

TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG
Council Meeting Minutes
July 16, 2013

The Phillipsburg Town Council conducted its regular meeting on Tuesday, July 16, 2013 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 Councilman Tersigni.

Moment of Silence for Sal Patti

INVOCATION by Councilman Tersigni

PLEDGE by the Assembly

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Councilmembers: Piazza, Tersigni, Lynn, Fey

Absent: Stettner

TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor Wyant, Acting Clerk
Kleiner, Attorney Wenner

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of meeting minutes
were submitted for approval:

Regular Meeting-07-02-13
Executive Meeting 07-02-13

Motion

Councilman Lynn moved for approval of minutes. The motion
was seconded by Councilman Piazza.

VOTE: YEAS: Lynn, Tersigni, Piazza, Fey

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Stettner

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

SUMMARY

CURRENT FUND	\$ 103,670.19
STATE & FEDERAL GRANTS	7,040.56
SEWAGE UTILITY FUND	30,012.35
Grand Total REGULAR BILLS LIST	\$140,723.10
<u>SECTION 8 PROGRAM</u>	\$131,585.00
PRE-PAID BILL LIST	
CURRENT FUND	\$6,178.58

STATE & FEDERAL GRANTS	63,200.00
SEWER UTILITY FUND	148.00
GRAND TOTAL	341,834.68

Acting Clerk Kleiner asked the Council to consider adding KDP Developers a payment. As per the Engineer the work has been completed in accordance with the contract documents and payment is recommended.

*ADDED LOPATCONG CREEK RESTORATION	\$93,526.30
<u>For a total pre-paid bills list of</u>	\$163,052.88
<u>GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS</u>	\$435,360.98

Motion

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

VOTE: YEAS: Piazza, Lynn, Tersigni, Fey, Stettner
 NAYS: None

Cert Team Members Awarded Certificates from Chief Hay, Mayor Wyant. The members are from Westminster Pr church to be a reception center prior to moving to a shelter.

Bill Hunt from the County Cert leader stated that Rich Hay and Mabel Cook are such an asset to the community. When the County asked me to become the leader for the County Cert Team I didn't know what I was getting into, Mabel said come down to Phillipsburg and take the class. I can't say enough of these two. They had five churches at the meeting, getting the faith base involved in the community preparedness. I want to thank them both. Bill Hunt also thanked Ann Marie Barger from the County, John Lefler, John Mascko, Jane Rush, and Warren Hospital

Rich Hay stated that there are many ore assets to the community. The Mayor and Mable Cook to hand out the Cert Team certificates.

Mayor Wyant thanks the group from the Westminster Church stated a wonderful asset.

Rich Hay stated that this is the 10th team and 144 people, Mable will be retiring from the county after 25 years and we will have her here full time.

Council President Fey Thanked for being Cert Team Members and being dedicated to the Town.

OLD BUSINESS

None

MAYORS REPORT

Mayor Wyant asked the Chief speak.

The Chief stated that there are several issues with cats in the Hillcrest section.

There were several violations with Curfews, animal complaints, juveniles and adults in Walters Park. There were several dogs running loose downtown.

There was 292 Summons issued, 52 crash investigations, 43 domestics, 4 temporary restraining orders, 1 DWI, 555 cases assigned. The ACO had 12 loose dogs, 1 noise complaint, 15 other animals, 1 animal cruelty case, total 34 calls, and 13 summons.

Mayor Wyant questioned the Chief regarding who was going to cover for the ACO while he was on vacation, what was the plan?

Chief stated that they have the shelter for a day or so, but the officers will do what they need to and there will be someone covering from another Town.

Mayor Wyant stated that the feral cat issue in the Rose Street area has decreased but they are now in Hillcrest and Ravenscroft. I am concerned with back up emergencies, all the areas are having issues we are currently discussing a shared services with Lopatcong Township and Pohatcong Township.

Chief stated that he looked at the calls from last year and there were only three (3) calls.

Thanks Chief

Mayor Wyant asked the Engineer Stan Schrek to Speak about the projects. Stan Schrek thanks the Council for putting that bill on the pre-paid bills list for KDP Developers phase one, they have the rip rap restored. Phase two plants by culvert we exposed the pre cased box and will set the box tomorrow. We will be getting the bids out for the Sitgreaves Street project.

Dave Maski spoke about the Phillipsburg Commerce Park and the plan to revise and approve the plans, they must get adopted and make check to make recommendations.

The Heritage report trail plans and potential ailments three trails and five loop trails, we are applying for the National Parks Service, to use their expertise to set the trails, they would use the Norfolk Sothern Bridge, go all the way to Wilkes Barre

Council President Fey said Thank you for the time and effort looking forward to these trails one day it will happen and look beautiful. Thanks Dave.

Mayor Wyant stated as you all know we had Ms. Scott in here regarding the ice house and tower, well she has sold the property and there is a new owner.

Attorney Wenner spoke to the new owner who stated that Ms. Scott told them about removing the tower.

Mayor Wyant stated that we need to summons the new owner to Council and get the time frame from that individual to get some answers, a contract was shown by Ms. Scott and that is now null and void.

Attorney Wenner stated we can do a RFP to do the demo, the order is against the property not the owner, Council can order it to be done.

Council President Fey let's make the new owner come in and make them remove it.

Councilman Lynn stated you had a discussion with the new owner

Attorney Wenner Yes he is aware of it and I was left with the impression that permits were done.

Councilman Lynn I think that we should give the opportunity to bring him in

Councilman Tersigni It's been an issue for a long time the tower needs to come down, it needs to get done now, there are safety issues and immediate action should be taken

Council President Fey would like to hear the individuals plan of the property I think we need to work with the owner and priority is taking the tower down, work with the individual and hear their side of plan and intentions.

Councilman Stettner we don't want to abate it let them know immediately

Attorney Wenner stated the August 06th meeting.

Mayor Wyant stated that the new owner needs to come to the next meeting, and tell us about what he is building there. The foliage is hiding things it is in total disrepair, I would like to see the person who purchased and know what they are going to do with it and when.

Council President Fey stated lets reach out and get him in here.

Mayor Wyant spoke about 328 Kent Street, an abandoned and blighted property, nothing has been done with this. Let's contact anybody who has interest in this property.

As for Center Street the property is almost finished, the punch list is almost complete, there are divots in the yard that must be filled in and it needs to be leveled and seeded and covered with straw.

I also met with United Steele regarding a fence that is in need of repair at 169 South Main Street; the workers came in today and repaired it with no cost to Phillipsburg. I would like to thank United Steele Workers.

Mayor Wyant stated that we will be putting a Kiosk on South Main Street, we will put playbills into it, which will be an asset to that area and show the visitors what we have to offer, and the events in the Town.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEMS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

ORDINANCE

NONE

RESOLUTIONS

R: 2013-116

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES WITH RT ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC was introduced by Councilman Piazza who moved for its adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tersigni.

VOTE: YEAS: Lynn, Tersigni, Piazza, Fey, Stettner
 NAYS: None

R: 2013-117

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PAYMENT OF THIRD QUARTER 2013 COUNTY TAX, DUE AUGUST 15, 2013 was introduced by Councilman Tersigni who moved for its adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilman Lynn.

VOTE: YEAS: Lynn, Tersigni, Piazza, Fey, Stettner
 NAYS: No

R:2013-118

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE BUDGET OF ANY COUNTY OR MUNICIPALITY PURSUANT TO N.J.S. 40A:4-87 (CHAPTER 159, P.L. 1948) was introduced by Councilman Piazza who moved for its adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilman Stettner.

VOTE: YEAS: Lynn, Tersigni, Piazza, Fey, Stettner
 NAYS: None

R: 2013-119

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR REFUND OF TAX OVERPAYMENTS was introduced by Councilman Piazza who moved for its adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tersigni.

VOTE: YEAS: Lynn, Tersigni, Piazza, Fey, Stettner
 NAYS: None

R: 2013 - 120

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR REFUND OF SEWER OVERPAYMENTS was introduced by Councilman Piazza who moved for its adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilman Stettner.

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

NAYS: None

R: 2013 - 121

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR REFUND OF FEMA REIMBURSEMENTS FROM HURRICANE SANDY was introduced by Councilman Tersigni who moved for its adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilman Stettner.

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

NAYS: None

R: 2013-122

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, APPROVING CHANGE ORDERS FOR THE MAIN STREET IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 4 AND PHASE 5 was introduced by Councilman Piazza who moved for its adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilman Stettner.

VOTE: YEAS: Lynn, Tersigni, Piazza, Fey, Stettner
 NAYS: None

R: 2013-123

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, APPROVING CHANGE ORDERS FOR THE McKEEN STREET PROJECT was introduced by Councilman Tersigni who moved for its adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilman Stettner.

VOTE: YEAS: Lynn, Tersigni, Piazza, Fey, Stettner
 NAYS: None

R: 2013-124

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG,
COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY,
AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A LEASE
AGREEMENT WITH NEW JERSEY TRANSIT was
introduced by Councilman Piazza who moved for its
adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilman
Tersigni.

Question: Councilman Lynn questioned if this was new?
Mayor Wyant response was the wording wasn't the way they NJ Transit
wanted it.

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

 NAYS: None

R: 2013-125

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REM FORCLOSURE
PRECEEDINGS was introduced by Councilman Tersigni
who moved for its adoption. The motion was seconded
by Councilman Lynn.

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

 NAYS: None

PUBLIC PETITIONS Christine Miller of 210 Heckman Street had an issue with a bulk trash pickup at her four (4) unit building, that sat because Ted heard a rumor that there was bed bugs and that it wasn't going to get picked up. I called and spoke to Patty who confirmed that it wasn't going to get picked up. Who is going to insure that this doesn't happen again, at 11:00 am I loaded the truck.

Councilman Lynn said you already did it?

Christine Miller is that standard practice?

Councilman Tersigni stated it was supposed to be picked up, call me and I'll make sure it's done, I know Council will support what I am saying.

Blaine Fehley, 237 Bowhay Avenue, How much is the Town in Debt?
What's the status of the IR property?

Council President Fey stated that we have met with developers, we are waiting for a response, once we get one the public will know.

Blaine Fehley questioned the Trash Resolution – Stiffer Fine?
Washington Street had trash July 4th weekend just sits.

Council President Fey stated it is the owner's responsibility

Councilman Tersigni Evelyn Avenue too trash pick up

Attorney Wenner stated he was working on the new resolution

Blaine Fehley also asked Council to change the wording in Public Petition to Public Comments

Blaine Fehley also stated Thank you for getting the minutes up. Asked about the meetings getting on TV and if he needed his help.

Councilman Lynn mentioned that there is a software issue with Windows 8, but if I need your help I won't be afraid to ask

Robert Fulper 166 Chambers Street the cleanup at 11 John Street Property went well, Blaine Fehley, Dustin Pierce and I we all worked together to keep out community beautiful. Blaine has a big heart but his delivery needs work.

Mayor Wyant said that Ann Baptista was finished with her term at the Housing Authority and was in need of being reappointed unless Council had someone else in mind for that.

Councilman Tersigni recommended the re-appointment of Ann Baptista. Councilman Lynn seconded the motion. The Council had a 5 – 0 Vote. Mayor Wyant asked Acting Clerk Kleiner to send a letter to the housing authority re appointing Ann Baptista.

OPENTIME

Council President Fey wished Mayor Wyant a belated Birthday, and also his wives birthday and he is here.

Councilman Lynn stated he was doing some volunteer work at the Senior Center and while he was there Mr. Spencer spoke to him about the Warren County Buses, and how they won't stop at the Senior Center they just drive through the lot.

Council President Fey stated that we should have Jay Sarnowski look at that.

Councilman Lynn said that bus is for seniors we pay more in taxes than any other Town and we should write a letter from Council.

Councilman Piazza said that Thomas the Tank was sold out most days with an estimated of 6,000 people visiting the train.

Mayor Wyant stated that there is going to be a new train the Dinosaur train.

Friday night starts Ole Towne Festival and Showcase of the Stars down at Shapell Park, Saturday and Sunday at Walters Park and Fireworks Sunday night at 9:30 PM

Councilman Piazza stated he was off Friday if the Mayor needed help setting up.

Councilman Tersigni reminded everyone that the movies in the park started again every Thursday night and that he is volunteering again assisting the Mayor and Councilman Piazza, it is a team effort.

As for the John Street property, I also would like to reiterate – we were asked to be there to help and we put our differences aside and came together for the betterment of Phillipsburg, the neighbors appreciate what's done and thank everyone from the bottom of my heart, thanks.

Councilman Stettner questioned Riverside way and no parking signs, no time was posted – time for pick up and deliveries and overnight parking we need to look at that.

Councilman Stettner also stated that Public Petitions was called that because the people had to petition the Council to make changes.

Mayor Wyant stated he spoke to the individuals who took signs down during Thomas the Train there was 20 minute parking, 30 minute parking has a turn over and keeps the spaces turning over 20 – 30 minutes the parking zone is a valid issue but there is no parking on Riverside Way.

MOTIONS

Approval for Raffle License No. RL: 1166 issued to The St. Luke's Episcopal Church for a 50/50 on premise raffle to be conducted on September 21, 2013 Councilman Tersigni moved to adopt the motion. The motion was seconded by Councilman Lynn.

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

NAYS: None

Approval for Raffle License No. RL: 1167 issued to The St. Luke's Episcopal Church for a Tricky Tray on premise raffle to be conducted on September 21, 2013 from 5:30 PM to 10:00 PM Councilman Tersigni moved to adopt the motion. The motion was seconded by Councilman Lynn.

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

NAYS: None

EXECUTIVE MEETING NONE

ADJOURNMENT

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