

EP VILLAGE COUNCIL 11/13/23 85 N. MARKET ST. 7:00 PM

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 Chad Edwards, Finance Director Traci Spratt, Finance Clerk Melissa Hiner, Law Director David Powers, W/WW Superintendent Scott Wolfe, Police Chief Jim Brown, BZ Inspector CH McCutcheon, and Clerk Misti Martin. The minutes of the 10/23/23 meeting were approved on a motion by Dr. Rocco seconded by Mr. Runnion. The October 2023 department reports were approved on a motion by Mr. Walker, seconded by Dr. Rocco. There were no agenda items, Clerks report, or Park/Rec/Cem report.

MAYOR: Mayor Conaway noted that the Village recently lost two remarkable women, former Mayor Margo Zuch and life long resident and caterer Beverly Doran. Next Mayor Conaway introduced new Village Manager Chad Edwards.

MANAGER: Manager Edwards thanked Council and stated he is happy to be here. He said his first week has been busy/productive and that his manager reports will be more in depth as things continue. He has been meeting with members of the community and business leaders and plans to continue to do so. He added he wants to get started on community development as soon as possible; he has ideas he would like to consider including a property clean up competition with a cash prize sponsored by local businesses, a community wide clean up that could possibly include dumpsters for resident use. He said he would like to implement weekly manager update on Facebook to go over things that may get overlooked. Finance Director Traci Spratt added that the Park Drive bridge project is about four weeks behind but they are still moving forward. She added that a special council meeting was needed for November 27 at 6:00 pm to hear from Michael Baker & Associates in reference to the park renovation plans. She noted this will be phase 1 of the plans. Mayor Conaway called the meeting with council being in favor. Next, she noted that Ord. 24-2023 is updating the personnel policy handbook that includes a proposal to update EMS staffing (staffing 24/7) Chief Drabick will be at the next meeting to explain in more detail. In reference to Res.18-2023 – 911 Commission appointment. The village needs to select a council member who will then apply to be a member of the newly formed board, Atty. Powers stated the resolution states the mayor is to make the appointment. Mayor Conaway asked for a motion to appoint Mr. Povenski as the council member to apply for the board; Ms. May made the motion, seconded by Dr. Rocco. All in favor. Finally, Spratt stated the renovation to the train depot has begun.

LAW DIRECTOR: Atty. Powers stated the condemned property at 140 Park Ave has gone up for sheriff's auction twice with no bidders, we have been notified that the Village, the Land Bank of the School District can take the property. Clerk Misti Martin stated that in speaking to the Land Bank it is their intention to obtain the property.

STREET: Mr. Walker had no report. Mayor Conaway stated the clean up of the streets after the waterline replacement crew finishes for the day is horrendous and needs addressed; they also need to get a flag crew that is more competent in directing traffic.

DEV/FIN: Ms. May stated the RCAP Envision Workshop will be held at the Elementary School Cafeteria at 6:00 pm, as well as pre meeting the night before.

UTILITY: Mr. Simpson asked that everyone please be patient in reference to the waterline replacement project. He said it is a mess but anytime a project like this is done that is going happen but they will get it cleaned up.

SAFETY: Mr. Povenski thanked the residents for passing the Fire Levy Renewal. The Halloween festival at the park held by the Firemans Association and the Park Board was well received. The Fireman's Association is also holding a fill a truck event on December 3 for Social Concerns for new and unopened toys. He noted that for the October the FD ran a total of 116 calls with 42 of them resulting in transported patients and 16 dumped calls for the month; 5 of those calls the squads were already out on calls. The PD provided security for the Jeep Invasion as well as trick or treat and the parade. The PD received 527 calls in October resulting in 128 reports. To date they have received 4993 calls for service.

VISITORS: Jerry Coblentz, Ron & Peggy Caratelli, Dan Sebrell, John Davis, Brenda Povenski, Kent & Darlene Chapman, Rick & Karen Gorby, Robert Unger, Dan McKinstry, Abbey Palmer, Dave Biggins & Daughter, Tami & Bob Harris, Lenny Glavan, Josh McKay, Misti Allison, Steph Elverd, Dave Peters, Officer Reed.

LEGISLATION: In reference to Ord.19-2023 Finance Director Traci Spratt stated the land will be used for future development for the Village; there are still details that cannot be released, and that she is also working on additional funding for the project. Mr. Runnion introduced Ord. 19-2023 for a third reading and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Walker. **An ordinance authorizing the purchase of real estate.** Mr. Runnion called for a vote on Ord. 19-2023 seconded by Dr. Rocco. 6 yes to pass. Mr. Runnion introduced Ord. 20-2023 for a second reading and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Walker. **An ordinance for the approval and granting consent to the Director of the Ohio Department of transportation authority to, apply, maintain and repair standard longitudinal pavement markings and erect regulatory and warning signs on state highways inside Village corporate limits, and giving consent of the Village for the Ohio Department of Transportation to remove snow and ice and use snow and ice control material on state highways inside the Village corporate limits and giving consent of the Village for the Ohio Department of Transportation to perform maintenance and/or repair on state highways inside the Village Corporation.** Mr. Runnion introduced Ord. 22-2023 for a first reading and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Walker. **An ordinance authorizing the village manager to enter into a contract with David P. Powers to serve as the municipal attorney for a one-year term commencing January 1, 2024 in accordance with the terms of the previous contract which is hereby incorporated by reference.** Mr. Runnion introduced Ord. 23-2023 for a first reading and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Walker. **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).** Mr. Runnion introduced Ord. 24-2023 for a first reading seconded by Dr. Rocco. **An ordinance adopting a wage scale and other updates to be incorporated into the personnel policy handbook (white book).** Mr. Runnion introduced Ord. 25-2023 for a first reading and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Dr. Rocco. **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, 2024 and adopting estimated resources and declaring an emergency.** Mr. Runnion introduced Res. 18-2023 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Dr. Rocco. **A resolution authorizing the Mayor of the Village of East Palestine to appoint a candidate to serve on the Board of the Regional 911 Commission.** Mr. Runnion called for a vote on Res.18-2023. 6 yes to pass. Mr. Simpson made a motion to go into executive session to discuss wages/union negotiation per ORC 121.22 inviting in Manager Edwards, Finance Director Traci Spratt, Finance Clerk Melissa Hiner and Law Director David Powers. The motion was seconded by Mr. Runnion. 5 yes to pass with Mr. Walker abstaining. There would be no further business after.

ADJOURN: At approximately 8:20 pm Dr. Rocco made a motion to return to regular session seconded by Mr. Runnion. Mr. Walker then made a motion to adjourn seconded by Dr. Rocco. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

MISTI J. MARTIN CLERK

MAYOR TRENT CONAWAY