWAY**