

TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG
Council Meeting Minutes
May 03, 2016

The Phillipsburg Town Council conducted its regular meeting on Tuesday, May 03, 2016 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.

INVOCATION by Councilman Fey

MOMENT OF SILENC For Bill Mandry's Mom

PLEDGE by the Assembly

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Council President Tersigni

Council Members: Davis, Fey, Lutz,

Absent: Piazza

TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor Ellis, Clerk Kleiner,
Attorney Wenner

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Approval of meeting minutes
Were submitted for approval:

Council Meeting 04-19-2016

Motion

Councilman Davis moved for approval of minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilman Fey.

VOTE: YEAS: Davis, Fey, Lutz, Tersigni

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Piazza

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

SUMMARY

CURRENT FUND	\$	90,034.63
STATE & FEDERAL GRANTS		5,812.39
CAPITAL FUND		465.00
SEWAGE UTILITY FUND		2,647.42
SEWER CAPITAL FUND		25,222.75
PLANNING BOARD TRUST FUND		0
OPUS INVESTMENTS		0
SECTION 8		119.03
AGENCY FUND		216.89
Total regular bills list May 03, 2016		\$124,518.11
Section 8 Rent Payments March	\$	0

PRE- PAID BILL LIST AS OF March 15, 2016

CURRENT FUND	\$	7251.00
STATE & FEDERAL GRANTS		40,000.00
SEWER UTILITY FUND		2,550.45
AGENCY FUND		152,387.08
Pre Paid Bills List of May 02, 2016		\$202,188.53
GRAND TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS		\$ 326,706.64

Motion

Councilman Fey moved for approval of bills. The motion was seconded by Councilman Davis.

VOTE: YEAS: Davis, Fey, Lutz, Tersigni
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Piazza

PROCLAMATIONS: Ruth Ladd an Amazing Woman
Older American Month
Shad Festival

The Proclamations were read by Mayor Ellis and Council President Tersigni

Council President Tersigni asked for an Executive Session:

EXECUTIVE MEETING

R: 2016 - 84

A RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE FOR AN EXECUTIVE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG FOR THE

PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING ... Professional services and contractual Matters with the train.

Councilman Lutz made a motion to go into Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Davis.

VOTE: YEAS: Davis, Fey, Lutz, Tersigni

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Piazza

MAYORS REPORT

Mayor Ellis asked to appoint James Swick, Esq., as the Judge for the Town of Phillipsburg. Councilman Fey moved to adopt resolution 2016-80. The motion was seconded by Councilman Davis.

Council President asked to abstain as James Swick has done personal work for him in the past.

VOTE: YEAS: Davis, Fey, Lutz,

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Piazza

ABSTAIN: Tersigni

We are in the process of getting two wide screen TV's up, but I wanted to do a power point to thank you to Kent Corcoran for working the projector. We have new T Shirts I will give one to Attorney Wenner so he can run in it all over.

I met this week with Alison Pickle and Sherry Corcoran and we went to Main Street NJ. It helps to attract and promote businesses. Mcwane Ductile has given us \$73,500 to the Morris Canal Greenway. A children's museum that has science, cultural and history for kids would be a big draw. This is a pic of one that has science and ha after that you can go in up to your shoes, kids stay all day, I would like to see something like this is in Union Square. Mayor promoted by the Delaware River watershed.

Mcwane build a science museum, the Tower alone would attract quite a few, they don't come easy we have to think big and take risks.

In supporting OPUS, Lopatcong is slowing the process of the project; they are concerned of sitting in traffic. It is your taxes, we want them to go down not go up; we are at a tipping point. I have been thinking of having a joint Council Meeting. This project could save Phillipsburg; we have to get taxes down. We have DOT and a back up traffic plan. Phillipsburg mall is gone but Lopatcong is still building things.

Mr. Fistler and the shad fishing, is using the natural historic resources, 65 million people go to water recreation area along the Delaware a year, and they come out of the blue. It can help promote put businesses.

St. Luke's is. In trouble, the Governor changed the ratings on the hospitals, to tiers, 1, 2 & 3 when the system started tier 1 was coordinated health increase pay insurance and tier 2 was Medicare, they built a new wing for 26 million dollars, and put a ton of money into it.

Councilman Lutz stated they won't take horizon because of the Governor they can't accept it.

Councilman Davis stated Prieto and Mayor Ellis were fighting and closed door criteria

The Mayor stated that Aharts moving out owner increased lease payments. I met with the winners of Shop-rite the Colalios family – they need a minimum of 20,000 square feet and Aharts is 18,000 sq ft.the best thing would be a dollar store.

The Main Street NJ we are going to do a build a better block, we will close South Main Street from Jersey bring in food trucks, craft beer and promote them to bring their business's into Town. It will be August 13th and 14th. Maybe even Garden State Winery.

While we were they they asked she's in questions:

Where can I have the best dining experience:

Where can I get the best photo:

Where can I get the best Dessert:

Where can I get gourmet items for a picnic:

When can I get the perfect gift:

What is something I must do:

Where can I check my emails for free:

I went to the Old Timers at the Fire Department. Don Dickey explained that it is for exempt members and new members too meet.

Council President Tersigni stated first year merged Jersey Hose

Mayor Ellis also stated that a General Store – and Thomas the Tank train,

Council President Tersigni stated it was a boarding house.

Chris Cotty is turning it into a store

Mayor Ellis stated he discussed a general store but no money comes from Thomas the Tank.

Congrats to Councilman Davis on making the Young Democrats

Councilman Davis stated NJ young Democrat

Mayor Ellis stated we are in contract talks with the AFCME Union

I met with the Pursell Hill Gang; the coaching ID badges went out more than 100 of them.

Mayor Ellis stated that three of thee concerts are moving downtown to the river from Shappell Park, Flaming Dick and the Hot Rods, a Bruce Springsteen band.

Thank you Mayor Ellis that was a great presentation!

OLD BUSINESS

Council President Tersigni stated that in 2014 we spoke about moving the Municipal Building Downtown a few weeks ago Chief Faulborn spoke about it being downtown – there would be more police presence and a better quality of life. It will promote business and commerce; it worked for Easton, Bethlehem, and Allentown. Mayor Ellis is in support of this maybe Mercy Hall, or the Elks building it really don't matter as long as it gets done. We can have a satellite location in Hillcrest. In 1890, could never be duplicated like Mr. Guerra building 1890 benefited and self-benefiting. I believe that the Municipal building down town is a good idea and a feasibility study should be done. The Municipal building is marketable, and cost benefit analysis, bring the building back downtown, the professionals, the DPW, the Attorney's, they will buy a paper, stop at a restaurant, I believe it then and now it is a key to revitalizing 2014. I believe that this is the answer, the Police are doing job will increase property values.

Mayor Ellis stated I believe this is the answer

Council President Tersigni stated I am honored that we are on the same page.

Councilman Lutz in the 90's Harry Wyant and myself wanted to bring it downtown to Mercy Hall, but we needed to put an elevator and that was 1.4 million dollars then. You get a lot of people saying things, if you move it downtown you will never get elected again, others want it downtown we can move the library into this building or use as substation. I believe it needs to be downtown.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEMS

Alan Amey, 71 Lewis Street, yes your right but the concern is parking and the Elks has none.

Council President Tersigni stated we spoke about eminent domain, Paul Mart to Jefferson Street, in Easton there was no parking, but working together we can solve this.

Alan Amey stated that revitalizing downtown

Councilman Lutz stated back in the day the squad banquets were all down at the Elks building somehow everyone got there.

Alan Amey stated going to Elks – Castle Inn

Council President Tersigni stated Joan Jett was there

Alan Amey stated people parked on Morris Street

Councilman Lutz stated so many people went to the Police ball they put a speaker on the second floor

Mayor Ellis stated Mayor Pantos office is attached to the Parking Garage

Councilman Davis stated a feasibility study should be done

Joe Meyner, 392 South Main Street – the Catholic School has a lot of parking and it would be used during the week no on the weekend when the church needs the parking

I have a question on 2016-03 the median incomes

Council President Tersigni stated that is still tabled

ORDINANCES

O: 2016 -03 (TABLED)

(First Reading). A motion was made by Councilman Piazza to table this Ordinance. Councilman Davis seconded the motion.

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SALARIES FOR SOA'S POLICE DEPARTMENT introduced by Councilman Fey who moved for its adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilman Piazza

VOTE: YEAS: Davis, Fey, Lutz, Tersigni
NAYS: None

ABSENT: Piazza

O: 2016 – 11 (Second and Final Reading)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF A PORTION OF BLOCK 402, LOTS 1, 2, and 3 FOR THE WIDENING OF ROSEBERRY STREET was introduced for a 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 Lutz.

ROLL CALL

Councilmen	First	Second	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Davis			X			
Fey	X		X			
Lutz		X	X			
Piazza						X
Tersigni			X			

O: 2016-12 (Second and Final Reading)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING CHAPTER 105, *POLICE DEPARTMENT*, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG IN ORDER TO ADD A NEW ARTICLE VI ENTITLED *POLICE CHAPLAIN* TO THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG was introduced for a second reading by Councilman Lutz and there being no errors corrections or objections, Councilman Lutz moved that the ordinance be adopted according to law. The motion was seconded by Councilman Fey.

ROLL CALL

Councilmen	First	Second	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Davis			X			
Fey		X	X			
Lutz	X		X			
Piazza						x
Tersigni			X			

Capt. Stettner stated that they started this about a year and a half ago, that the Chaplains are a huge influence in the community and with the community policing. Last August the training started and they had 19 people attend and we have a total of five (5) and three (3) that are here tonight.

Swearing in of the Police Chaplain’s by Mayor Ellis

BOND O- 2016-13 (First Reading)

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS 2016 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, BY AND IN THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, IN THE COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING \$1,346,700 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,130,936 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWN TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF was introduced for a first reading by Councilman Fey who moved that the ordinance be properly advertised. The motion was seconded by Councilman Davis.

ROLL CALL

Councilmen	First	Second	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Davis		X	X			
Fey	X		X			
Lutz			X			
Piazza						X
Tersigni			X			

O: 2016-14 (First Reading)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING ORDINANCE 2015-20 REGARDING 2016 SALARIES FOR UNCLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES was introduced for a first reading by Councilman Lutz who moved that the ordinance be properly advertised. The motion was seconded by Councilman Fey.

ROLL CALL

Councilmen	First	Second	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Davis			X			
Fey		X	X			
Lutz	X		X			
Piazza						X
Tersigni			X			

13. **RESOLUTIONS**

R: 2016 -80

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY APPOINTING A MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE was introduced by Councilman Fey who moved for its adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilman Lutz.

VOTE: YEAS: Davis, Fey, Lutz, Tersigni

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Piazza

R: 2016-81

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR A REFUND OF CONSTRUCTION PERMIT FEES was introduced by Councilman Fey who moved for its adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilman Davis.

VOTE: YEAS: Davis, Fey, Lutz, Tersigni

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Piazza

R: 2016 -83

A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING HANDICAP PARKING SPACES WITHIN THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG was introduced by Councilman Fey who moved for its adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilman Lutz.

VOTE: YEAS: Davis, Fey, Lutz, Tersigni

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Piazza

NEW BUSINESS None

PUBLIC PETITIONS

Joe Meyner, 392 South Main Street, at the Main Street development seminar, I have an alternate plan, an entrepreneur school where the elder's teach the skills. We use seniors as teachers – the people who live here already, require fair practices. Ahearts in Town – it is unnecessary for increases, the past failures no actual fair leases issued by landlords. The Train people that develop the market, I am in favor of many of these things that are just one detail of my plan.

Councilman Fey stated at the Senior Center they do a wonderful job, and their items are for sale and getting educated by Lafayette students teaching computer skills, we can learn from the older folks and it is happening at the senior center./

Joe Meyner stated it is a needed bridge

Council President Tersigni stated thank you Mr. Meyner

Robert Fulper 17 Marshall Street, can you comment on the investigation that is going on?

Attorney Wenner and Mayor Ellis stated at the same time not at this time.

Justin Timmons, since it is sports season and we use the parks a lot can we get more trash receptacles

Council President Tersigni stated he supports the issue and we need to get more cans.

Councilman Fey stated all these young kids use plastic water bottles, maybe recycling and garbage cans, definitely more recycling cans

Mayor Ellis stated I will speak with Mike Stires and garbage in increase garbage out.

Bill Timmann, 220 South Main Street, more updates

Councilman Davis stated like a Town App

Council President Tersigni stated it will cost to create an app but we can look into it.

Jennifer McBride, 401 James Street, I coach youth soccer and there are cigarette butts in the bathroom and all over the lots.

Council President Tersigni stated we have plenty of signs

Councilman Fey stated we have to get keys to the bathrooms, a key to sign out to the fields. It is a problem, when they are locked and the kids need to go.

Mayor Ellis stated keys

Council President Tersigni stated can we get the signs up

Blaine Fehley, 237 Bowhay Avenue, the Union Square building did you get to go inside?

Council President Tersigni stated he couldn't get in touch with Mr. Guerra, work he did on the windows my workers could have done in a half hour. I believe that that building needs to be demolished. I am not trying to tar and feather the guy but the Empire State building was built in 13 months. He is a slow roller.

Blaine Fehley stated he owns the other building?

Council President Tersigni stated yes. Councilman Lutz stated he received RCA money. Councilman Fey stated conducted all the steps

Councilman Lutz questioned has he gotten permits

Council President Tersigni stated good for six (6) months, not bank, I am a former loan officer and I believe it is a touchy subject

Councilman Fey stated he owns several buildings

Councilman Davis stated we need to have a sharper worded letter – reminded as quickly as we can.

Blaine Fehley questioned all the heroin issues in the Town.

Council President Tersigni stated young people are getting hooked on the drugs, 6 out of 10 beat Coke; one out of 200 beats heroin.

Blaine Fehley questioned the no parking signs can they be put back

Council President Tersigni stated I will address that with Mayor Ellis and Mike Stires.

Attorney Wenner stated that we have to check the ordinance first if not amend it.

Attorney Wenner also stated that Mr. Guerra was here in late April with no documents and I haven't gotten any from him yet.

Councilman Davis stated Mayor Ellis did amend

Mayor Ellis change of plans

Councilman Davis time of Council the repair was enough

Council President Tersigni stated May it is two years

Joe Meyner questioned there are local heroin problem?

Chief Faulborn stated nationally there is a problem; there have been some Overdoses in Phillipsburg

OPENTIME

Councilman Lutz stated last Friday he met some Easton Ambassadors and I would like to bring them in the next work session

Mayor Ellis stated they are the ones in the red and black uniforms that clean up the downtown area

Councilman Lutz stated it is amazing what they do, they are nation wide

Mayor Ellis stated they clean streets?

Councilman Lutz stated all cigarette butts, graffiti, put plants into planters, green machine, clean sidewalks, we can do Union Square to Jefferson Street, contract for Mercer to Sitgreaves Street, Separate from Main Street. At the Park, look at the city of Easton and it is doing better and it can work for us too.

Councilman Fey stated January 1, 2016 you can in Mayor Ellis with a vision, I want to congratulate you acting on a vision and promises.
If anyone has some time go see a spots game, there are plenty around Town

Council President Tersigni stated on line with Councilman Lutz, leading the volunteer's, Councilman Fey in the past the police and DPW with Georgine Trinkle would organize volunteers.

Council President Tersigni stated joining me with the Charitable Trust Committee is Steve Zarbatany as we re-organize in June. I look forward to working with you in June. It is humbling to in the six years and four months that I have sat on Council I received a thank you from a Phillipsburg Icon, and on April 21, 2016, I never thought I would have been singled out keep up the good work, non -political, fair and honorable thank you, signed Ken Lutz

Councilman Davis questioned if there was money for the recycling bins
Mayor Ellis stated Delaware Hgts. Cans – garbage

Councilman Davis maybe we can give Ahearts a tax incentive deal on the tax perspective if Ahearts doesn't' who can be there at a reduced rate
Council President Tersigni stated we should look at that, you can count on me
Mayor Ellis stated if anyone here tonight knows a grocery store that's interested have them call me. I did get a call from Aldis
Councilman Davis stated vacant properties, stickers, catalogue these in the next 10 days, and start to report them

MOTIONS

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Lutz moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion was carried with 4 – 0 vote, absent Piazza..