

EP COUNCIL 3/27/23 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 Interim Manager/Finance Director Traci Spratt, Law Director David Powers, Chief Jim Brown, Chief Keith Drabick, W/WW Superintendent Scott Wolfe, Street Superintendent Steve Baird, Clerk Misti Martin and BZ Inspector CH McCutcheon. The minutes of the 3/13/23 meeting were approved on a motion by Dr. Rocco, seconded by Mr. Walker. There were no department reports, agenda items, clerk's, Law Director, utility or safety committee reports.

MAYOR: Mayor Conaway stated contaminated dirt removal is moving along and will be ongoing for the next several months. In reference to the concerns over the easter egg hunt he said it will only be done on the basketball and tennis courts and that we should have the soil sample results from the park soon.

MANAGER: Interim Manager Spratt stated they are getting a team together to meet with a team called SEKO to do a data analysis of all of the information that has been collected in reference to the train derailment. She said Hayden Panzeott of Port Authority has begun handing out surveys to the local businesses and he will be in town every Friday to connect with them. In reference to the Appalachian Community Grant, Columbiana has been awarded the \$175,000 planning grant, Ms. May will be attending the upcoming meetings. Spratt said they are working on opening the pool and also going back to running the concession stand ourselves instead of the vending machines, and also that we are advertising for summer help. She said Anne Vogel from the OEPA approached her about a grant opportunity, US EPA Environmental Justice Government to Government grant, and that she is still in the early stages of learning about the grant. Roberta Striferd and Deb Martin from RCAP were there to discuss other grant opportunities, USDA Rural Community Development Initiative which helps create a good environment for small businesses. Dr. Rocco made a motion to direct Manager Spratt to move forward with this grant opportunity, the motion was seconded by Mr. Povenski. In reference to the Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving Program; this grant would go to RCAP and then they would subgrant to local communities and this year they are focusing on emergency response and disaster preparedness which is appropriate in this situation as well as community revitalization. She said it is a three year, \$500,000.00 grant that is due on April 10. She also noted letters of support would be needed from three separate organizations. Mr. Simpson made a motion to direct Manager Spratt to move forward with the Env. Justice Collab. Problem Solving Grant, the motion was seconded by Ms. May and passed unanimously. Next Joe Leson of MS Consultants and well as W/WW Superintendent Scott Wolfe were there to explain the legislation for a new carbon filtration system at the water plant as well as an engineering agreement with MS. Mr. Wolfe began by stating that the purchase of these filters does not mean that our water is bad, this is contingency only. Norfolk Southern has purchased these filters for the Village, this in at zero cost to the Village. Mr. Wolfe said we don't know what the future will bring for our water system and these filters will put us way ahead of the curve as well as give us a better quality of water. He said all testing will continue on a weekly basis and these filters are just another preventative measure. Mr. Simpson added this is a proactive move. Ms. May asked if this was something other communities will have to do later, Mr. Wolfe said the USEPA is currently looking at regulations for PFAS (forever chemicals) and these filters will put us ahead of the game there also. They are able to have the filters and piping here in six weeks, it puts us in a very good place. Mr. Walker asked if these filters were able to remove chemicals that were a result of the derailment, Mr. Wolfe said yes. Joe Lesson of MS stated that right when the derailment happened, himself, Manager Spratt, Mr. Wolfe began working on a long-term plan which the EPA was on board with and these filters will be a part of that 3-to-5-year plan. He said these filters are very much a safety net. Mr. Leson said that if the Village did not jump on this right away the lead time would jump to upwards of 50 weeks instead of 6. Mr. Leson said Ord. 9 is in reference to design and how to implement the filters (foundation, structure to hold them and piping). Mayor Conaway asked how long it would be for them to be up and running, Mr. Leson said possibly by summer. Dr. Rocco asked if this would negate a positive test for chemical, Mr. Wolfe said it would. He said the filters will be the final step of the water treatment process and that any contamination will be picked up before it goes out into the system.

STREET: Mr. Walker thanked the Street Dept for cleaning up the storm damage from the last storm. He also asked what they are replacing the contaminated soil with. Fire Chief Drabick stated he did not know exactly but it involves clay, soil and a variety of different rock and is a very long process. Jason Wazelle of NS stated that was correct and that all phases will have to get EPA approval, he also stated the process is slow because of the amount of material that can be hauled in a day.

PARK/REC/CEM: Dr. Rocco stated the Park Board is moving forward with the Easter Egg Hunt on the 8th. She said they are waiting on soil test results and if for some reason they come back positive they will not hesitate to cancel. The hunt itself will be held on the basketball and tennis courts. Manager Spratt added the old mulch has been removed from the playground as well as the basketball and tennis courts have been disinfected.

DEV/FINANCE: Ms. May she would be attending a meeting with the Port Authority as well as the Revitalization Committee and as information becomes available, she would share with everyone.

THERE WERE NO VISITORS COMMENTS ON CURRENT LEGISLATION

VISITORS: Ron & Peggy Caratelli, Crystal Mackall, Jerry Coblenz, Mike Dugan, Ach Gorby, Kent & Darlene Chapman, John Davis, Steph Elverd? (illegible), Rick & Karen Gorby, Terry Keresty, Nichole Johannes, Amanda Smith, Connor Conaway, Rev. Dr. Barry Walker, Cody Banicki, Jenn Drabick, Amanda Noel, Robert Hill, John Jurjavcic, Desirae Gostlin 33 News, Joe Leson MS Consultants, Jason Wazelle- Gov Relations NS.

LEGISLATION: Mr. Runnion made a motion to amend Ord.7-2023 to add the word “accept” in reference to the contract, Mr. Walker seconded the motion, passed unanimously. Mr. Runnion introduced Ord. 7-2023 and made a motion that it by title only seconded by Mr. Walker. **An ordinance authorizing the Village Manager to advertise and accept bids for phase one of the lead and galvanized water line replacement in the Village of East Palestine Ohio 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 Ord. 7-2023. Passed unanimously. Mr. Runnion introduced Ord. 8-2023 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Walker. **An ordinance authorizing the Village Manager to enter into an agreement with Calgon Carbon Corp for the purchase of a Model 10 Absorption System and ratifying all actions taken by the Village Manager with respect to said order 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 Ord. 8-2023. Passed unanimously. Mr. Runnion introduced Ord. 9.2023 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Walker. **An ordinance authorizing the Village Manager to enter into an agreement with MS Consultants for engineering services for the emergency water system improvements contingency plan and ratifying all actions taken by the Village Manger with respect to said agreement 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 Ord. 9-2023. Passed unanimously. Mr. Runnion introduced Res. 2-2023 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Walker. **A resolution authorizing participation in the ODOT road salt contract awarded in 2023.** Mr. Runnion called for a vote on Res. 2-2023. Passed unanimously. At this time Mr. Simpson made a motion to go into executive session to discuss pending litigation as well as the manager and asst. finance director postions per ORC 121.22 inviting in Manager Spratt, Law Director Powers, and Fire Chief Drabick, the motion was seconded by Mr. Walker. Passed unanimously. There would be no further business conducted after.

ADJOURN: Dr. Rocco made a motion to return to regular session seconded by Mr. Walker. Mr. Runnion motioned to adjourn the meeting seconded by Mr. Povenski. All in favor, meeting adjourned.