



## East Palestine Community Improvement Corporation

August 27, 2024

### Minutes

**1. Call to Order:** Chris Page, Linda May, Tom Povenski, Tom Brittain. Dr. Rocco was absent.

**Others Present:** Village Manager Chad Edwards, Atty. Dave Powers, Mike Jacoby, Melissa Smith, John Davis, Carolyn Hecking, Brenda Povenski, Jeff LeBeau & Jon Molnar of WRL (Zoom).

**2. Minutes:** The minutes of the July 23, 2024 meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Povenski seconded by Mr. Brittain. Passed unanimously.

**3. Financial Report:** The July financial report showed a net profit of \$19,192.00; this includes an \$808.00 loss. \$1200.00 was received for advertising, with the \$275.00 previous donation brings the total of operating income to \$1,475.00 thus far. Expenses so far were the director's insurance at \$2,283.00 which equates to an \$808.00 loss. Today a check from East Liverpool Prime Healthcare Foundation in the amount of \$500.00 was received for advertising.

**4. Old Business:** IRS 501 (c)(3) status/correspondence- the CIC has received approval of the non-profit charitable status.

**5. New Business:**

**a. WRL Update-**In reference to the rewards program Jon Molnar of WRL stated they getting ready for a September launch including tv spots & billboards; they have a total of 17 vendors signed up at this time. There are now four or five paid advertisements for the newsletter. In reference to fundraising, Jeff LeBeau stated now that 501 (c) (3) status has been achieved they will be brainstorming fundraising efforts. In reference to the train depot/architectural renderings/seeking business for the building, the information was posted in Mahoning Matters and a few other outlets. It was suggested to look into the morning news shows to do an on location shoot at the depot to generate interest in

the property and even advertise as well as hold an open house. Another important piece of information that is needed revolves around concepts/cost estimates as the \$100,000 from NS will not go far; additional grant funding may be needed. Potential future rent monies have not been discussing as the cost estimates for design are needed first.

**b. Youth Leadership/Business Engagement-** In reference to youth engagement Mr. Page stated they met with high school counselor Emily Randolph and one of her ideas was the possibility of having a student be a nonvoting member of council and/or the CIC. Many communities already offer mentoring/internship programs at local businesses.

**c. Downtown Revitalization** – Downtown revitalization is always a top priority. Concepts have been developed for a “street scapes” project but currently there is no funding for the project. A key piece of the concept was a down town plaza/community gathering space on Market Street that could include a gazebo, green space, benches, or even food trucks. There is property on Market St. that is available however funding is the issue. Discussion followed as to kicking off a fundraising campaign and grants that have<sup>7</sup> been applied for to assist in purchasing said property. Many local organizations were asked about donations, at this time only Chamber has pledged money towards the project (\$5000.00). Community Foundation member Melissa Smith stated the members wanted to see other additional organizations also pledging funds before they committed to doing so and now that others are stepping up it is a good possibility that they will also pledge funds towards the project. Smith also stated EP alumni are an untapped resource that should be looked into.

**d. Other Discussion from the Board-** none.

**6. Executive Session:** Mr. Page made a motion to enter executive session per ORC 1724.11 (B) (1) to discuss the relocation, location, expansion, Improvement, or preservation of a business opportunity inviting in Manager Edwards, Atty. Powers, Misti Martin and Mike Jacoby. The motion was seconded by Mr. Povenski and passed unanimously.

**7. Return to Public Session:** Mr. Page motioned to return to regular session seconded by Mr. Brittain, passed unanimously. At this time Mr. Povenski announced he would be resigning from the CIC. Atty. Powers suggested advertising for pledges for downtown redevelopment and also holding pop up events at the train depot.

**8. Next Meeting:** 10:00 A.M. Tuesday September 24.

**9. Adjourn:** Mr. Povenski made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Mr. Brittain. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

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**Dr. Jessica Rocco-Secretary**

