

TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG
Council Meeting Minutes
June 05, 2017
P'burg Elementary

The Phillipsburg Town Council conducted its regular meeting on Tuesday, June 05, 2017 at 7:00 pm at the Phillipsburg Elementary School, 525 Warren Street.

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

INVOCATION by Council President Tersigni

PLEDGE by the Assembly

ROLL CALL

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

TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT:	Mayor Ellis, Clerk Kleiner, Attorney Wenner, Attorney Troxell
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APPROVAL OF MINUTES	Council Mtg 05-09-2017
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Motion

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

VOTE:	YEAS:	Davis, Lutz, Tersigni, Piazza
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	NAYS:	None
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	ABSENT:	Fey
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APPROVAL OF BILLS:
SUMMARY

CURRENT FUND	\$ 1,023,601.47
STATE & FEDERAL GRANTS	133.22
CAPITAL FUND	10,065.85
SEWAGE UTILITY FUND	107,271.79
SECTION 8	1,989.03
AGENCY FUND	212.75
Total regular bills list May16, 2017	\$1,143,274.11
Section 8 Rent Payments	\$ 144,905.26
PRE- PAID BILL LIST AS OF May 16, 2017	
CURRENT FUND	\$ 36,000.00
AGENCY FUND	145,522.35
Pre -Paid Bills List of May 16, 2017	\$181,522.35
GRAND TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS	\$ 1,469,701.72

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

VOTE: YEAS: Davis, Lutz, Piazza, Tersigni

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Fey

MAYOR

PUBLIC DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEMS

ORDINANCES

O: 2017-07 (First Reading) **TABLED MAY 23, 2017**

Councilman Fey made a motion to table this Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilman Lutz. The motion carried a 5-0 vote

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 485 "SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS," SECTION 4 "SEWER FACILITIES; CONNECTIONS," OF THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG TO REQUIRE THE USE OF BACKFLOW VALVES FOR BASEMENT AND CELLAR SANITARY FIXTURES

ROLL CALL

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

O: 2017-08 (First Reading)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 464 “RENTAL PROPERTY,” IN ORDER TO REVISE SECTIONS 464-2 “DEFINITIONS,” 464-4 “RENTAL PROPERTY REGISTRATION,” 464-5 “LICENSE REQUIREMENTS; SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF LICENSE,” AND 464-7 “PREREQUISITES TO OCCUPANCY; MAXIMUM NUMBER OF OCCUPANTS” was introduced for a first reading by Councilman Piazza who moved that the ordinance be properly advertised. The motion was seconded by Councilman Davis.

Discussion: Council President Tersigni stated that the credit for this is to Councilman Davis.

ROLL CALL

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

O: 2017-09 (Removed)

O: 2017-10 (First Reading) TABLED

ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING CHAPTER 67, *VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC*, SECTION 28, *PARKING LOTS*, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG

Councilman Lutz made a motion to Table the ordinance O: 2017 – 10.
 Councilman Davis seconded the Motion. The Motion carried a 4-0-1 vote,
 Councilman Fey Absent

 O: 2017-11 (Removed)

O: 2017-12 (First Reading)

Historic Preservation Ordinance was introduced for a first reading by
 Councilman Lutz who moved that the ordinance be properly
 advertised. The motion was seconded by Councilman Piazza.

ROLL CALL

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

 O: 2017-13 (First Reading)

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING 2016-2020 SALARIES FOR
 AFSCME AND NON-CONTRACTUAL EMPLOYEES was
 introduced for a first reading by Councilman Lutz who moved that the
 ordinance be properly advertised. The motion was seconded by
 Councilman Piazza.

ROLL CALL

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

O:2017-14 (First Reading)

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING 2016-2020 SALARIES FOR LIBRARY EMPLOYEES 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			

RESOLUTIONS

R: 2017 – 110 (**TABLED 05-23-2017 remained Tabled 06-05-17**)

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING INTEREST IN THE DONATION OF THE FREEMAN SCHOOL TO THE TOWN

A Motion to Table was introduced by Councilman Lutz who moved for its adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilman Fey.

VOTE: YEAS: Davis, Fey, Lutz, Piazza, Tersigni

NAYS: None

R: 2017-113

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 Davis.

VOTE: YEAS: Davis, Lutz, Piazza, Tersigni

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Fey

R: 2017-114

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG COUNTY OF WARREN STATE OF NEW JERSEY CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF GARY A. RICKER, SR. TO THE POSITION OF DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF was introduced 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

R: 2017-115

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

VOTE: YEAS: Davis, Lutz, Piazza, Tersigni

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Fey

R: 2017-116

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING DISCHARGE OF FIREWORKS AT OLE TOWN FESTIVAL was introduced by Councilman Davis who moved for its adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilman Lutz.

VOTE: YEAS: Davis, Lutz, Piazza, Tersigni

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Fey

R: 2017-117

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ISSUANCE OF A SPECIAL PERMIT FOR A SOCIAL AFFAIR TO SPLINTERS FROM THE PINE, T/A SOMA DOWNTOWN GRILL was introduced 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

R: 2017-118

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 Lutz.

VOTE: YEAS: Davis, Lutz, Piazza, Tersigni

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Fey

R: 2017 - 119

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH XYLEM SOFTWARE was introduced by Councilman Davis who moved for its adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilman Lutz.

VOTE: YEAS: Davis, Lutz, Piazza, Tersigni

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Fey

NEW BUSINESS – None

PUBLIC PETITIONS

Joe Meyner 392 South Main Street, attached is his Statement.

The Mayor stated that the air was 50% cleaner and they did the PEOSHA repairs.

Sandra Callery 5974 Front Street Bangor, Tax Collector for the Town of Phillipsburg spoke about the concerns that she and the fellow employees have. The public thinks that we have moved, people don't want to come into the building the Court and the Detectives moved, the main level of the building is still in operation. There is a lot of anxiety we are told "normal" then "dangerous" one week and a half ago till tonight. PEOSHA and the Health Department recommendations that were not done would cost \$700.00 per day starting June 01, 2017, there is a high level on concern, stress, and health risks, when is a decision going to be made, when are we leaving.

WCCC was discussed but not a good fit, due to the public issues. We the employees come to work every day and perform we have not gotten any support from the Governing body.

Mr. Norris attorney for Mr. Guerra – 11 Union Square, gave a brief update on the progress. Mr. Guerra has put the garage door on the building and sent loan documents over to the Attorney. They have been approved. He knows he has some fines because he has not completed the requests on time, and is addressing the siding order. But, we need Council to confirm that they will not take the building down. We need a letter as proof.

Attorney Wenner stated since he secured the loan the siding and the garage door, recommend assurance is appropriate to recommend that we get a letter out. No prejudice to prior agreements.

Council President Tersigni stated not complied with one thing; the public knows how I feel the Town of Phillipsburg has been very friendly. I believe he tried to make a fool out of us and I was right.

Councilman Lutz made a motion to authorize to lender. Councilman Davis seconded the Motion.

VOTE: YEAS: Davis, Lutz, Piazza, Tersigni

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Fey

Joan Pierce 119 Lewis Street, I want to know who is in charge of pruning the trees that the Town put on Lewis Street.

Mayor Ellis stated John Lynn is with Shade Tree contact him.

Joan Pierce the tree hanging into the street. Also, why permits for a yard sale?

How many can you have in a year?

Council President Tersigni stated person can have one every day that is why they are limited.

Mayor Stated contact John Lynn

Blaine Fehley 237 Bowhay Ave., Police Officer, SGT in Arms. In the past Harry Wyant had the Chief give a bi-weekly report of crimes.

Mayor Elis stated yes have Chief Stettner here

Blaine Fehley – what happened to the Welcome to Phillipsburg sign near Norton’s on South Main Street

Mayor slated sign to be moved - spoke with the County- because they own the right of way. Lock Street to Rt. 22 area and relocate it to another property.

Blaine Fehley when are the roads getting paved? More than half the roads are horrible. Mayor Ellis stated that Heckman Street – move priority around we have a list in my office I will post later.

Council President Tersigni stated the lines; utilities are responsible for some of the roads

Blaine Fehley what about the campaign sign ordinance

Council President Tersigni stated that we are going to discuss that at the next work session. I believe it should be the same, private, commercial, hopefully 24 x 18 or 36 x 36 large sign 8 ft. wide that is not fair, it deters traffic, we will discuss next Tuesday.

Blaine Fehley, Mr. Davis the meetings are still not televised what is the story, we have asked for this since Harry Wyant.

Councilman Davis stated we can finally access it, Mayor Ellis stated cant’ access it only the main floor – not until we get a more permanent solution.

Dustin Pierce, 119 Lewis Street, the lights on Stockton Street looks great.

Who does Ordinance enforcement, inspectors, Mayor, CEO in charge of Town, any violations up to date.

\$700,000 is a lot to move the Armory and the Dental office.

Mayor Ellis stated we have a grant loan, from State President Sweeney's office, 3 million dollars at 3% for 40 years, we don't expect to borrow it and we have surplus, we may move to Mercer Street and become more permanent.

Dustin Pierce, rent it?

Mayor Ellis stated move into Mercer immediately, and occupy – and not be charged rent.

Dustin Pierce we need to work together to better Phillipsburg let us all work together.

Council President Tersigni stated has worked with new administration

Connie Fucco 147 Lewis Street, speaking of code violations where does the unruly tenant come in three phone calls\

Mayor Ellis stated Chief of Police has discretion

Council President Tersigni stated Counsel Wenner to get in touch with Chief of Police Attorney Wenner and Attorney Troxell I will work on this.

Connie Fucco how did they get a Certificate of Occupancy?

Mayor Ellis stated he will speak with the construction official

Attorney Wenner stated it could be a temporary CO

Paul Smicky 829 Hill Street, how long house being tag for eight (8) years the grass is two feet high now, has white sticker over it.

Mayor Ellis with a pink sticker 10 days, then we put a lien against the house.

Paul Smicky the Town cuts two weeks ago

Mayor Ellis stated community service, Chief Stettner, Clean communities cut grass all year last year; we have 500 vacant homes in Phillipsburg. We need more inspectors. HR just posted a zoning inspector, and Code enforcement inspector.

Jenn Stone, 153 Lewis Street, I had a retaliator come over to do a real-estate assessment, the door was side open no screen, how was she allowed to move in Mayor post for jobs part of Government too – fine again and I can try my best. It is a quality of life . .

Jenn Stone stated if I have to give my house away . . . speaking as she walks away

James Fucco 147 Lewis Street, the last meeting from what I saw angered me. NO one payed attention, we are walking away also, I am so pissed beyond belief Pissed off Mr. Ellis doesn't do it.

This weekend we walked Summit, Chambers they are a mess, the Police Department, the DPW doesn't see the garbage, they don't go back and tell anyone it is simple, we need to get it together.

OPENTIME

Councilman Lutz the cans on South Main Street are full bags every can from the black bridge to Jefferson Street, can't we make it look decent.

Mayor Ellis stated he sent photos of the full cans of trash to Mike and he has his hands full with fixing Fucco's porch, we can remove cans

Councilman Lutz stated code enforcement? Have to try to have them cleaned up.

Council President Tersigni is it a possibility that DPW can swing by and empty the can's which you're trying to revitalize that area.

Mayor Ellis stated that DPW some places the cans can be removed, on the first of the moth they skip out on landlords to remove can's. I can ask DPW to.

Councilman Lutz stated it is work paying extra person an extra to pick up the trash.

Star Dollar Cleaners, did we do anything, take it down it is unsafe

Attorney Wenner stated bring back the owner and speak with Kevin Duddy.

Council President Tersigni the grass I do six in a day, why can't someone do just one.

The Rotary Club volunteers are having a clean-up downtown on Saturday- Hope Day, Mayor Ellis & Councilman Lutz.

Council President Tersigni stated that the war on garbage, the landlords drives me crazy the perception needs to change; DPW eventually will tackle this problem. It is a bad quality of life. And to Mr. Pierce I believe in the past – present and future that we don't always agree were not perfect and we can work things out – three Councilmen few glitches, can work together and we can disagree also.

Councilman Piazza – Council President we need habitability hearing put them back on? Council President Tersigni stated July 5 meeting and we also need to do 1 Brainard Street. Councilman Piazza also stated that they should be made to sit here and hear the public, can we place it after Public Petitions.

Kelly Post Sheedy - Presentation of Recreation Department. The summer program and the Splash Pad opening is June 24th, the pool is having issues, large cracks and a lot of work is needed. Ole Town festival June 23 – 24 at Walters Park, we have been approved for the fireworks; music will be behind Jimmy's. I have been working on a multi-cultural festival. Then we also have scheduled the pork roll festival for October 14th, 2017.

Mayor Ellis all the problems my aide has been on the phone with disgruntled people. I have a question for the crowd – what happened in Phillipsburg – it took a long time, what happened.

Joe Meyner said that what happened is that more and more subsidized housing, pick up more poor people, if we embrace the poor into our community as an abbot district, to get more money to draw on this. It separates the rich from the poor, NORWESCAP – no blame we are a poor community.
Mayor we are depressed community.

Joan Pierce, free housing, low housing allowing the state to put anyone here.

Danielle DeGerolamo from my in laws, the problems started when they downgraded the park and recreations department all went away.

Mayor Ellis stated we need to reestablish that.

Danielle DeGerolamo people come here who can have access to visit family members in prison, we are drivable to prison.

Mayor Ellis stated that we are in the Greater Lehigh Valley Redevelopment if we don't catch up were not going anywhere.

Next Thursday the truck will roll, over 100 trucks a day, 80,000 gallons of sewage dates back to 1870.

Council President Tersigni stated we need to revitalize the Town use a bulldozer knock down the distressed areas and bring a better quality of life.

MOTIONS NONE

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Lutz moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Davis.

VOTE: YEAS: Davis, Lutz, Piazza, Tersigni

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Fey