

**EP VILLAGE COUNCIL 5/9/22 7:00 PM 85 N. MARKET ST.**

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 Village Manager Mark McTrusty, Finance Director Traci Spratt, Law Director David Powers, Clerk Misti Martin, and BZ Inspector McCutcheon. The minutes of the 4/25/22 meeting was approved on a motion by Dr. Rocco, seconded by Mr. Runnion. In reference to the April 2022 Credit Card report Mr. Simpson asked what account used the Home Depot card to which Finance Director Traci Spratt stated the Park. The April department reports were then approved on a motion by Mr. Simpson seconded by Mr. Runnion. There were no agenda items or Clerk's report.

**MAYOR:** Mayor Conaway stated the EP Community Foundation will be holding a golf outing on June 18 at the Country Club.

**MANAGER:** Manager McTrusty stated there are changes coming to ORC in reference to Ohio fireworks laws which will allow residents and nonresidents to discharge consumer grade fireworks on specific holidays throughout the year; they may be set off on a resident or someone else's property only with prior permission. The change allows municipalities to opt out or restrict the dates/times. Anyone caught discharging fireworks under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be charged with a first-class misdemeanor. After discussion with Police & Fire Chiefs they recommend that an ordinance be created prohibiting the general public from discharging fireworks in the park, walking trail and around city lake. Another change to the revised codes includes concealed carry license and the need to have one. Concealed carry permits will no longer be required as of June 13; that doesn't directly affect us but becomes a liability issue so he is requesting an ordinance restricting the carrying of firearms on village owned property in the park (pool, community center, etc.). McTrusty stated there is much confusion on this particular issue stating that Chief Brown has already some inquiries about who can/can't carry weapons; he feels having an ordinance as well as signage for be for our benefit as well as the patrons of the pool. Mr. Simpson stated those would already fall under rules for government buildings, Mr. Walker asked about the park as a whole. McTrusty stated that a city around Cleveland tried to ban concealed carry in open spaces and the state supreme court shot it down even if it is local government owned. Mr. Simpson stated it should include the Community Center, the bathhouse and the pavilions (brick and scout cabins). Mr. Povenski asked why the restriction should include the bathhouse saying that a parent takes their child to the bathroom in a public area and want to be able to carry a gun. Mayor Conaway asked if these rules applied to people that do have a concealed carry permit (meaning the bathrooms); he said that right now there is nothing that says he can't go into a bathroom with a gun. Atty. Powers agreed with Conaway but said he still can't go into a government building and that would be one. Fire Chief Drabick stated that anywhere that signage prohibiting fire arms is posted and you cross the threshold into that building you are in violation. McTrusty stated that the ARC grants are changing requirements and requiring products be made in America. The other notice from OMEGA stating there is \$280 million dollars in assistance for homeowners who have been financially impacted by the pandemic, the Ohio Housing Financing Agency is pushing the information on the Save the Dream Program; homeowners can receive up to \$25,000 in mortgage assistance.

**LAW DIRECTOR:** Atty. Powers stated he submitted a second draft of vacant structure legislation for discussion tonight. He stated that in doing research he found that Salem has repealed their vacant structure legislation in its entirety.

**STREET:** Mr. Walker asked when the water ditches around town would be repaired, McTrusty said it should be this week. Mr. Povenski asked why Street Superintendent Baird drives his personal vehicle during work hours, McTrusty stated it is his choice and they currently only have three trucks. Mr. Povenski asked if he was compensated for that and McTrusty stated he chooses to do that on his own. Mr. Simpson asked about a sink hole at the top of Cyland Ave. that has been repaired numerous times, he asked if we could get some blacktop in the hole.

**PARK/REC/CEM:** Dr. Rocco stated the Park Board wants to hold a disc golf tournament in the fall and they are still moving forward with the sponsorship of the holes. She stated pool painting is complete and looks good. Mr. Walker asked when the pool will be filled and checked for leaks,

McTrusty stated they would begin tomorrow. Mayor Conaway commented that the softball field looks good.

#### **DEVELOPMENT/FINANCE: NO REPORT**

**UTILTIY:** In reference to buying American with the ARC grants Mr. Simpson stated this is not the first time this has happened; this has been a stipulation of other grants in the past. Mr. Povenski asked if they would chase things backwards to find out where there are made. Mr. Simpson said the products of to be approved and stamped “made in the USA”. Manager McTrusty stated everything down the rebar will come in tagged with the manufacturer, the date produced and lot number. Mr. Simpson stated it is a good thing but it is also more costly.

**SAFETY:** Mr. Povenski thanked Chief Drabick for his new report format and also asked him where things stood with EMS staffing issue. Chief Drabick stated they have not added anyone yet but he and Finance Director Spratt have worked out some numbers and will be presenting them to Council next meeting. He this staffing shortage is a problem everywhere and even Columbiana is experiencing it right now. He said it is a work in progress and that they plan to put up a recruitment tent during the Street Fair and also that the biggest problem for anyone not holding a card in Ohio is actually getting a card here, he said it is a nightmare. Columbiana County Career doesn’t offer the program anymore, only Mahoning County has it (He will be going to meet with that instructor). He said they are restarting the Junior Firefighter program and are hit the schools hard with that. He they are also looking at running their own EMT class in cooperation with their command facility which is University Hospital. He said there will also be a class in New Waterford and they have been working with Negley also. This problem will not be solved overnight, it’s going to a few years but hopefully we will get a few people in shortly with the discussed increases. Manager McTrusty stated there is a new grant available that he will be looking into also. Chief Drabick stated he is also working on several grants for things other than staffing and that he signed a contract with ODNR in order to get access to their surplus equipment at no monetary cost to the Village. At this point resident Jerry Coblentz asked if they are trying to get those who run EMS more money and Chief said yes, they are. Finance Director Traci Spratt stated that yes, the money is there for the increases but that they are trying to come up with a plan so they can maintain things in the long run and not use all the fund up in the beginning. Chief Drabick said he refuses to put the department or the Village to a point where they won’t be able to do what they set out to do; he doesn’t want to run the budget dry. If it can’t be sustained then it’s not worth doing, he said he will not do anything unless he knows for sure that he can make it work. In reference to the new monthly report format Mayor Conaway asked if the term “dump” meant that no one was able to go on a call to which Chief said yes.

**VISITORS:** Darlene Chapman, Jerry Coblentz, Mike Dugan, and Danielle Garner

#### **THERE WERE NO VISITORS COMMENTS ON CURRENT LEGISALTION**

**LEGISLATION:** Ms. May introduced Ord. 10-2022 for a third reading and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Dr. Rocco. **An ordinance authorizing the Finance Director to make supplemental appropriations for the City of East Palestine, Ohio for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2022.** Ms. May called for a vote on Ord.10-2022 seconded by Mr. Runnion. Ms. May-y, Mr. Povenski-y, Dr. Rocco-y, Mr. Runnion-y, Mr. Simpson-y, Mr. Walker-y.

**ADJOURN:** Mr. Walker made a motion to adjourn seconded by Mr. Runnion. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

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**MISTI J. MARTIN CLERK**

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**MAYOR MARGO ZUCH**