

## **EP COUNCIL 11/10/25 85 N. MARKET ST. 7:00 PM**

Mayor Conaway called the meeting to order. Present was Mr. Blythe, Mr. Glavan, Ms. Herriott, Mr. Povenski, Mr. Simon and Ms. Stauffer. Also, present was Village Manager Antonio Diaz-Guy, Law Director David Powers, Clerk Misti Martin and Officer Chris Weingart. The minutes of the regular meeting of 10/27 and the special meeting of 11/5 were approved on a motion by Mr. Povenski second by Mr. Glavan. The October department reports were approved on a motion by Mr. Povesnki seconded by Ms. Stauffer. There were no mayor's or finance committee reports.

**CLERK:** Clerk stated council was given a list of boards/commissions appointments that will expire 12/31/25, the terms expiring are as follows: One on ZBA, three on Library Board, two on CRA, and two on Planning Commission. Letters of interest will be accepted until 12/5 @ noon. It was announced the office would be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday 11/27 & 11/28. Curbside leaf pick up continues, leaves must be in paper bags and set out at the curb.

**MANAGER:** Manager Diaz-Guy stated Phase 2 of the park project is on budget and slightly ahead of schedule; the pool has been fully poured and it will stay this way until spring when final plaster/tile work is done. We hope to be under roof for the pool building by the end of November. There will be sporadic park closures throughout the fall/winter months and we will keep the public updated via FB and our website. Phase 3 will be the playground, Brick Pavilion, a ball field as well as site work and the budget is currently being reviewed. We do expect to be over budget on Phase 3 and we are where we assumed we would be. We will be trimming a little off this phase to make better use of the funds. In reference to new playground equipment, we have the opportunity to go direct buy and use the State of Ohio bidding program to purchase these items at a 10% to 15% discount. Another item to be looked at will be the Brick Pavilion as we are not convinced the amount of money going into the structure will give us the end product we want and managing this portion in house more efficiently and over a period of time. Discussion and announcements will come in the future. In reference to the stage it was noted it does not have a roof but it should so we are looking at different options including requesting RFPs at the next council meeting. In reference to the bulk water legislation, it was stated we have received multiple requests for bulk water; this would create a revenue stream for the water department that also helps solve peoples water insecurities. The rate would be \$25 per thousand gallons and must be picked up during weekday work hours. In reference to the TAP program, we are continuing to identify needed projects and will be focused primarily on repairs or filling sidewalk gaps. The village will be rolling out our Office 365 program for all departments. The ODNR fishing agreement is completed and executed with signage forthcoming. This will go live in 2026 when the pond/lake are stocked. It was announced there is a new embroidery store on Market St. called Sew Be It.

**LAW DIRECTOR:** Atty. Powers stated the appeal of the class action settlement has been resolved/dismissed by the Sixth Circuit Appeals Court. He stated he would anticipate EPIQ would begin processing household payments in the near future. There is a possibility that appellants could seek Supreme Court review but that would be a long shot.

**STREET:** Mr. Simon stated in Oct. the Street Dept installed new French drains at the chapel, new signage and restored an old flag pole at the cemetery. 80 ft of drain pipe was installed at a new construction on Park Dr. to alleviate flooding, six miscellaneous work orders were completed during the month as well as 15 tons of asphalt used. Upcoming projects include

prepping trucks for snow removal, installing Christmas decorations downtown and continued leaf pickup.

**PARK/REC/CEM:** Ms. Stauffer stated park rental income for Oct. totaled \$320.00. Disc golf reno was completed; it was also noted that Park Board (next meeting 11/19 @ 6:00pm) will be looking for disc golf hole sponsors in the next couple months. All unheated buildings in the park were winterized as well as continued maintenance of the Duck Pond. Upcoming projects include winter equipment maintenance, removal of dead/dying trees and planning of spring 2026 projects.

**DEVELOPMENT:** Ms. Herriott stated 19 misc. building permits were issued in Oct. totaling \$2,049.00. There were also \$900.00 in contractor registration fees and one food truck registration for \$50.00. The next EP Act LTT/TTL event will be 11/18 where they will decorate ornaments for the Christmas tree downtown, the ornaments were donated by the EPCIC. Roberta Streiffert of RCAP will be here Wednesday 11/12 for the quarterly EP Act quarterly meeting at the Way Station @ 6:00 pm. In reference to the CIC design work continues on the Train Depot with a walk through with the prospective tenant to finalize design as well as a non-binding letter of intent to be incorporated into a formal lease. A design concept has been settled on for the EPCIC Plaza retail building. Details will be released to the public once details are finalized. The 2025 B.O.F campaign has received over \$45,000.00 in donations; these funds will be used to renovate the EPCIC Plaza and build a new retail building. The former Jasar property has been transferred to the CIC; they are working with Manager Diaz-Guy on plans for the 15-acre property. Additional funding has been secured from Jobs Ohio for feasibility studies on the RT 14 corridor utilities extension project. Additional funding will be sought from Jobs Ohio for construction in addition to the AMLER grant app that was submitted in October. The EPCIC meeting will 1/18 @ 10:00 am.

**WATER/WASTE WATER:** Mr. Blythe stated the month of October saw one water break on Kemple Dr at a cost of \$2100.00, one lead service line replaced on W. Martin at a cost of \$581.00 and mandatory hydrant flushing was completed (272 hydrants used approximately 525,000 gallons). Highschool students toured the treatment plant, yearly DMR-QA testing was also completed. 111 utility disconnections notices were mailed out; 67 seconded notices were hand delivered resulting in 10 accounts being shut off. YTD 98,000,000 gallons of water have been produced and 194,000,000 gallons of waste water have been treated.

**SAFETY:** Mr. Povenski stated PD continues to work security for all home football games and school activities as well as Halloween. Our officers along with OSP participated in an interdiction blitz resulting in 69 traffic stops, 11 citations, 1 OVI arrest, and Officer Coontz/K9 Fran recovering contraband. Lt Johnson was awarded the CIT Officer of the year for Columbiana County. Todd Rutledge was hired as a part time dispatcher. October saw 483 self-initiated calls/calls for service resulting in 129 reports. Fire/Ems Departments saw 142 calls in October; 90 in the Village, 11 in Unity and 41 mutual aids. 12 were fire only, 123 EMS only and 7 combined. 4 calls were dumped due to squad already being out and 2 were no available crew. 8 members attended a hazmat course; 2 members taught a CPR course at Covington and 1 member attended rope/rescue operations course. The department held their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. The admin side of Clark St. station is under construction post flooding/water damage. EMS crews are currently staged at Unity Station 2.

**VISITORS:** Jerry Coblentz, Carol Harvey, Dot Herbert, Joe Della Volle, Dan McKinstry, Alexandra Hopkins, Ron & Peggy Caratelli, Stephanie Elverd, John Davis, Barb Kliner.

**LEGISLATION:** Mr. Glavan made a motion to amend the agenda to add Ord. 27-2025, Bulk Water Rates. The motion was seconded by Mr. Blythe. Passed unanimously. Mr. Glavan introduced Ord. 26-2025 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Povenski. **An ordinance adopting the appropriation for the current expenses and other expenditures of the Village of East Palestine, Ohio, during the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2026 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. 26-2025 seconded by Mr. Simon. Passed unanimously. Mr. Glavan introduced Ord. 27-2025 for a first reading and made a motion that it be read in its entirety seconded by Mr. Simon. **An ordinance authorizing the bulk sale of water from the East Palestine Water and Sewer Department and setting rates.** At this time Mr. Povenski made a motion to go into executive session per ORC 121.22 G 2 to consider the purchase of property for public purposes inviting in Manager Diaz-Guy and Law Director David Powers. The motion was seconded by Mr. Glavan, passed unanimously. There would be no business to follow.

**ADJOURN:** Mr. Glavan motioned to return to regular session seconded by Ms. Stauffer, passed unanimously. Mr. Povenski motioned to adjourn the meeting seconded by Ms. Stauffer. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

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**MISTI J. MARTIN CLERK**

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**MAYOR TRENT CONAWAY**