

EP COUNCIL 11/25/24 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, Clerk/Interim Manager Misti Martin, W/WW Superintendent Scott Wolfe, and Fire Chief Keith Drabick. At this time Mr. Povenski nominated Ms. Barb Herriot for the vacant council seat, the motion was seconded by Mr. Glavan, passed unanimously. Ms. Herriot was then sworn in. The minutes of the regular meeting of 11/11 and the special meeting of 11/18/24 were approved on a motion by Mr. Povenski seconded by Ms. May. Mayor Conaway stated the second meeting in December would need to be changed to allow additional time for end of year financials; Ms. May made a motion to move the second meeting in December to Monday 12/30, seconded by Mr. Povenski. All in favor. Dr. Rocco stated she would not be in attendance that day. There were no Mayors, Law Director's, Utility or Safety committee reports.

AGENDA: NS/EPA STATUS UPDATE- Chris Hunsicker of NS stated they are currently in the quarterly assessment of the streams; work is currently paused due to low water levels. Restoration is moving along well, on the east end of the property where the tanks were 2 locations have been restored. The third location which is the driveway to the Bognar property is almost complete; there is a small area where they had a detection which results in an additional scrape of the area. Additional testing will be done to make sure the area is clear and it will then be restored with new topsoil/grass seed. They are still finishing some ditch work (connecting new pips/culverts). The north side of the tracks are in pretty good shape. There is still a lot of work going on with sheet piling, they are only doing that work during the day to try and avoid any inconveniences. In reference to rumors about pulling up the tracks and closing Taggart again Mr. Hunsicker stated they are not seeing any reason to close Taggart or that there are any impacts under the tracks; additionally, he noted they are not seeing any contamination when pulling the sheet piling. In reference to the CSI sight, he said it isn't completed, there are still a couple areas inside that containment sight that they do have to go back to get. Resident Dan McKinstry noted there has been "a ton of trucks going up and down Taggart St. in the last week" and also why there are so many roll offs being hauled out. Mr. Hunsicker said they were not doing much excavation in the last week and that the roll offs are being seen because they still have to get the remaining soil out of town. Mr. Hunsicker stated they do still have work to do on the east end and they are not saying things are perfect however they are getting towards the end of the process. In reference to investigation/remediation on the east end of the site that is where they are still seeing some contamination areas which will be dug out, there are also some areas between the tracks at the east end that will be dug out as well as some other small areas and the contaminants are not getting into the water above a standard that would cause concern. Resident David Peters asked about the pumps out at State Line Lake; Mr. Hunsicker said the water east of the site is clean and has not been affected, the pumps are used to pump the clean water around the wetland area to allow the area to dry out and allow for more work to be done. The time frame for completion is hopefully the first quarter of 2025 weather permitting. Eric Pohl of the EPA stated the investigation process is essentially a delineation process where every 25 ft soil samples are taken from different depths, those samples are then analyzed. Resident Lisa Mahoney asked about a large pile of railroad ties at the other end of town and if they were contaminated. Mr. Hunsicker said they are not and they are used for normal routine maintenance of the tracks and nothing to do with the derailment.

CLERK/INTERIM MANAGER: Council Clerk/Interim Manager Misti Martin stated in reference to the Phase 1 park project the pole bases are complete and the curb work is nearing completion. Asphaltting the sport courts is tentatively scheduled for the week of Dec 2, they are also beginning side walk installation. Phase 2 of the park project has no additional updates. The new pool heater cannot be used in the current pool as it will nullify the warranty, they will be looking for other options. The Welcome sign project should have an official start date soon. Gary & Patty Linhart of Town-N-Country nursery donated the live Christmas tree for the downtown, the Street Crew installed/decorated the tree and Will Reeder of the Water Department welded the custom stand. A reminder of the Snowflake Festival on Saturday Dec.7 was given, Market St. paving repair was

scheduled for Monday November 25. Leaf pickup continues and finally the village offices would be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday.

STREET: Mr. Glavan thanked everyone involved in getting the Market St. paving repair completed as well as the businesses for their patience during the project. He added that next year the county/state would be paving from the methodist church to the south side of Market.

PARK/REC/CEM: Dr. Rocco the Park Board would be sponsoring Cookies with Santa for the Snowflake Festival; they will also be decorating the Community Center for the event.

DEV/FIN: Ms. May stated the Think Tank met for updates as to various projects that are beginning; Roberta Streiffert of RCAP is working with the students at the school about the potential for various projects in the community. They are continuing to work on finding a pharmacy to come into the community.

THERE WERE NO VISITORS COMMENTS ON CURRENT LEGISLATION

VISITORS: Jerry Coblentz, Mark Rhodes, Chris Hunsicker, Eric Pohl, Barb Herriott, Carol Harvey, John Simon, Dan McKinstry, Nicole Drabick, Barb Kliner, Christina Dilworth, Dave Biggins, David Peters, Steph Elverd, Lisa Mahoney, and Traci Spratt.

LEGISLATION: Mr. Glavan made a motion to amend the agenda to add Ord. 18-2024, wages for non-bargaining unit employees, the motion was seconded by....

Mr. Glavan introduced Ord 14-2024 for a second reading and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded Dr. Rocco. **An ordinance adopting the negotiated pay increase between the Village of East Palestine, Ohio (employer) and the Fraternal Order of the Police, Ohio Labor Council, Inc (union), effective January 1, 2025.** Mr. Glavan introduced Ord. 16-2024 for a second 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, 2025 and adopting estimated resources and declaring an emergency.** Mr. Glavan introduced Ord. 17-2024 for a first reading and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Dr. Rocco. **An ordinance adopting the negotiated addition to the terms of the collective bargaining agreement between the Village of East Palestine (employer) and the Fraternal Order of Police, Ohio Labor Council, Inc. (union) related to the canine officer terms of employment, effective January 1, 2025.** Mr. Glavan introduced Ord. 18-2024 for a first reading and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Ms. May. **An ordinance adopting a wage scale and other updates to be incorporated into the personnel Policy Handbook (Whitebook).** Mr. Glavan introduced Res.22-2024 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Dr. Rocco. **A resolution authorizing the interim Village Manager to execute a mutual releaser agreement with former village manager Chad Edwards on behalf of the council of the Village of East Palestine, Ohio.** Mr. Glavan called for a vote on Res.22-2024. Mr. Blythe, Mr. Glavan, Ms. May, Mr. Povenski and Dr. Rocco voted yes. Ms. Herriott abstained. Mr. Glavan introduced Res.23-2024 and made a motion that it be read by title only, Dr. Rocco seconded the motion. **A resolution authorizing the Village of East Palestine Finance Director to make a short-term loan to the East Palestine Community Improvement Corporation, agent for the Village of East Palestine, Ohio for economic development.** Mr. Glavan called for a vote on Res. 23-2024. Passed unanimously. Dr. Rocco made a motion to go into executive session per ORC 121.22 G1 inviting in interim Manager Martin., the motion was seconded by Mr. Blythe. Passed unanimously. There would be no business to follow.

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