

EP COUNCIL 11/11/24 85 N. MARKET ST. 7:00 PM

Mayor Conaway called the meeting to order. Present was Mr. Blythe, Mr. Glavan, Ms. May, Mr. Povenski, and Dr. Rocco. Also present was Finance Director Melissa Hiner, Law Director David Powers, Police Chief Jim Brown, Street Superintendent Steve Baird, W/WW Superintendent Scott Wolfe and Clerk/Interim Manager Misti Martin. The minutes of the regular meeting of 10/28 and the special meeting of 11/4/24 were approved on a motion by Mr. Glavan seconded by Dr. Rocco. The October 2024 department reports were approved on a motion by Dr. Rocco seconded by Mr. Blythe. There were no clerk's or law director's reports

AGENDA: VACANT COUNCIL SEAT A special council meeting was called for Monday November 18th at 6:00 pm to interview candidates for the vacant council seat.

MAYOR: Mayor Conaway stated there are available positions on various boards/commissions. Those are two spots on the Zoning Board of Appeals, one spot on the Library Board, one spot on the CRA Board and one seat on the Planning Commission. Letters of interest will be accepted until 11/22 at noon.

MANAGER: Interim Mgr. Misti Martin began by stating the burn ban was extended until Friday 11/15. Work continues on Phase 1 of the park project including 30 pole bases being completed, they are working on the aggregate bases for the sport courts and the plan is to asphalt them the end of November. There is no start date for Phase 2. The Home Tours sponsored by Garden Club took place on November 8 & 9, the Turkey Trot sponsored by the Chamber will take place Thanksgiving morning and the Christmas parade sponsored by the Moose will be on Saturday December 7th at 6pm with the tree lighting ceremony directly after. The street levy renewal failed to pass, it can be placed on the ballot two more times with the next election being May 2025; additional legislation will be needed and we should start that the first of the year. As the next election draws near discussion will be needed to form a committee separate from the village/council to work on informing the public of how the levy funds are used and why they are needed. The next CIC meeting will be December 10th. Finally, an executive session will be needed to discuss pending litigation as well as discussion of wages for non-bargaining unit employees.

STREET: Mr. Glavan stated that for the month of October the Street Department paved various water ditches, took care of downed trees, got the plows ready for winter, leveled off graves, ran the street sweeper, mowed, cleaned up the city dump, fixed a traffic light. Finally, Mr. Glavan stated that Market St. downtown where the waterline project took place by the end of the year.

PARK/REC/CEM: Dr. Rocco stated the park has been shut down for the winter and the bathrooms are closed. The furnace was repaired in the Community Center as well as the sink in the Brick Pavilion.

DEV/FIN: Ms. May stated the Columbiana County leaders meeting will be Thursday 14th in Wellsville. A number of organizations/small businesses have contacted the village about coming here and more information will be given as it is available. She stated they are still reaching out to various pharmacies about coming to EP; she learned that Family Drug and Hometown Pharmacy in Columbiana both deliver to EP. Dr. Rocco added that Walgreens in Boardman also delivers here.

UTILITY: Mr. Blythe stated operations at the plants are business as usual. Engineering for the 30% design of the new facility with MS Consultants is still ongoing. In the distribution system a hydrant was replaced on N. Liberty at a cost of \$5,700, a water break on E. North was repaired at a cost of approximately \$900. WW plant is operating under normal conditions, the WW collection system is operating with routine maintenance. W/WW employees have assisted the Street Dept. with paving.

SAFETY: Mr. Povenski stated in October the FD received 119 calls, of those 17 were fire only, 93 Ems and 10 combined. EMS transported 49 patients and had 18 refusals, squads' answers 100% of calls that month. PD provided child safety ID kits for parents to fill out at the fall fest, they fielded 496 self-initiated calls for service resulting in 123 reports. Officers also assisted the FD on five occasions. Dr. Rocco asked if the PD ticketed vehicles parked overnight on the street as there are concerns about plowing during the winter months. Chief Jim Brown stated that during covid that was put on hold and there are certain areas of town where past managers have allowed overnight street

parking; if it is becoming an issue than we need to consider going back to doing so. Chief Brown stated the plowing issue has been addressed with past managers by issuing a “snow emergency” during which means no parking on the streets.

THERE WERE NO VISITORS COMMENTS ON CURRENT LEGISLATION

VISITORS: Barb Kliner, Jerry Coblenz, Mark Rhodes, John Davis, Kent Chapman, Carol Harvey, Jeremy Vranesevich, Rick & Karen Gorby, Ron & Peggy Caratelli, Tina Dilworth, Dave Biggins, David Peters, Dan McKinstry, Bob & Tami Harris, Steph Elverd, and Officer Weingart.

LEGISLATION: Mr. Glavan introduced Ord. 14-2024 for a first reading and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Dr. Rocco. **An ordinance adopting the negotiated pay increase between the Village of East Palestine (employer) and the Fraternal Order of Police, Ohio Labor Council, Inc (union), effective January 1, 2025.** Mr. Glavan introduced Ord. 15-2024 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Povenski. **An ordinance designating an interim Village manager and setting a wage, and declaring an emergency.** Mr. Glavan made a motion to suspend the rules and declare an emergency seconded by Dr. Rocco. Passed unanimously. Mr. Glavan called for a vote on Ord. 15-2024. Passed unanimously. Mr. Glavan introduced Ord. 16-2024 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Blythe. **An ordinance adopting the appropriation for the current expenses and expenditures of the Village of East Palestine, Ohio during the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2025.** At this time Dr. Rocco made a motion to go into executive session to discuss pending litigation under ORC 121.22 G3 and wages for non-bargaining unit employees under ORC 121.22 G4 inviting in Finance Director Melissa Hiner, Law Director David Powers and Acting Manager Misti Martin. There would be no further business afterwards. The motion was seconded by Mr. Blythe, passed unanimously.

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

MISTI J. MARTIN CLERK

MAYOR TRENT CONAWAY