

EP VILLAGE COUNCIL 11/14/22 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 Mark McTrusty, Finance Director Traci Spratt, Police Chief Jim Brown, Fire Chief Keith Drabick, W/WW Superintendent Scott Wolfe, Clerk Misti Martin, Law Director David Powers, and BZ Inspector McCutcheon. The minutes of the 10/24/22 meeting were approved on a motion by Dr. Rocco seconded by Mr. Runnion. The October 2022 department reports were approved on a motion by Dr. Rocco and seconded by Ms. May. There were no agenda items or Mayor's report.

CLERK: Clerk Misti Martin stated the December 26th meeting would need to be rescheduled as that was a holiday for the village. Dr. Rocco made a motion to move the meeting to Wednesday December 28 at 7:00pm, seconded by Mr. Simpson. All in favor.

MANAGER: Manager McTrusty reviewed a timeline of all ongoing projects that he had provided in packets, due to cost he recommended the funds be returned to ODNR for the trail grant and that we could rebid next year but with a penalty on points. There is still a hold up on blowers for the EQ basin and the waterline replacement project is still moving forward that will require legal work for easements and Malibu Dr. is not a water pressure issue but more related to a high service issue and MS is looking into solutions. He said ODOT has changed criteria for the bridge inspection program adding a number of short culverts as well as working on getting the alley repair program going as soon as possible. Finally, the village will be needing to go out for engineering qualifications next year. Mr. Walker asked demolitions have been started, Manager McTrusty said not at this time and that the house at Koch and Park Ave. is in probate and will be for some time. He said Finance Director Spratt is in contact with the Land Bank to see if we can partner with the for other demos which may be a more efficient option. At this Mayor Conaway noted this was Manager McTrusty last meeting and thanked for his years of service and we appreciate everything he has done. Finance Director Traci Spratt also thanked McTrusty for all he's done and wish him well. Spratt stated she had previously emailed Council about the new Appalachian Trails grant, she said this is a very fast-moving grant and that she had to submit ideas for the Village. She suggested downtown revitalization/street lights for the Village. She is asking council to consider what they would want to see in the downtown area, what businesses need help, what owners can we work with, and what infrastructure plans can help the village. Spratt noted there is a \$250,000 plan development grant that we would be included in which should be awarded in 2023 and also that the Port Authority will help the village develop the needed plan. She said there will one grant application submitted for the entire county and we will be a piece of the pie, it is a 100% grant with no matching funds. She noted legislation needs drawn up to create the position for the Finance Clerk before advertising can begin and also the wage suggestions for nonunion employees for 2023. She said the village had its first online auction unneeded equipment and she was very pleased with how it went with sales totaling around \$28,000 for the water and fire departments. There were no Law Director's, Street, or Park/Rec/Cem, or Utility reports.

DEVELOPMENT/FINANCE: Mr. Runnion noted that that Atty. Powers was directed to draw legislation for the proposed contractor registration, misc. fees for police/fire and solicitors/peddlers.

SAFETY: Mr. Povenski stated as it stands the cost of Knox boxes for vacant commercial structures comes out BZ budget at a cost of \$481.00 each (with the cost of signage the cost per vacant commercial/industrial building is roughly \$510.00) Chief Drabick stated with the cost we cannot afford to purchase more than a couple at a time, he said it is costing a significant amount of money to do this. Mr. Simpson asked if these could come out of the FD budget and Chief Drabick so no as he is already short on things he needs. Drabick stated he had mentioned a couple's times during the legislation process that the property owners should be responsible for these costs. Mr. Povenski mentioned the idea of having a "master" key for the buildings instead of a box, Chief Drabick stated a Knox box is 100% secure, the EPFD would be the only ones with access to the keys. Dr. Rocco asked if there would be any grant money available. Business owner Terry Keresty expressed concern about people having access to his building and just coming and going as they please. Chief Drabick stated that would not happen, the sole purpose of the key is to gain access in

case of an emergency as opposed to having to break a door or window to gain access. Atty. Powers noted a knock box on a vacant structure could allow the homeowners insurance cost to go down.

THERE WERE NO VISITORS COMMENTS ON CURRENT LEGISLATION

VISITORS: Zach Gorby, Kent & Darlene Chapman, Dave Biggins, Jerry Coblenz, Nicole Johannes, Terry Keresty, Amanda Smith, Ron & Peggy Caratelli, John Davis, and Lisa Fulton.

LEGISLATION: Ms. May introduced Ord. 19-2022 for a second reading and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Dr. Rocco. **An ordinance authorizing the Village Manager to enter into contract with David P. Powers to serve as the Municipal Attorney for a one-year term commencing January 1, 2023 in accordance with the terms of the previous contract which is hereby incorporated by reference.** Ms. May introduced Ord. 20-2022 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, 2023 and adopting estimated resources and declaring an emergency.** Ms. May introduced Ord. 21-2022 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Dr. Rocco. **An ordinance establishing terms, conditions and compensation for the interim Village Manager position.** Ms. May made a motion to suspend the rules and declare an emergency seconded by Mr. Simpson. Ms. May-y, Mr. Povenski-y, Dr. Rocco-y, Mr. Runnion-y, Mr. Simpson-y, Mr. Walker-y. Ms. May called for a vote on Ord. 21-2022. Ms. May-y, Mr. Povenski-y, Dr. Rocco-y, Mr. Runnion-y, Mr. Simpson-y, Mr. Walker-y. 6 yes to pass. At this point Mr. Simpson made a motion to go into executive session to discuss manager resumes, the motion was seconded by Mr. Runnion. There would be no further business afterwards. Ms. May-y, Mr. Povenski-y, Dr. Rocco-y, Mr. Runnion-y, Mr. Simpson-y, Mr. Walker-y.

ADJOURN: Dr. Rocco made the motions to return to regular session and to adjourn the meeting, the motions were seconded by Mr. Runnion. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

MISTI J. MARTIN CLERK

MAYOR TRENT CONAWAY