

TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG  
Council Meeting Minutes  
June 06, 2016

The Phillipsburg Town Council conducted its regular meeting on Tuesday, June 06, 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

PLEDGE by the Assembly

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Council President: Tersigni  
Council Members: Davis, Lutz, Piazza

ABSENT: Council Member: Fey

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

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

Council Meeting 05-17-16

Motion

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

VOTE: YEAS: Davis, Lutz, Tersigni, Piazza

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Fey

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APPROVAL OF BILLS:  
SUMMARY

CURRENT FUND	\$ 1,072,325.81
STATE & FEDERAL GRANTS	3,099.82
CAPITAL FUND	37,102.26
SEWAGE UTILITY FUND	151,810.47
SEWER CAPITAL FUND	18,262.75
PLANNING BOARD TRUST FUND	2,894.25
OPUS INVESTMENTS	0
SECTION 8	281.53
AGENCY FUND	216.89
<b>Total regular bills list June 06, 2016</b>	<b>\$ 1,285,990.78</b>
Section 8 Rent Payments March	\$ 0
PRE- PAID BILL LIST AS OF June 06, 2016	
CURRENT FUND	\$ 1,505.87
STATE & FEDERAL GRANTS	48,200.00
CAPITAL FUND	33,435.00
SEWER UTILITY FUND	2,000.00
SECTION 8	1,300.00
AGENCY FUND	168,044.99
Pre -Paid Bills List of June 06, 2016	
GRAND TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS	\$ 1,540,476.64

Motion: Councilman Davis questioned if the Bill Mandry bill was removed from the bills list. Clerk Kleiner responded yes the totals were without that bill.

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

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

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PROCLAMATIONS:

The Proclamation for Steele Hill Youth Club was read by Mayor Ellis and Council President Tersigni

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MAYORS REPORT

Mayor Ellis asked for approval of appointment of Craig Brotons, Tax Assessor, for another term.

Councilman Lutz made a motion to approve the reappointment of Craig Brotons, Tax Assessor for another term. Councilman Piazza seconded the motion.

VOTE: YEAS: Davis, Lutz, Piazza, Tersigni

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Fey

Mayor Ellis stated that he did a press release today on the explosion, Mayor Ellis stated that he was on site and it looked like war time I can't believe people made it out. The gas company stated that there are no leaks. He never saw a group of Emergency responses like this, Rich Hay and the EMS was remarkable. It is cleaned up and soon it will be seeded.

Economic Development the closing of OPUS is coming up and a lot of hard work went into it by Former Mayor Wyant and Rich Wenner. Read the press release.

Lehigh Valley Chamber, former Mayor Callahan sees great promise here in Phillipsburg, he is a nationally known speaker

Arts, Parks and Recreation, the Little Liners and the Colts are merging and there is a meeting here tomorrow night at 7:30 pm to go over new procedures.

We are fine tuning the park concerts.

Being transparent government Mayors face book page updated, about the explosion, and there is more on the Town web site. We had a Staff meeting last week, Human Resources; Melissa visited the site of the explosion. DPW is depleted; we need to hire some staff.

On June 6<sup>th</sup> I spoke at St. Luke's, and Municipal Alliance and substance abuse, we can't turn our backs on that. I have a classmate to share some knowledge on opiate abuse, a fellow friend and classmate, Cathy Mannick.

Cathy Mannick stated that opiate abuse, we have gotten over the stigma of middle class, I am a retired teacher, my husband is a retired corrections officer, and we have two sons, James 36, and Justin 34. They lead an average middle class life, sports, music, pets, trips to Florida, California, Europe and one majored in psychology, and one majored in physical education. Today James has a government job drinks wine. Justin's is a convicted felon, four years probation, for

selling school equipment to buy OxyContin. We think he may be taking something; he has been an addict for 10 years. He was gambling, so we paid the debt, so he wouldn't get his legs broken or worse. So, a synthetic Heroin, for pain relief, this drug was used for terminally ill cancer patients. This was given for pain management a progressive and fatal drug. Abstinence is the only way, abuse is genetic. I have alcoholics in my family, my sister and I escaped my two brothers did not. Some people drink and do drugs they don't have the gene for addiction, some are brain different. An addict can't it is genetic. Brain different people – some who get violently sick or drink or drug under the table showing a high tolerance.

My children grew up in the same environment, one escaped it and one did not, he inherited the gene of addiction, our son was out of balance, if you can you should see the patterns, high tolerance drinker, high tolerance OxyContin took all his time and attention. If you keep taking for pain you will get addicted to it. We have a tremendous amount of people taking this drug, more and more to simply function. Laced with fentanyl, a street bag for \$10.00 and you just stop breathing. Who is flooding our streets with heroin, time is needed to heal brains with dpi mine, 30 day treatment doesn't begin to healthy brain. Nine out of ten relapse why doesn't the insurance cover it, seven to twelve months, people in recovery to fight some don't make it. He's alive he can still make that decision to live. A choice for him to make he has to want it himself. We didn't cause our loved ones addiction, experience, loving, finds ways to keep ourselves healthy. We need to find the Government officials, hope is near. It is a disease, long term opioid- oxycodone, long term rehab – to heal the brain from the chemical assault. God bless all the Police and EMT'S dealing with the effects- support them as they do battle, support the Warren county drug task force, support the Warren county prosecutors drug force.

Mayor Ellis stated thank you for sharing your story.

Council President Tersigni stated thanks for sharing your experience

## OLD BUSINESS

Council President Tersigni reminded everyone that the clean up is Saturday from 8-12 meeting at Shappell Park, to have a better quality of life

Mayor Ellis asked who someone can contact if interested

Council President Tersigni stated that Brittany Daniels, or me.

## PUBLIC DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEMS

Council President Tersigni stated ok Mr. Meyner...

Joe Meyner 392 South Main Street, Charlie Rose spoke he is the Opioid expert – new addictive takes only seven days.

Mayor Ellis stated that I enjoyed.

Councilman Tersigni I was under the impression statistics, six out of ten beat cocaine, and one out of 200 beats heroin. What you said was so expressive

Councilman Lutz when I had back surgery I was put on OxyContin, I went down to 175 pounds, my wife hid it from me, I didn't understand what I was doing, I kept asking her why did you take it away. She said because I didn't want me to become addicted. She just had surgery I have to give her a lot of credits, the nurses keep trying to give her pain med, and she has only taken Tylenol I give her a lot of credit. I want to commend you and thank you for sharing your story.

Mayor Ellis stated that two weeks ago I got some bad news we had three overdoses in two days, it is so addictive. The Police got a picture of the Instagram symbol so no one else uses or if they did they would know they would die if they used it

Chief Faulborn stated they revived with narcan

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**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

Mayor Ellis stated we are close to reaching an agreement and should be voted at the next meeting.

O: 2016 -15 (Second and Final Reading)

ORDINANCE RESCINDING AND CANCELING BOND ORDINANCE NUMBER 2006-32 HERETOFORE FINALLY ADOPTED BY THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, IN THE COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2006 was introduced for a second reading by Councilman Piazza and there being no errors corrections or objections, Councilman Piazza moved that the ordinance be adopted according to law. The motion was seconded by Councilman Lutz.

Discussion: Council President Tersigni stated that 2010 the debt was 16 million, six years later the debt is five million it is down 11 million.

**ROLL CALL**

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

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O: 2016 -16 (First Reading)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING CHAPTER 67-17,

SCHEDULE I, NO PARKING, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG was introduced for a first reading by Councilman Davis who moved that the ordinance be properly advertised. The motion was seconded by Councilman Piazza. (Bowhay Ave.)

**ROLL CALL**

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

O: 2016-17

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE O: 2015-20 ADOPTED NOVEMBER 16, 2015 (Salary for the Business Administrator) PHILLIPSBURG was introduced for a first reading by Councilman Piazza who moved that the ordinance be properly advertised. The motion was seconded by Councilman Lutz.

**ROLL CALL**

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

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**RESOLUTIONS**

R: 2016-100

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE TOWN SEWER ENGINEER TO EXECUTE A TREATMENT WORKS APPROVAL APPLICATION FOR THE STAG GI NEW JERSEY LLC SANITARY SEWER EXTENSION PROJECT was introduced by Councilman Davis who moved for its adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilman Lutz.

Discussion: Councilman Davis wants to make sure that we get our connection fees from Lopat for this connection.

VOTE: YEAS: Davis, Lutz, Piazza, Tersigni

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Fey

R: 2016-101

A RESOLUTION AWARDDING PURCHASES UNDER NEW JERSEY STATE CONTRACT (PPE - \$425.50) was introduced by Councilman Lutz who moved for its adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilman Davis.

VOTE: YEAS: Davis, Lutz, Piazza, Tersigni

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Fey

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R: 2016-102

A RESOLUTION IMPOSING LIEN FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES was introduced by Councilman Lutz who moved for its adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilman Davis.

VOTE: YEAS: Davis, Lutz, Piazza, Tersigni

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Fey

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R: 2016-103

A RESOLUTION IN THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY "Support - Submission of Application for New Jersey Department of Transportation [Safe Routes to School or Transportation Alternatives] Program" was introduced by Councilman Lutz who moved for its adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilman Piazza.

VOTE: YEAS: Davis, Lutz, Piazza, Tersigni

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Fey

R: 2016-104 (TABLED)

A RESOLUTION OPPOSITION TO THE MOTOR FUEL TAX INCREASE was tabled by Councilman Piazza who moved for its adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilman Davis.

VOTE: YEAS: Davis, Lutz, Piazza, Tersigni

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Fey

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NEW BUSINESS none

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## PUBLIC PETITIONS

Joe Meyner, 392 South Main Street, let the shenanigans begin. I do appreciate you listening to me. I think that the police station down town is a bad idea; I think that if you place them around Town better placement it would be fine.

The Mayor promised me an hour to speak about good development for seniors and the poor in Town. You are the redevelopment committee an hour or less maybe the second Council meeting in July.

Council President Tersigni stated send your request to Clerk Kleiner and in the open meeting in July (19<sup>th</sup>) we will have you speak.

Blaine Fehley, 237 Bowhay Ave., The Clothing bins – I thought you were putting an ordinance together with phone numbers on the bins, cameras nothing is working. The meeting and work shop meeting it was discussed.

Mayor Ellis stated that we are working with the attorneys, to get them out of residential areas, and put them down the Rt. 22 corridor. Since you brought this up, Councilman Lutz carried a sign himself. Mayor Ellis stated that the sign was stolen, there have been personal donations for the DARE BIN cameras they are not up yet we need to send the money to the CFO.

Councilman Lutz questioned where they were

Mayor Ellis stated all over, cameras are coming this will stop quickly

Blaine Fehley, who is taking care of the parking meters? Chief Faulborn responded that Dale Dunfy is downtown.

Joe Meyner stated that it is important my son in law works with elevators stated that you can get limited use for \$7,500.00 light weight elevator; you don't need to spend a million dollars

Beth Singland of Alpha Borough spoke about the drugs in everyone's back yard, I didn't know it was available. It needs to be exposed more.

Mayor Ellis stated that Municipal Alliance has supplies, Child Psychologist, and Attorney in Town, I didn't know myself until my assistant told me I had to be at a meeting.

Tasha Monk, I have a 20 year old son who is an addict. He might go to jail, can't get any help only for 25 days, we took a second mortgage, he was sent back home and is on the streets back on drugs. As a mom we need to step up and need help, not jail, help it is devastating for them and the families, they are not the only ones in jail so are we.

## OPENTIME

Council President Tersigni stated Thank you to all the personal that helped and Jennifer McBride, organizing the donations for the victims and families, and Victoria Hammond. Brian Thompson, Eileen Haney, and Sandy Spence gave backpacks and school supplies, furniture, clothing, gift cards. People put it all aside and came together it is all about the Town and as our new Mayor. Mayor Ellis did a fantastic job in the beginning of Mayor tenure. I was born on Filmore

Street – it had regional and national coverage. The bashers put aside, there is a lot of good in Phillipsburg we are a good and strong community.

I was elected for 2016 the Warren County Municipal Charitable Conservancy., they have a \$700,000 budget, and they have helped do things for the Churches, the Roseberry house. Councilman Piazza served on that for two years. We need to keep working together and put politics aside and work together to make it the great Town that it is.

Councilman Lutz, stated that Mayor Ellis has done a great job in the six months, from snow to disasters never had that much before. Guerra started painting, the old wood, but looks better. I confer with Mr. Fehley, I don't believe we need bins and it is sad that we have to clean them up. At the end of the month into the first two weeks the landlords don't want to pay for the items they don't need. The Non-profits yet but it is way out of hand.

I also met with the Engineer at Mercy Hall he suggested we do a feasibility study, but then everything just stopped.

Mayor Ellis stated we can give another look next meeting.

Councilman Lutz stated I think we need to look at the open fires – fire pits, if you have allergies and asthma it is horrible. One of my neighbors has a 10 ft. flame, why should people suffer for someone else; it is getting out of hand.

Mayor Ellis stated it is a low – a State law but we can enforce.

Councilman Lutz stated people don't realize what they are putting on for example poison sumac, causes a huge problem if you have an allergy.

Councilman Piazza stated we have an ordinance where it is 20 feet from structure, clean wood I have a chiminea myself, and out of common courtesy to my neighbors I use it cautiously.

Councilman Lutz stated that neighbors don't talk to each other anymore

Councilman Piazza, stated that when the explosion happened I went up all the emergency personnel acted in a professional manner, when I see neighbors come together I am proud to see the people, that gentleman was severely burned.

Mayor Ellis stated he will survive

Councilman Piazza stated your speech was very touching; it is the Town of Phillipsburg at its best.

Mayor Ellis stated Thank you Councilman Piazza

Councilman Davis stated there is already a fire ordinance; we should read the ordinance first. Just call the Chief he will take care of it.

Councilman Davis stated that the senior center busing schedule was changed, along with the State Department they have been running better for now. Service Electric has not been compliant. We need to get onto the access channel.

I think Officer Belcastro – as noted by Tim Wynkoop should receive an accommodation.

I am glad that you tabled the gas tax; I believe that there are more pressing matters that need to be addressed. I think Detective Swick stated that there was four overdoses, quantify the abuse saving one to two people a week, that's 100 people a year. How are we helping people, this is what we need to write Trenton about, help people with the abuse, getting resources to threat this issue.

Mayor Ellis stated that he and Chris Troxell stated bring the Municipal Alliance to a work session.

Council President Tersigni stated DJ Kophazy

Mayor Ellis stated that is a subject that is close to many people. Let's do something about it.

## MOTIONS

Application for Active Duty – Daniel R. Carapezzi – Alert Hook and Ladder Co.  
No. 1 Councilman Lutz made a motion to approve active duty. Councilman Davis seconded the motion. Thank you for your service.

VOTE: YEAS: Davis, Lutz, Piazza, Tersigni

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Fey

## ADJOURNMENT

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