

## EP COUNCIL 9/25/23 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 Interim Manager/Finance Director Traci Spratt, Law Director David Powers, Chief Jim Brown, W/WW Superintendent Scott Wolfe, Street Superintendent Steve Baird, Clerk Misti Martin and BZ Inspector CH McCutcheon. The minutes of the regular meeting of 9/11 and special meeting of 9/19/23 were approved on a motion by Dr. Rocco seconded by Mr. Walker. There were no department reports, agenda items, Law Director's, Street, of Safety Committee reports.

**CLERK:** Clerk Misti Martin stated a special council meeting had been called for Monday October 9 at 6:30 prior to the regular meeting to hear from Unity Council.

**MAYOR:** Mayor Conaway introduced Abbey Palmer of NS and Mike Kuchera from Michael Baker Associates to speak on the train depot rehab. Mr. Kuchera explained that on Wed 9/27 they would be at the depot to do a walk through with any interested contractors to answer questions. He stated that basically the entire exterior would be re-done including repaired chimneys, new roofing including gutters and downspouts as well as new soffit and fascia, the board/batten siding will be salvaged as much as possible but some will have to be replaced, new paint, windows and doors (the windows will replicate the original windows). From a safety and accessibility standpoint he said the existing concrete loading platform will be demolished and a new concrete platform as well decorative safety rail will be installed along with a handicap accessible entrance and also a new set of concrete stairs with a sidewalk all the way around. Mgr. Spratt asked about the deadline for contractor bids, Gorbey said she would double check but she thought it was around 10/4. Mayor Conaway stated that Taggart St. would begin re-opening tonight, it would be open from 7:30 pm to 5:30 am, it is anticipated to open as normal after October 23. Next, he stated he, Mgr. Spratt, and Chief Drabick met with Jim McPherson and Tom Civet of Fema to go over plans in reference to the President Biden's executive order. They would return with additional information in a couple weeks.

**MANAGER:** Spratt stated Street Supt. Steve Baird was present to review his alley repair program. Baird provided council with a list of alleys already completed as well as a list of those to still be done. Baird stated this plan started a few years ago where he mapped out all of the alleys from good to bad, he was able to start this year with his crew hitting it as hard as possible. His plan is to repair the worst sections of the worst alleys. They are tearing out the worst sections, re-stoning and re-basing them. His plan is to eventually get them all but it will take time; he noted the alleys are turning out really well and down the road the village can think about paving them as. Mr. Walker asked about a timeline for completion, Baird stated he cannot give one as it is a big project. Mr. Simpson stated we don't know how these alleys will hold up to being plowed in the winter. Baird stated there are some that have already been through a couple winters and have held up well. Spratt said they are getting quotes as requested for paving the cemetery and also the repair on Market St. where the water line break was. Spratt stated that the Village will be hiring Melissa Hiner as the new Finance Director and will start October 16. She will be working with Spratt for training. She stated the waterline project is still moving forward.

**PARK/REC/CEM:** Dr. Rocco stated October 14 will be Falliday in the Park sponsored by the Park Board. The board uses the revenue received from the vendors to put on events free of cost to the kids of the community throughout the year, they are still seeking vendors/crafters for the event. She noted the park looks great and that the Park Drive Bridge project is on schedule. She reminded everyone of the temporary entrance off of Carbon Hill Rd. and to not use the exit to get into the park as it is dangerous and to please abide by the speed limit when driving through the park.

**DEV/FIN:** Ms. May stated she will be meeting with the Port Authority for updates on the renovation projects for downtown areas in Columbiana County. She also asked that anyone who has not filled out the RCAP visioning surveys to please do so.

**UTILITY:** Mr. Simpson stated the filter project at the water plant is still waiting on product as well as a few minor construction delays but the project should still be completed on time. He also stated that the WW Treatment Plant project is finally almost complete.

**THERE WERE NO VISITORS COMMENTS ON CURRENT LEGISLATION**

**VISITORS:** John Davis, Abbey Palmer, Mike Kuchera, Ron & Peggy Caratelli, Jerry Coblentz, Darlene Chapman, Brenda Povenski, Terry McElroy, Lenny Glavan, Dave Biggins, Misti Allison, Dave Peters, Steph Elverd, Bob and Tami Harris.

**LEGISLATION:** Mr. Runnion introduced Ord. 18-2023 for a third 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 called for a vote on Ord. 18-2023. 6 yes to pass. Mr. Simpson made a motion to go into executive session per ORC 121.22 to discuss the potential purchase of property as well as village manager candidates inviting in Mgr. Spratt and Law Director Powers with no action to be taken afterwards. The motion was seconded by Ms. May. 6 yes to pass.

**ADJOURN:** At approximately 8:15 pm Mr. Runnion made a motion to return to regular session as well as adjourn the meeting. The motions were passed unanimously, meeting adjourned.

---

**MISTI J. MARTIN CLERK**

---

**MAYOR TRENT CONAWAY**