

TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG
Council Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2015

The Phillipsburg Town Council conducted its regular meeting on Tuesday, March 17, 2015 at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building located at 675 Corliss Avenue.

The required Open Public Meeting Act Statement was read by Council Vice President Tersigni.

INVOCATION

by Council Vice President Tersigni

PLEDGE

by the Assembly

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Council President

Lynn

Council Members

Fey, Piazza, Stettner, Lynn

TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Mayor Wyant, Acting Clerk Kleiner,
Attorney Wenner

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of meeting minutes
Were submitted for approval:

Regular Mtg.-03-10-2015

Motion

Councilman Tersigni moved for approval of the regular meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilman Fey.

VOTE: YEAS: Tersigni, Lynn, Piazza, Stettner, Fey

NAYS: None

APPROVAL OF BILLS

SUMMARY

CURRENT FUND	\$	938,145.24
STATE & FEDERAL GRANTS		8,807.50
SEWAGE UTILITY FUND		165,306.47
CAPITAL FUND		8,803.70
SEWAGE CAPITAL FUND		1,611.88
SECTION 8		427.50
COMMERCE PARK REDEVELOPMENT		312.23
Total regular bills list March 17, 2015	\$	1,122,644.52
SECTION 8 Program Rent Payments		136,740.66
PRE- PAID BILL LIST AS OF March 17, 2015		
CURRENT FUND	\$	191.76
STATE & FEDERAL GRANTS	\$	47,320.00
AGENCY FUND-PENSION PAYMENTS	\$	151,706.54
TOTAL PRE PAID BILL LIST	\$	199,218.30

GRAND TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS

\$ 1,458,603.48

Discussion: None

Motion

Councilman Piazza moved for approval of bills list. The motion was seconded by Councilman Stettner.

VOTE: YEAS: Fey, Piazza, Lynn, Tersigni, Stettner

NAYS: None

OLD BUSINESS NONE

BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS OF NJ

Karen Cassano spoke about the Hunterdon, Somerset, Warren County BB/BS bowling for kids' sake, and the Mayor's challenge. Warren, Washington, Harmony, Allamuchy doesn't need to be Council; it can be a group of employees. It is Saturday, April 18, 2015 Applewood lanes.

We currently have three programs in the Phillipsburg community. The High School Reach program, the school based one to one, adult – child, and we are in the Andover Morris and Green Street schools. We have a gold outing in May also.

Council President Lynn stated that we will get a team together; it is nice to see the community come together, thanks.

MAYORS REPORT

Mayor Wyant stated that he was glad to see that since the Council cancelled a meeting that we had the meeting and approved the contract for phase 6, early April to start phase six.

We have been having a hard time getting cold patch, for the extreme pot holes. If we can acquire it we will fix the holes, it has been a hard winter. The pot holes on South Main Street we used super pave, which has not proven to uphold to the cold and freezing weather, from Phase 1, Union Square back to the Black Bridge, we had hoped that we could get the crack seal project done before the winter set in, we had a contract which would eliminate water getting into the cracks. But we had the storm and they couldn't see the cracks because of the salt. We will be doing this in the spring.

Council President Lynn mentioned that some sidewalks and brink had some heaving.

Mayor Wyant stated as the cold dissipates hopefully it will recede. We had a horrible horrible winter, with extreme depths of frost, freezing moves everything around and it took a tremendous toll on the roads.

Engineer Stan Schrek stated that there is quite a bit of work to do, South side of Hudson Street should start shortly.

Mayor Wyant we have a lot of road improvements in 2015. We will have a special meeting on the 31st at 3:00 PM a presentation, regarding the Commerce Park redevelopment.

Georgine Trinkle wishes everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day. We have a new project and grant project with State Farm that promotes teen driver safety. Debbie Weiss promotes teen driver safety. In May and June when there are proms, and graduation there is always a story that has a negative impact. We want to work with the schools, the police department and seatbelt enforcement.

We had a teen fun night last Friday we had 150 children at the dance. We still have the reading room open from 1 – 4 Saturdays, where the children get a free book. We are still doing the station house adjustments and now the State Farm grant.

Mayor Wyant stated he still has projects for the Station house adjustments.

Georgine Trinkle stated the paint has temperature and as soon as it warms up.

The kids did some shoveling for some elderly and disabled persons, which gave the kids a sense of community and pride.

Councilman Tersigni questioned when do you believe the grant will come to fruition.

Georgine Trinkle stated we have the grant funds already.

Councilman Tersigni thanked Georgine Trinkle for all she does.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Faulborn handed out his stats for the month.

We have had some children in the park after hours, trespassing at the Keystone packaging on Warren Street.

We are joining in with the DOT on the seatbelt enforcement in May.

Mayor Wyant how will the seat belt grant be implemented? Station, Spot check, can you do both?

The Chief stated that DOT had click it or ticket, I need to look at the grand and it worked in conjunction with Easton Police, specific hours, night / daytime, we want

to raise the compliance rate, and we can stop for primary reason. Everyone in the back seats also.

Councilman Piazza what park after dark?

Mayor Wyant said behind the Town garage. Councilman Piazza stated it is a small park

Council President Lynn mentioned speeding on Heckman/Stockton Street, if speed sign could be put there.

Chief the speed sign is great has historical data and the traffic patterns

Council President Lynn we only have one of these

Mayor Wyant its mobile we can move it

Council President Lynn we have one on the bridge and I find myself slowing down

Chief stated maintenance is free for a year then in three (3) years it becomes obsolete and if we use capital funds it must be good for five (5) years

Councilman Tersigni stated there is speeding on Heckman Street and there used to be an officer sitting in the Finnegan's lot.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

ORDINANCES

O: 2015 – 09 (First Reading)

ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG,
COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 105-6 OF
THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG
RELATING TO RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR
POLICE OFFICERS

ROLL CALL

Councilmen	First	Second	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Stettner					x	
Piazza					x	
Tersigni	x		x			
Fey		x	x			
Lynn			x			

13. **RESOLUTIONS**

R: 2015-53

RESOLUTION ADOPTING ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN FOR THE PHILLIPSBURG DCD HOUSING AUTHORITY was introduced by Councilman Fey who moved for its adoption.

The motion was seconded by Councilman Stettner.

Discussion: Councilman Tersigni stated that the plan in a formality and must be approved every five (5) years, it's the Federal Government that pays not the tax payers.

VOTE: YEAS: Fey, Piazza, Lynn, Tersigni, Stettner

NAYS: None

R: 2015-54

A RESOLUTION AWARDING PURCHASES UNDER NEW JERSEY STATE CONTRACT was introduced by Councilman Tersigni who moved for its adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilman Stettner.

VOTE: YEAS: Fey, Piazza, Lynn, Tersigni, Stettner

NAYS: None

R: 2015-55

A RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE FOR RENEWAL OF LIMOUSINE OPERATOR'S LICENSE FOR PHILLIP LIMO SERVICE, LLC. was introduced by Councilman Fey who moved for its adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tersigni.

VOTE: YEAS: Fey, Piazza, Lynn, Tersigni, Stettner

NAYS: None

R: 2015-56

A RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE FOR RENEWAL OF TAXI OPERATOR'S LICENSE FOR EDDY CHERISME was introduced by Councilman Tersigni who moved for its adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilman Fey.

VOTE: YEAS: Fey, Piazza, Lynn, Tersigni, Stettner

NAYS: None

R-2015-57

RESOLUTION TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE CANCELLATION OF UNCOLLECTABLE PROPERTY TAXES DUE TO EXEMPT STATUS was introduced by Councilman Tersigni who moved for its adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilman Fey.

VOTE: YEAS: Fey, Piazza, Lynn, Tersigni, Stettner

NAYS: None

NEW BUSBUSINESS None

PUBLIC PETITIONS

Mr. Russell Padget, Owner Cycle Funnatic, 403 Main Street, is concerned about the stores closing above his store. He understands how hard the Council has worked to make the Down Town a draw for people. He is concerned about the taxes and even though his assessment went down his taxes went up. He is having issues with parking, the 10 minutes signs are still up for businesses that aren't open and the public parks there and doesn't move for hours. They never get ticketed, and a spot doesn't open in front of my store on the weekends, how people can come in if they can't park. We had destination store, the Gold Cup, Phillipsburg Bakery, Superior Appliance, we want to be a partner and make it better.

Council President Lynn stated I can assure you we want to be a partner maybe we can sit down and talk. We are concerned we want ours to be as good as Easton's.

Councilman Fey stated parking signs are little things that we can help with. If we sit down together we can come up with a good start to solve that.

Mayor Wyant stated he will have Dale, PT police the meters. We have been frugal with our budget and a one cent increase, when the school budget has a 7.5% increase, it's a struggle, no making any excuses. Easton, Bethlehem we don't have UEZ through the State anymore. It benefited you and many others, we struggle with that we need it. Were a small part of the voting population-on the cusp, hopefully we will have a plan for full development so we can start to build on retables and keep our taxes low. We have a plan for 440 houses behind Howard Street, always optimistic and ready to turn the corner always open to suggestions, you can always call me. We want the Down Town to flourish that's why we spend money. We will be having concerts in the park every week, to see how wonderful and how beautiful the up and coming Down Town is by bringing people in. They will see what a great community.

Councilman Stettner the State hurt us by taking UEZ away it was to help with marketing and budget, to sell the Town, money makes money we may have to bring professionals in and revisit this.

Councilman Tersigni the Mayor and I have discussed this Business Administrator, grants, to make and promote this; we have money in the budget to do something like this.

Stan Schrek, Town Engineer stated that Phillipsburg has the heritage trail plan, trailblazing and signing, sponsored by the parks

Mayor Wyant stated we need good people to come together and work together.
Thank you.

Harold Baylor, 67 Riverview Road, I have a complaint about speeding, and parked cars we need more police presence, I almost got hit, the bus is stopped, stop sign and the cars riding with no mufflers.

Mayor Wyant asked Mr. Baylor to talk to the Chief after the meeting.

OPEN TIME

Councilman Fey, Branching out autism awareness, Greenwich has this program already, they fund signs. As some of you know a few years ago an autistic child in my neighborhood was playing on the double yellow lines down Green Street and thought nothing of the cars, because he has seen it in movies and people need to be aware. It is a new organization and any support as council or as a community as we can give.

Councilman Tersigni stated as he mentioned last meeting about the Exchange Club at the High School is doing another Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, the 28th at 9:00 am. Council President Lynn thanked Mr. Paget for coming to share with us and thanks him for the patience with is. Please don't be afraid to come and talk to us.

MOTIONS

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Tersigni moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Stettner.

VOTE: YEAS: Fey, Lynn, Piazza, Tersigni, Stettner

NAYS: None