

EP COUNCIL 5/11/26 85 N. MARKET ST. 7:00 PM

Mayor Conaway called the meeting to order. Present was Mr. Blythe, Mrs. Herriott, Mr. Povenski, Mr. Simon, and Ms. Stauffer. Mr. Glavan was not present, his absence was excused on a motion by Mr. Povenski seconded by Mr. Blythe. Also present was Village Manager Antonio Diaz-Guy, Finance Director Melissa Hiner, Police Chief Chris Weingart and Clerk Misti Martin. The minutes of the 4/26 regular meeting were approved on a motion by Ms. Herriott seconded by Mr. Povenski. The April Department reports were approved on a motion by Ms. Simon seconded by Mr. Povenski.

CLERK: Martin stated Village offices will be closed on Monday May 25 for Memorial Day. At this time Ms. Herriot motioned rescheduling the regular meeting of 5/25 to Tuesday 5/26 seconded by Mr. Povenski. Passed unanimously. The next Charter Review meeting is 5/18/26 at 6:00 pm and an electronics recycling event will be held on 6/20 from 10 am to noon in the Centenary Church parking lot.

MAYOR: Mayor Conaway thanked everyone who participated in DOG Days this past Saturday. An ongoing safety concern in reference to electric scooters/bikes was discussed. Mayor Conaway suggested a potential requirement of a free registration and class to teach basic traffic laws. Police Chief Weingart stated SRO Officer Brindisi is working on a presentation in reference to bike/scooter safety to give at the school prior to summer break. Manager Diaz-Guy added it may also be a good idea to have a class at school once every quarter.

MANAGER: Manager Diaz-Guy stated water bills for the month of April have not yet been delivered; they were taken to the post office and then disappeared. Ms. Stauffer motioned to waive the penalties for the month of April due to this issue; the motion was seconded by Mr. Povenski and passed unanimously. An inflatable topper has been ordered for the new stage at the park. Work on the baseball/softball dugouts has begun and is in progress. Phase 3 of the park is primarily the playground as well as site work and roadwork; the 25 million dollar cap on the project has been exceeded/curtailed multiple times so far so at this time we feel we should enter an agreement with NS for direct procurement of the playground equipment; we would then be reimbursed which go toward the total project cap. The reason for doing this is the Village can get a 5% to 15% discount on the equipment by going through state bidding and by removing this from the park budget we can save on administrative cost, insurance, and bonding requirements. We will need to enter contracts with each of the four providers. Kronin is the GC for Phase 3. The hope is for the pool to open Memorial weekend, however, there has always been a two-week swing on that timing; after construction is completed there still must be state electrical and health inspections. The Bacon Ave. gas line project was to be completed by the end of June; it is ahead of schedule and looks to be pressurized by Memorial weekend. The scope of work has been approved for the park gas line extension; we are in negotiations with NS as to why that should come out of the park budget and will not be complete by pool opening day. There is a temporary plan for heat potable water, splash pad, and kiddie pool. The main pool will not be heated until the gas line is complete. The 2026 paving bid for E. Main St. and parts of Brookdale Ave will go to Youngblood Paving. In reference to EDA grant we have received notification of award for the first two grants from them; this will fund design/engineering in the infrastructure improvement plan. The CIC will need to be a co-applicant for these grants. The Village has transferred email software to Office 365. We have nominated our infrastructure project to the EPA for funding consideration. The Memorial Day Parade is 11:00 on the 25th. Before Council tonight is a first reading of legislation for the Small Business Grant Program for review and feedback.

STREET: 17 work orders were completed in April 17-yard debris and 4 miscellaneous. Completed a multi-day project and paved water ditch on Marion, installed a new catch basin and 80 ft of drainpipe on W. Clark. Prepped Kemple Drive for tar and chip, cold patched various roads, normal street sweeping, and addressed a wiring issue at North Ave. and Market St.

PARK/REC/CEM: Ms. Stauffer stated park revenue for April was \$155.00, normal daily operations continued, dugouts were demolished, upper bathrooms were opened, dead trees were removed from the dog park area, and debris was cleared from the walking trail. Prepped for kids fishing day, Easter, the disc golf tournament and prom pictures. There was a nice turnout for DOG Days even though the weather did not cooperate. Friends of the Park is planning a music event at the park on 6/19 at 6:30; Maddie Moore and Ben Flint are the performers.

DEV/FIN: Ms. Herriott began by noting a 7-month CD totaling \$ 2,042,425.81 with WesBanco matured on 5/7 earning \$47,091.35 in interest. The full balance was reinvested into a five-month cd with an apr of 3.75% compounded quarterly and is expected to generate \$33,000 in interest at maturity. April saw thirty-six residential building permits totaling \$1,417.00. Contractor registrations totaled \$1,900.00 and vendor registrations totaled \$600.00. YTD 17 junk car notices with fourteen being successfully remediated, forty-one tall grass notices with all but nine being abated. The EP Clinic held a grand opening at their new location on 4/30. The school district is on board with continuing the student representative to Village Council next year. The EP Act group held their quarterly meeting with the Amenities group continuing to work on the Faith United Meals program. EPGO has completed a successful winter walking program, they will be at the Street Fair with the Human Slot Machine. The Education group will continue the LTT/TTL program with the next school year. The CIC met 4/28, state/federal irs reporting is complete. In reference to the Plaza the soil borings are complete with results received; full design should be complete at the end of the month. Bidding will be by invitation. In reference to the Depot the County started advertising on the 5/6 and bids are due 6/3. Black Diamond has signed a five-year lease with the hopes of construction beginning in July. Discussion is ongoing with interested parties for the Jasar property, and the residential property has been surveyed to move forward with the property split to sell the home to the Land Bank. The West Clark Street property has already been sold to the county. They are still waiting on repair costs for 90/94 N. Market St.; they may be willing to fund a portion of the repairs but would like to find a buyer. Gary Clark has been appointed to the board, and the next meeting is 4/26 @ 10:00 am. Manager Diaz-Guy thanked Mr. Povenski for installing electricity and New Life Masonry for installing anchors in the parking area for the school's pocket park project. Nuisance abatement work continues with Council to receive a list of properties at the next meeting to officially declare them as nuisances as well as letters going soon for structurally unsafe properties.

WATER/WASTEWATER: Mr. Blythe stated UV disinfection began on 5/1 and will continue through 10/31, all hydrants were flushed, a hydrant at the plant was replaced at a cost of \$1,273.00 and repaired a service line leak on W. North at a cost of \$315.00. A new sanitary sewer line that services the pool has been tapped into, the new waterline servicing the pool has been pressure testing and sampled. All tests passed. Water produced in April was 10.57 million gallon and wastewater treated was 30.5 million gallons. 93 disconnection notices mailed, 57 second notices hand delivered resulting in 5 accounts being shut off for non-payment.

SAFETY: Mr. Povenski stated Lt. Johnson volunteered at the Braveheart dinner held at Eleanor Acres. Sgt. Moore continues to teach DARE to 6th graders and Ptl. Brindisi continues SRO duties. Chief Weingart and Drabick, Sgt. Moore and EMA Director Brian Rutledge attended a disaster planning meeting at Covington. The department has applied for the 2026-2027 DART grant. In April there were 320 self-initiated calls/calls for service resulting in 137 reports. EPFD had 26 fire incidents in the month of April as well as 5 mutual aid calls. Various meetings/trainings included engine company operations with limited manpower, power line safety training, a joint meeting at Covington and Prom Promise, University Hospital training at EMA. EMS activity included 117 incidents: 74 in the village, 18 in Unity, 25 mutual aids. 5 calls

were dropped: three due to the squad already being on call and two no on duty crew. Posted hiring notice for various Ems positions for nights/weekends.

VISITORS: Joseph Della Volle, Mark Rhodes, dot Herbert, Barb Kliner, Kent chapman, Dan McKinstry, Carol Harvey, John Davis.

LEGISLATION: Ms. Stauffer made a motion to table Ord. 13-2026 – PD minimum age. Mr. Blythe seconded the motion. Passed unanimously. Mr. Povenski introduced Ord. 14-2026 for a second reading and motioned it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Simon. **An ordinance amending the classification of the marketing coordinator position from Part time to full time with the Village of E. Palestine.** Mr. Simon introduced Ord. 15-2026 for a first reading and motioned it be read by title only seconded by Ms. Herriott. **An ordinance establishing the East Palestine business Vibrancy Grant Program, creating a dedicated fund, authorizing program administration, and setting forth program guidelines.** Mr. Povenski introduced Res. 20-2026 and motioned it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Simon. **A resolution approving a memorandum of understanding between the village of East Palestine Ohio and the East Palestine Community Improvement Corporation regarding providing property for a regional safety training center.** Mr. Simon called for a vote seconded by Mr. Blythe. Passed unanimously. Mr. Simon introduced Res. 21-2026 and motioned it be read by title only seconded by Ms. Stauffer. **A resolution authorizing the Village Manager to expend settlement funds for the rebuild and repair of dugouts at the East Palestine Park Baseball and softball fields.** Mr. Povenski called for a vote seconded by Ms. Stauffer. Passed unanimously. Mr. Povenski introduced Res. 22-2026 and motioned it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Simon. **A resolution affirming the including of the EPCIC as a co applicant for the Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant application related to infrastructure improvements associated with the proposed business park development.** Mr. Simon called to vote seconded by Mr. Blythe. Passed unanimously. Mr. Simon introduced Res. 23-2026 and motioned it be read by title only seconded by Ms. Stauffer. **A resolution to provide for the deposit of active, inactive, and interim funds of the Municipality of East Palestine, Ohio.** Mr. Simon called to vote seconded by Mr. Blythe. Passed unanimously. Mr. Simon introduced Res. 23-2026 and motioned it be read by title only seconded by Ms. Herriott. **A resolution designating Huntington National Bank, a financial institution located in and doing business withing the Municipality of East Palestine, Columbiana County, Ohio as public depository.** Mr. Simon called to vote seconded by Mr. Blythe. Passed unanimously.

ADJOURN: Mr. Povenski made a motion to adjourn seconded by Ms. Stauffer. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned.

MISTI J. MARTIN CLERK

MAYOR TRENT CONAWAY