

EP COUNCIL 9/12/22 7:00 PM 85 N. MARKET STREET

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 and Clerk Misti Martin. Atty. Powers was on vacation. The minutes of 8/22/22 meeting was approved on a motion by Dr. Rocco, seconded by Mr. Runnion. In reference to the Aug BZ report Mr. Walker stated there are over 200 vacant structures in town and asked BZ Inspector if had done inspections on any of those, McCutcheon stated he has not this year. Walker then asked of the inspections he had completed had any of those received written violations, McCutcheon stated violations have been written with recommendations given to the property owners; he also said his inspection reports are given to the Village Manager as well as Police and Fire Chiefs. Ms. May then asked about McCutchen's report where he states a contractor registration is needed, specifically if that would be the responsibility of the contractor or the person hiring them; McCutcheon stated the registration is needed to protect the residents and that either the homeowner or the contractors are able to obtain building permits. At this point Dr. Rocco made a motion to accept the August 2022 department reports, seconded by Mr. Walker. There were no agenda items, Clerk's, Mayor's, Law Directors, Street, Park/Rec/Cem, Development/Finance, or Utility reports.

MANAGER: Manager McTrusty noted a hazardous waste disposal day at the county on Sept. 29. There is a proposal from DeSantis Vending who is offering to double the percentage commission from 10% to 20%; he and Superintendent Baird are going to be checking out prices for machinery needed for us to reopen the concession stand ourselves. The pool is being drained and the bladder area and gutter underneath have been identified as the main problem areas and they are looking repairs prior to filling the pool next year. Disc golf is completed with launch pads and signage installed and ready for the tournament on Oct. 1. The Market St. repairs are done with the exception of the sealing of the edges and that will be done by the village at a later date. The Adamas St. and Kossuth Alley culverts have been started. Enough Council members have completed the required training by RCAP to receive grant money. He had mediation last week with the residents who had right of way concerns with the EQ Bason project and they have come to an agreement. The new blowers for the EQ Basin project that were to be delivered by mid-August are not here yet and at this time there is no estimated delivery date and the screen building work is likely to start this month. There are several companies who will be providing bids for the Walking Trail Grant Project. In reference to the Natural Gas Aggregate Program, we have signed an agreement from November 2022 to March 2023 we will be on a variable rate plus 5 cents per thousand cubic foot fee and then starting April 2023 we will be on a fixed rate of 6.61 per thousand cubic feet. McTrusty advised residents to do their homework and go to the apples-to-apples website and check for any other deals available, though the gas prices are so volatile its not likely. Mr. Simpson questioned why Mr. DeSantis proposal was showing figures from this past season, McTrusty said he wasn't clear on that himself. Dr. Rocco asked if we would be keeping Mr. DeSantis in addition to doing the concession stand ourselves and McTrusty said we would not be. She asked if we did stay with DeSantis if we would be able to look into having the foods trucks at the park on a more regular basis.

SAFETY: Mr. Povenski had no report however Fire Chief Drabick stated he has several people in EMS class that are doing well as well as hosting a few classes over the next month. He also said he has completed all of his requirements for firefighter reciprocity and is now waiting on the state to issue his credentials.

VISITORS COMMENTS ON CURRENT LEGISLATION: In reference to Ord. 16-2022 Parking Fines resident Jerry Coblentz said he does not have a problem with the price increases but he has a problem with the fact that there are certain streets who get parking tickets and certain streets who do not. Mr. Coblentz stated there are signs posted stating parking on city streets between 2:00 am and 6:00 am is prohibited and will result in parking tickets. In reference to Ord.14-2022 Vacant Structure, resident Don Elzer said he did not understand the purpose of it when it was originally passed and still does not understand the goal, saying in since it has passed it has driven business away, is causing more vacant property and driving up prices. He said the Village should be working with the businesses not against them like this legislation does. Councilman Simpson said a big part of the problem is that some of the business buildings in town have deteriorated to

the point that something has to be done. Elzer said the vacant commercial buildings that he is aware of are only vacant because there is work being done to them or no one to rent them. Elzer stated that the old Howard's on Taggart and the Big Dogs building on Market St. sold very far under value because of this vacant structure legislation. Elzer said everyone should be working together and all this legislation does is alienate people. Mr. Simpson said the purpose of this legislation is to either make people put money into the properties or sell them. Elzer said Village commercial property is valued at 25% below market value because of supply and demand to which Mr. Simpson because the the properties are so bad it is turning into a blighted area as property values are based on the surrounding properties which drives the prices down. Elzer stated all of the commercial properties in town are being improved, very few are going downhill. Mr. Walker disagreed stating right around the corner there where a big chunk of the roof is gone. Mr. Elzer stated that is already legislation on the books to handle that type of situation, Elzer said punishing commercial property owners for their buildings being empty is county productive. Mr. Runnion stated a big part of the original legislation was be able to bring in someone like Mr. McCutcheon to work on enforcing this and the other zoning code on the books. Manager McTrusty stated that this legislation allows for a property who is registered as well as has a plan in place there are no fines. Mayor Conaway said he doesn't feel this legislation drives business away but more holds people accountable. Resident/Business owner Dave Biggins stated he is not for this legislation. He understands the reason behind it but says this will not work, he said it almost stopped him from purchasing a building in town. He said those type of restrictions did stop him from purchasing a business in Salem so he instead bought one in Lisbon. Mr. Elzer said progress on these properties does not happen over night and will not happen with the Village working against it. Resident Ron Caratelli stated there were people who wanted to rent space from Mr. Elzer at the old hotel but the cat odor made it impossible. Mr. Elzer said that issue was taken care of.

VISITORS: John Davis, Jim Williams, Scott Wolfe, Jerry Coblenz, CH McCutcheon, Amanda Smith, Karen King, Dave Biggins, Don Elzer, Ron & Peggy Caratelli

LEGISLATION: In reference to Ord. 14-2022 Ms. May made a motion to the Clerk to correct the written dollar amount in section 1246.05 C to read "nine thousand six hundred dollars" instead of twelve thousand eight hundred dollars, the motion was seconded by Mr. Simpson, passed unanimously. Ms. May introduced Ord. 14-2022 for a third reading and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Runnion. **An ordinance amending Chapter 1246 of the codified ordinances of East Palestine, Ohio.** Ms. May called for a vote on Ord. 14-2022. Ms. May-y, Mr. Povenski-n, Dr. Rocco-n, Mr. Runnion-y, Mr. Simpson-y, Mr. Walker-n. Mayor Conaway voted yes to break the tie (passed 4-3). Ms. May introduced Ord. 16-2022 for a third reading and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Dr. Rocco. **An ordinance amending Chapter 458.06 of the codified ordinances of East Palestine, Ohio.** Ms. May called for a vote on Ord.16-2022, Mr. Povenski-y, Dr. Rocco-y, Mr. Runnion-y, Mr. Simpson-y, Mr. Walker-y, Ms. May-y. 6 yes to pass. Ms. May introduced Ord.18-2022 for a second reading and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Dr. Rocco. **An ordinance authorizing the Finance Director to make supplemental appropriations for the City of East Palestine, Ohio for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2022.** Ms. May introduced Ord. 19-2022 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Dr. Rocco. **An ordinance authorizing the ODOT Municipal Bridge Inspection Program.** Ms. May made a motion to suspend the rules and declare an emergency seconded by Dr. Rocco. Dr. Rocco-y, Mr. Runnion-y, Mr. Simpson-y, Mr. Walker-y, Ms. May-y, Mr. Povenski-y. Ms. May called for a vote on Ord.19-2022, Dr. Rocco. Dr. Rocco-y, Mr. Runnion-y, Mr. Simpson-y, Mr. Walker-y, Ms. May-y, Mr. Povenski-y. 6 yes to pass. Ms. May introduced Res.17-2022 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Dr. Rocco. **A resolution authorizing the Village Manager of the Village of East Palestine to apply for, accept, and enter into a water supply revolving loan account on behalf of the Village of East Palestine for construction of waterline replacement and designating a dedicated repayment source for the loan.** Ms. May called for a vote on Res. 17-2022. Mr. Runnion-y, Mr. Simpson-y, Mr. Walker-y, Ms. May-y, Mr. Povenski-y, Dr. Rocco-y.

ADJOURN: With no further business to come before Council Mr. Walker made a motion to adjourn seconded by Ms. May. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

