

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
January 17, 2012

The Phillipsburg Town Council conducted its regular meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2012 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 Fey.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

In memory of Kismathdas Kasam;  
Ralph Jiorle, Sr. and Joseph Hriczak

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

By the Assembly

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Councilmembers:

Fey, Lynn, Stettner, Tersigni

President:

Piazza

ABSENT:

None

TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT

Mayor Wyant, Clerk/Administrator  
Broubalow, Attorney Wenner and  
Engineer Schrek

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The following meeting minutes were  
submitted for approval:

Special Meeting – December 28, 2011  
Special Meeting – December 29, 2011

Motion

Councilman Tersigni moved for approval of minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilman Fey, which carried by a 4-0-1 vote, Councilman Lynn abstaining

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The following meeting minutes were submitted for approval:

Reorganization Mtg – Jan. 1, 2012  
Regular Meeting – Jan. 3, 2012

Motion

Councilman Tersigni moved for approval. The motion was seconded by Councilman Fey, which carried by a 5-0 vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTE CONTENTS

The following Executive Minutes were submitted for content approval:

December 28, 2011  
December 29, 2011  
December 29, 2011

Motion

Councilman Stettner moved for approval of minute contents. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tersigni, which carried by a 4-0-1 vote, Councilman Lynn abstaining

## APPROVAL OF BILLS

The following bills were submitted for payment approval:

### SUMMARY

CURRENT FUND	110,097.09
STATE & FEDERAL GRANTS	67,570.72
SECTION 8	184.10
CAPITAL FUND	17,438.59
PUBLIC DEFENDER TRUST FUND	200.00
SEWAGE UTILITY FUND	311,668.75
SEWAGE CAPITAL FUND	132,715.00
<b>Section 8 Rent Payments for 2012</b>	
SECTION 8 PROGRAM	132,041.00
<b>Pre-Paid Bill List as of January 17, 2012</b>	
CURRENT FUND	9,758.16
STATE & FEDERAL GRANTS	56,432.00
<b>Bill List Addition</b>	
FINCH FUEL OIL	4,708.72

### Motion

Councilman Tersigni moved for approval of bills. The motion was seconded by Councilman Stettner, which carried by a 5-0 vote.

## OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business

## ENGINEER'S REPORT

### Main Street, Phase 4

Engineer reported bids received January 13 for Main Street Improvements, Phase 4 consisting of Stockton Street to Jefferson Street. He reported the low bidder was determined to be Z Brothers Concrete with a bid amount of \$332,881.92.

Engineer advised estimated commencement of project would be mid-March. Furthermore, he advised that the Town had received a grant in the amount of \$185,000 for this project therefore; award would be contingent upon approval from NJ Department of Transportation.

### Safe Route to Schools

Engineer reported electronic application has been submitted for sidewalk improvements for Filmore Street in area of Freeman School.

### Morris Street Improvements

Engineer addressed change order for project. He noted NJDOT had advised additional funds were available and their desire to have additional work done on walls.

### Main Street Improvements, Phase 3

Engineer addressed change order, which reflects increase in various line items as well as, reduction in contract amount. He advised there would be activity on Wednesday with this project.

### Storm Drain

Engineer reported 24" storm drain washed out behind Hammerhead during Hurricane Irene. He noted project cost would be submitted to FEMA.

President Piazza questioned status of repair of creek embankment.

Engineer advised FEMA wishes to review scope of work since they are looking to reduce project costs. If this is accomplished, Engineer continued it would become necessary for FEMA to assist Town with permit costs.

Councilman Fey questioned grant to install sidewalks on Warren Street between Center Street and Middle School.

Engineer advised application has been submitted for Filmore Street but would investigate this location also.

Councilman Stettner noted there might be an issue with the culvert and access onto private property.

#### MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor referred to recent robbery on South Main Street and stated our hearts and prayers go out to the family. He referred to conversations held with Councilman Stettner and Councilman Tersigni regarding camera proposal previously brought forward by Councilman Tersigni.

Mayor stated he believes cameras are very important and believe the Town must look at this in some manner. He suggested Town adopt ordinance requiring all businesses that operate 24 hours a day to have working cameras.

Mayor noted there is currently a camera on South Main Street, which is remotely moved around from time to time.

Councilman Stettner referred to available matching grants. He noted cameras are installed outside of business with business owners having opportunity to install cameras for the interior of business. Further, he indicated that he would address further at the next UEZ meeting.

Mayor expressed his sincere condolences to the family of Joseph Hriczak who served as the Town's Chief Financial Officer. He stated Joe served the Town extremely well over the years and the Town will be

extremely lost without this individual. In addition, Mayor continued he also served as Tax Collector.

Mayor stated that his death has been a tremendous shock to this administration.

Mayor requested Council to consider appointment of David DeGerolamo to the UEZ Board of Trustees.

### PUBLIC DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEMS

No Public Discussion

### ORDINANCE (Second Reading)

O:2012-01

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING 2012 SALARIES FOR LIBRARY EMPLOYEES was introduced for second reading by Councilman Fey and there being no errors, corrections or objections, Councilman Fey moved that the ordinance be adopted according to law. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tersigni.

#### Discussion

Thomas Bush, Columbus Avenue, questioned why non-contractual employees received an increase this year.

Clerk/Administrator explained Library employees are employed by the Library Board of Trustees therefore; salaries are established by that board with the Town only certifying through adoption of ordinance.

Councilman Fey stated Library employees do an outstanding job for the children and this community. Further, he noted having the County College in Phillipsburg will provide a benefit to this Town.

Mayor stated the Library is a Federation, which is funded 53% by the County and 47% by the Town. Further, he stated

Library is provided with a set amount of funds for their operation; an amount which has not changed over past several years and if increases are granted, it comes from that amount.

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

NAYS: None

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ORDINANCE (First Reading)

O:2012-02

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CERTAIN PROPERTY OWNED BY THE TOWN AND NOT REQUIRED FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES AND MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS BLOCK 1502, LOT 39 was introduced for first reading by Councilman Fey who moved that the ordinance be properly advertised. The motion was seconded by Councilman Stettner.

Discussion

Councilman Tersigni stated he is satisfied that the Town did not give property away and it will be great having this property back onto tax rolls.

Councilman Lynn questioned whether this was fair market value.

Mayor replied yes.

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

NAYS: None

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NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Tersigni addressed surveillance cameras, which he believes are needed for the protection of our citizens and businesses. He thanked the Mayor and Council for their support and knows that they can get this done.

RESOLUTIONS

R;2012-11

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING NJDOT GRANT SUBMISSION AND CONTRACT EXECUTION was introduced by Councilman Stettner who moved for its adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tersigni.

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

NAYS: None

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R;2012-12

A RESOLUTION APPROVING JUNK DEALER'S LICENSE FOR YEAR 2012 was introduced by Councilman Tersigni who moved for its adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilman Lynn.

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

NAYS: None

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R:2012-13

A RESOLUTION APPROVING LIST FOR TOWING SERVICES WITHIN THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG FOR YEAR 2012 was introduced by Councilman Tersigni who moved for its adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilman Stettner.



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

NAYS: None

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R:2012-14

A RESOLUTION AWARDDING CONTRACT FOR INSTALLATION OF 24-INCH STORM DRAIN was introduced by Councilman Fey who moved for its adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilman Stettner.

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

NAYS: None

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R:2012-15

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES was introduced by Councilman Tersigni who moved for its adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilman Stettner.

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

NAYS: None

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R:2012-16

A RESOLUTION APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 – MORRIS STREET SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS was introduced by Councilman Fey who moved for its adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilman Stettner.

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

NAYS: None

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R:2012-17

A RESOLUTION APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NO. 5 – IMPROVEMENTS TO MAIN STREET, PHASE 3 was introduced by Councilman Tersigni who moved for its adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilman Stettner.

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

NAYS: None

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R:2012-18

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY OWNED BY THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG was introduced by Councilman Stettner who moved for its adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilman Fey.

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

NAYS: None

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R:2012-19

A RESOLUTION AWARDDING CONTRACT FOR MAIN STREET IMPROVEMENTS, PHASE 4 was introduced by Councilman Tersigni who moved for its adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilman Stettner.

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

NAYS: None

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### PUBLIC PETITIONS

Thomas Bush, Columbus Avenue, questioned status of budget and police negotiations.

President Piazza stated budget is being prepared.

Attorney advised negotiations are on-going.

Mr. Bush questioned status of a discussion scheduled for January Work Session regarding League of Municipalities Convention.

President Piazza noted former Councilman DeGerolamo had only made a suggestion that a discussion be held by Council. He has requested members to prepare a report, which is to be submitted by end of January.

Mr. Bush questioned whether any municipal vehicles were driven to the convention.

President Piazza replied not to his knowledge.

Mr. Bush questioned those employees who attended convention that were ending their employment with the Town.

Mr. Bush stated he believes a three to five minute presentation should be made by all who attended convention.

Mr. Bush stated if members can not answer the questions brought forward by the public in attendance at meetings or the press then he would suggest that they resign.

#### OPEN TIME

Councilman Fey extended a thank you to Mrs. Ball, Mrs. Redcalf, School District and the administrators for the performance of the Green Street Bell Choir at the Senior Center.

Councilman Stettner stated information regarding cameras will be submitted to Mayor, Councilman Tersigni as well as, Attorney for his review.

Councilman Stettner addressed the sale of gold by pawn shops and noted an ordinance was prepared by Attorney Campbell for another municipality and requested Attorney to request ordinance for Council's review.

Councilman Stettner addressed the recent passing of Joe Hriczak. He stated he will be missed and would like to extend his condolences to his co-workers and his family.

Councilman Lynn questioned what Town could do in regards to public drunkenness, which is no longer considered a criminal offense therefore; unenforceable.

Attorney stated he would research and submit report to the Council at their February 7 meeting.

Councilman Stettner stated this was removed once 2C (Criminal Code) went into effect. He noted after second time, an individual can be charged with a disorderly offense.

Councilman Tersigni stated he has had the pleasure of working with Joe over the past 2 years. He stated whenever he had any questions, Joe answered them and he was accountable. He extended condolences to his family and friends and may he rest in peace.

Councilman Tersigni addressed public drunkenness situation on South Main Street, which was addressed by Councilman Lynn. He stated he sees it all the time and does not see it going away therefore; he hopes Town can do something about it.

President Piazza stated Mr. Hriczak will be sadly missed. He stated that Joe was always very professional.

President Piazza referred to comments by Councilman Fey and stated he is glad to hear good news. Further, he stated it is refreshing to hear about the positive things going on in this Town.

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### Motion

Councilman Fey moved to appoint David DeGerolamo to the UEZ Board of Trustees. The motion was seconded by Councilman Stettner, which carried by a 5-0 vote.

EXECUTIVE MEETING

R:2012-20

A RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE FOR AN EXECUTIVE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING CONTRACTUAL MATTERS RELATIVE TO PHILLIPSBURG ASSOCIATES I, LLC AND PHILLIPSBURG ASSOCIATES III, LLC AND CONTRACTUAL MATTERS RELATIVE TO PHILLIPSBURG HOUSING AUTHORITY was introduced by Councilman Stettner who moved for its adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tersigni.

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

NAYS: None

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President Piazza recessed meeting at 7:45 PM for the purpose of conducting Executive Meeting.

Motion

Councilman Stettner moved at 8:45 PM that Council return to public session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tersigni, which carried by a 4-0-1 vote, Councilman Fey absent.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Tersigni moved for adjournment at 8:45 PM.

APPROVED:

SUBMITTED BY:

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 RANDY S. PIAZZA, SR.  
 Council President

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 MICHELE D. BROUBALOW  
 Clerk/Administrator