

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

Mayor Pro Tem Barb Herriott called the meeting to order. Mr. Blythe, Mr. Glavan, Mr. Povenski, Mr. Simon, and Ms. Stauffer. Mayor Conaway arrived at approximately 7:05 pm. Also present was Village Manager Antonio Diaz-Guy and Clerk Misti Martin. The minutes of the 5/11/26 meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Povenski seconded by Mr. Blythe. There were no department reports or street, park/rec/cem, or safety committee reports.

**CLERK:** Martin stated an electronics recycling event would be held on 6/20 from 10:00 am to noon in the Centenary Church parking lot.

**MAYOR:** Mayor Conaway thanked everyone involved in making the Street Fair happen this year.

**MANAGER: Manager** Diaz-Guy stated the Memorial Day parade was well done. As an update for the EDA grant the first phase was applied for and awarded, this is a three million dollar grant that is on a reimbursement basis. The next step is an RFQ to select an engineering firm to manage the infrastructure design work; this process includes a public bidding requirement and will end with a committee to review and select a firm. In reference to the JEDD project, Trustees have voted in favor of a final contract and petitions; the next steps include asking property owners if they wish to join. This is a 100% consent; property owners are not required to join. The plan is to finish the petition process by late June and immediately announce a public hearing. The 2026 CDBG application for the student led pocket park project was not selected for funding; the project itself impacted too many people who were not low/moderate income. The Port Authority is working to find alternative funding sources for the project. There is an application prepared for the next phase of the SS4A project with more updates to come. The park Phase 2 update is the pool, and building is considered complete; what is not done is an electrical panel for the main power feed of the building. Until the electrical is complete the pool cannot be plastered because as soon as it is plastered it must be immediately filled and allowed to cure for four days prior to use. An opening date will be announced as soon as we have one. In reference to Phase 3 (the total park project budget is capped at \$25 million) there is legislation before council tonight to allow the Village to directly source the playground equipment. This would allow us to purchase at a government discount as well as pull them out of the project which would save on all the general administrative costs, insurance, bonding, etc. which should save upwards of \$700,000.00. To do this we do not want to come out of pocket and then have the project be close to or come under budget; the legislation before council states that the Village goes through Omnia Partners (a cooperative purchasing agreement) to bind four contracts for the equipment and pay up front. Within six weeks of verification of purchase the Village would be reimbursed by NS, at that point NS/Michael Baker take over installation. The project could in fact reach the \$25 million dollar cap, it could come under budget at which point we negotiate with NS that they will reimburse cash an amount under the cap and if it goes over, per the agreement in attached to legislation before Council tonight we would owe nothing. The Phase 3 contract has been awarded to Kronin and if we are able to proceed is based on whether we can enter this contract with NS. Also on the agenda is legislation to dedicate the new stage at the park as the "Kevin Baird Memorial Stage."

**DEV/FIN:** Ms. Herriott stated a 12-month CD that is part of Glenview Cemetery Trust fund matured on 5/19 earning \$1,463.82 in interest. The full balance of \$39,954.35 was reinvested into a twelve-month CD with WesBanco at an APY of 3.55% compounded quarterly. This is expected to earn \$1,400 in interest at maturity. For the CIC the Plaza project had a final design call and expects to seek bids by invitation, those invitations should go out by the end of June. Five contractors completed the pre bid walk through for the Depot project with bid proposals due June 3. Jasar property sale negotiations are still ongoing. A second opinion has been received for the 90/94 N. Market Street repairs and those are being reviewed. The next CIC meeting is 6/23 @ 10:00 am.

**WATER/WASTEWATER:** Mr. Blythe congratulated Jarred Osberg for passing his Water Supply 1 test.

**VISITORS:** Mark Rhodes, Carol Harvey, Jill & Steve Baird, Joe Della Volle, Missy Smith, Terry Keresty, Dan McKinstry, Christina Dilworth.

**LEGISLATION:** At this time resident Steve Baird stated last year they held the first annual Kevin Baird Music Festival at Shaker Woods raising \$56,000.00, this year they will be bringing the event home to EP Park in September for the second festival. This year of the money raised they will do a \$5000.00 scholarship for a student going into skilled trades, \$5000.00 will go to the EP Marching band to be used for kids who cannot afford things like equipment or the Disney trip, a donation will be made to the Park and anything left will go to juvenile diabetes research. The hope is for the event to continue to grow. Also, at the Park on July 11<sup>th</sup> the Kevin Baird Foundation will be holding a “Battle of the Bands”, there will be a cash prize for whoever wins and they will also be performing at the festival. Mr. Glavan introduced Ord.14-2026 for a third reading and made a motion that 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 within the Village of East Palestine.** Mr. Glavan called to vote secondly by Mr. Simon. Passed unanimously. Mr. Glavan introduced Ord. 15-2026 and motioned it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Povenski. **An ordinance establishing the “East Palestine Business Vibrancy Grant Program,” creating a dedicated fund, authorizing program administration, and setting forth program guidelines.** Mr. Glavan introduced Ord. 16-2026 for a first reading and motioned it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Simon. **An ordinance dedicating the stage located at the East Palestine City Park as the “Kevin Baird Memorial Stage” and authorizing a sponsorship program for said facility.** Mr. Glavan introduced Ord. 17-2026 and motioned it to be read by title only seconded by Mr. Simon. **An ordinance authorizing the Finance Director to make supplemental appropriations for the City of East Palestine, Ohio for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2026, and declaring an emergency.** Mr. Glavan motioned to suspend the rules and declare an emergency seconded by Ms. Stauffer. Passed unanimously. Mr. Glavan introduce Res. 25-2026 and motioned it to be read by title only seconded by Mr. Blythe. **A resolution authorizing the Village Manager to negotiate, execute and enter into an agreement with Norfolk Southern Railway Company relating to East Palestine Park revitalization funding and playground equipment reimbursement, and authorizing the Finance Director to allocate fund necessary for the purchase of playground equipment subject to reimbursement.** Mr. Glavan called to vote seconded by Mr. Simon. Passed unanimously. Mr. Glavan introduced Res. 26-2026 and motioned it be read by title only seconded by Ms. Stauffer. **A resolution authorizing the Village Manager to advertise, review, negotiate, and recommend the selection of a professional engineering firm for the East Palestine economic recovery and infrastructure expansion initiative.** Mr. Glavan called to vote seconded by Mr. Simon. Passed unanimously. At this time Ms. Herriott motioned to go into executive session per ORC 121.22 G2 the purchase/sale of real property and G8 to consider confidential information related to marketing plans/business strategy inviting in Manager Diaz-Guy. The motion was seconded by Mr. Simon, passed unanimously.

**ADJOURN:** Mr. Povenski motioned to return to regular session as well as adjourn the meeting seconded by Mr. Glavan. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

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**MISTI J. MARTIN CLERK**

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**MAYOR TRENT CONAWAY**