

E.P. COUNCIL MEETING 9/11/23 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 Mgr./Fin Director Traci Spratt, W/WW Superintendent Scott Wolfe, Law Director David Powers, Officer Don Johnson, Clerk Misti Martin and BZ Inspector CH McCutcheon. At this time a moment of silence was observed in honor of the anniversary of September 11. The minutes of the Dev/Fin and reg meeting of 8/28/23 as well the minutes from special meetings of 8/29, 9/5 & 9/7/2023 were approved on a motion by Dr. Rocco seconded by Mr. Runnion, passed unanimously. The August 2023 department reports (minus the report from the Park Manager) were passed on a motion by Ms. May seconded by Dr. Rocco, passed unanimously. There were no agenda items, clerk's report, law director's or safety committee reports.

MAYOR: Mayor Conaway stated they have been contacted in reference to a meeting with Unity Council, they would like to meet with Village Council. A special meeting was suggested prior to the next regular meeting on 9/25 at 6:30 pm. Clerk Misti Martin stated she would contact them and get back with Council.

MANAGER: Mgr. Spratt stated NS will soon be advertising for local contractors for the train depot project, and will be at the next meeting with updates for council, once work is started the project should take four to six weeks. She stated the waterline replacement project started Sept. 5, the next street to be done is Clark. She noted there was a resolution before council to allow her to apply for a grant the ARC and Governor's office, she will be applying for two international trucks for the Street Department, an F250 for Water/Wastewater Dept., and a drone for the Fire Department to total approximately \$527,000.00. With grants from both offices that would leave the match for the Village at approximately \$77,000.00. In reference to the resolution hiring Argus Growth for economic development there will be a kick off meeting in the near future. As a reminder for Ord. 18-2023, it is for a tax exemption for train derailment related payments from NS.

STREET: Mr. Walker asked when alleys in the village will be addressed as they are horrific, Spratt stated the Street Dept has already been working on alleys. He also asked if they would be able to durapatch the alleys that aren't able to be done this year.

PARK/REC/CEM: Dr. Rocco stated Falliday in the Park is happening on Oct. 14 from 10 to 3 and they are still seeking vendors. During the Park Drive Bridge construction, Dr. Rocco stated there have been a lot of people using the Park exit as an entrance instead of the temporary entrance off of Carbon Hill Rd. She said this is extremely dangerous and could likely cause a head on collision; she reminded everyone to please use the temporary entrance. Finally, she said the Park looks great and thanked Brenda and Tom Povenski for getting the infield ready for Rotary Soccer. Mgr. Spratt stated the bridge project is going as planned and the bridge should be opened back up by the end of October. Mr. Simpson stated the roads in the Cemetery are in bad shape and asked if they could be looked at, Spratt noted the entrance has already been done and the plan was due to more each year during the paving project and also that the Community Foundation has paid to have some worked done on the trees there. Spratt said they would look into pricing on paving the entire cemetery while Mayor Conaway asked about contacting the County about the chip and seal program.

DEV/FIN: Ms. May stated the RCAP meetings are confusing and reminded everyone of the visioning survey for the community to give their ideas and opinions moving forward. She stated she will meet with the Port Authority for an update on the downtown revitalization project and where the state stands. Mr. Povenski stated he had been approached by a resident asking about the lengthy permit process and red tape associated with starting a business in EP as well as why it is so hard to do so and asked if BZ McCutcheon could speak to. McCutcheon stated his office makes every attempt at being as business friendly as possible as he himself is a business owner; in reference to building/zoning permits he pushes them through with a day or two. Dr. Rocco asked what kind of permits they were speaking of as she and Ms. May did not think was difficult to start a business intown. McCutcheon stated he issues, building, zoning, and demo permits for commercial and residential. On the commercial side of the village permitting process there may have to be state issued permits and/or drawings that must be completed (which can be a lengthy process) before he

can issue a village permit. Mgr. Spratt added the last thing McCutcheon does is issue an occupancy permit after final inspection.

UTILITY: In reference to the August W & S report Mr. Simpson stated in the three months of operation this summer for the pool and splash pad the water used was around four million gallons. He stated the carbon filter project at the water plant was moving forward stating it would hopefully be operational the first of the year. Dr. Rocco asked if there was any new information on the park rehab project, Spratt stated she has been in touch with NS and that the plans are basically worked out and would be brought to Council in six to eight weeks. She made sure to tell them the plans need to come to Council prior to being shown to anyone else.

THERE WERE NO VISITORS COMMENTS ON CURRENT LEGISLATION

VISITORS: Jerry Coblenz, John Davis, Brenda Povenski, Darlene Chapman, Peggy Caratelli, Lenny Glavan, Lisa Mahoney, David Peters, Dave Biggins, Dan McKinstry, Misti Allison, Ashley McKim, Robin Seman, Christopher Seman, Jean Zins, Christa Gr.

LEGISLATION: Mr. Runnion introduced Ord. 18-2023 for a second reading and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Walker. **An ordinance repealing and replacing section 882.02 definitions of chapter 882 earned income tax regulations of the codified ordinances of East Palestine, OH in order to exempt amounts from income tax relating to recovery from the East Palestine train derailment.** Mr. Runnion introduced Res. 13-2023 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Walker. **A resolution authorizing the village manager to enter into an agreement for the provision of economic development services, in accordance with the agreement/memorandum of understanding attached hereto, with Argus Growth Consultants, LLC, a division of Bricker Graydon.** Mr. Runnion called for a vote on Res.13-2023. 6 yes to pass. Mr. Runnion introduced Res. 14-2023 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Walker. **A resolution authorizing the interim Village Manager of the Village of East Palestine to prepare and submit and submit applications to participate in the Appalachian Regional Commission and Ohio Governor's Office of Appalachia programs and execute contracts as required.** Mr. Runnion called for a vote on Res. 14-2023. 5 yes to pass with Mr. Simpson abstaining. Mr. Runnion introduced Ord. 15-2023 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Walker. **A resolution authorizing the Village Manager to include in the 2024 street paving project, all streets, or parts of streets, which currently physically exist in the Vineyards Housing Development.** Mr. Runnion called for a vote on Res. 15-2023. 6 yes to pass. At this time Mr. Simpson made a motion to go into executive session per ORC 121.22 G1 to discuss the finance director position inviting in Mgr./Fin Director Spratt and Law Director Dave Powers. The motion was seconded by Mr. Walker. 5 yes to pass with Mr. Runnion abstaining.

ADJOURN: At approximately 7:45 Dr. Rocco made motions to return the meeting to regular session as well as adjourn the meeting. The motions were seconded by Mr. Walker and passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned.

MISTI J. MARTIN CLERK

MAYOR TRENT CONAWAY