**TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG**

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 07, 2019

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT STATEMENT**

**THIS MEETING IS CALLED PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW. THIS MEETING OF May 07, 2019 WAS INCLUDED IN A NOTICE SENT TO NEWSPAPERS OF RECORD AND POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING AND HAS REMAINED CONTINUOUSLY POSTED AS THE REQUIRED NOTICES UNDER THE STATUTE. IN ADDITION, A COPY OF THIS NOTICE HAS BEEN AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC AND IS ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL CLERK** By CVP MCVEY

3**. INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE** Council Vice President McVey

Moment of Silence for Wayne Rake

4.  **ROLL CALL**

Council President Fulper, Council Vice President McVey, Councilman Davis, Councilwoman DeGerolamo, Councilman Lutz,

5. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

R: 2019 – 70 A POSTPONED

A RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE FOR AN EXECUTIVE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG FOR THE PURPOSE OF . . . Litigation update with Pat Flanagan– action may be taken

6. **PROCLAMATION -**  Municipal Clerks Week

7**. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Council Minutes – March 26, 2019

**ROLL CALL**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Council Members | First | Second | Yea | Nay | Abstain | Absent |
| Councilman Davis | X |  | X |  |  |  |
| Councilwoman DeGerolamo |  |  |  |  | X |  |
| Councilman Lutz |  | X | X |  |  |  |
| Council Vice President McVey |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Council President Fulper |  |  | X |  |  |  |

Executive Minutes – March 26, 2019

**ROLL CALL TABLED – NOT EVERYONE READ - NEXT MEETING**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Council Members | First | Second | Yea | Nay | Abstain | Absent |
| Councilman Davis | x |  | x |  |  |  |
| Councilwoman DeGerolamo |  | x | x |  |  |  |
| Councilman Lutz |  |  | x |  |  |  |
| Council Vice President McVey |  |  | x |  |  |  |
| Council President Fulper |  |  | x |  |  |  |

8. **PAYMENT OF BILLS**

*Garden State Farms $275.00 Stephen R. Ellis $48.49 REMAIN TABLED*

**ROLL CALL ON AMENDED AGENDA AND INCLUDED DEVO ASSOCIATES**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Council Members | First | Second | Yea | Nay | Abstain | Absent |
| Councilman Davis | X |  | X |  |  |  |
| Councilwoman DeGerolamo |  | X | X |  |  |  |
| Councilman Lutz |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Council Vice President McVey |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Council President Fulper |  |  | X |  |  |  |

Devo Associates - $ 468.60

9. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Mayor Ellis stated he continues to make the moving of Police/Fire to a Safe Environment his top priority. He added he signed the Rehab/Rebuild proposal and Engineer Shrek is looking at the Corliss Bldg. He noted moving the Police to the Armory is a strategic location; which would improve Safety. Lastly, Administration and Municipal Court would return to the Corliss Bldg.

Joe Meyner – 392 South Main St., Apt. 2

2019-76 What is it?

Councilman Davis responded the Town needs a Temporary Budget to hold us over until the State approves our Budget. He added if comments are about Budget to wait during Budget Hearing.

JM – thanked Councilman Davis for explanation.

Emil Brisson – 94 Bullman St

Stated he was confused about the Budget being approved or not.

Council President Fulper noted Council cannot adopt until the State’s approval is received.

John Maczko – SOA President – PBA Local 56

Wants Town Council to know we endorse the Mayor’s Plan. Noted there was to be a Sub-Committee Meeting scheduled; which is now dissolved. Adding he has never been given formal notice, he found out on internet asking if that was accurate.

RF – Noted the meeting had been cancelled at the last Council Meeting and it would have been the Mayor’s responsibility to discuss this with the Department Heads – not the chain of command to ask, adding we are not able to discuss. Remove myself – from w/litigation. Waiting for accurate numbers from engineering.

Brad Kisselbach – PBA local 56 President

Sub-committee – very open line of communication, set for Monday. Resolved – litigation w/emails. My Union didn’t send text. Text message back – communication stopped!! Again!

Tabling Bond Ordinance – more accurate numbers – Armory most viable alternative Shrek, said in August of 2018. Added on behalf of PBA 56, we endorse the Mayor’s Plan. All of our concerns are being ignored, we do not want to be placed back in the basement of the Corliss Ave. Bldg. Moving forward, best for us, put meeting back, put pictures on Social Media. Proactive, this division of power needs to change. Mayor/Council need to work together for the Safety of the Town. No further discussion needed.

Reggie Regrut – 390 Heckman Street

Our Police Officers work hard-our Mayor works hard. Why is it taking so long to move to the Armory?

Mike Fraymay – VP of NJ PBA – labor relations – 32,000 members Statewide

Noted he attends many meetings, first for him that Council would keep Police Department in location that you yourselves have vacated. Hopeful recommend moving Plan from Corliss Ave. Added he went there himself and in a short time, his respiratory was irritated and upon leaving the symptoms were relieved. Consider a temporary facility for the immediate future to help the members who serve your community.

10**. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

* **Sub – Committee Sewer**

Councilwoman DeGerolamo stated, hopefully next meeting we have Resolution, noting pending litigation – Sewer Rates, Commercial/Residential as this is preventing what we have to work on capital improvements.

Noted when we get to it she will recommend to untable (2) Bonds and post-pone indefinitely.

* **Sub – Committee Redevelopment**

Councilman McVey noted he had some information and would discuss during Bond discussion

* **Sub – Committee Landlord Tenant**

Council President Fulper noted he would discuss during Open Time

* **Mayors Report**

Mayor Ellis stated, “No Report” other than his initial statement

11. **ORDINANCES — SECOND READING**

**R: 2019-80**A RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADOPTION OF EMERGENCY TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2019 CURRENT FUND IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROVISIONS OF N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20

**ROLL CALL**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Council Members | First | Second | Yea | Nay | Abstain | Absent |
| Councilman Davis | X |  | X |  |  |  |
| Councilwoman DeGerolamo |  | X | X |  |  |  |
| Councilman Lutz |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Council Vice President McVey |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Council President Fulper |  |  | X |  |  |  |

**R: 2019-81**A RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADOPTION OF EMERGENCY TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2019 SEWER UTILITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROVISIONS OF N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20

**ROLL CALL**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Council Members | First | Second | Yea | Nay | Abstain | Absent |
| Councilman Davis | X |  | X |  |  |  |
| Councilwoman DeGerolamo |  | X | X |  |  |  |
| Councilman Lutz |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Council Vice President McVey |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Council President Fulper |  |  | X |  |  |  |

**O: 2019 -07 – Tabled 02-19-19 Un- tabled 04-16-2019 Second reading 05-07-2019**

*BOND ORDINANCE REPEALING AND REPLACING BOND ORDINANCE NUMBER 2017-03 FINALLY ADOPTED APRIL 18, 2017 AND PROVIDING FOR THE RENOVATION AND CONVERSION OF 675 CORLISS AVENUE INTO AN ADMINISTRATIVE AND PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING TO HOUSE THE ADMINISTRATIVE, POLICE, FIRE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENTS, BY AND IN THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, IN THE COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING $6,500,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF $6,190,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWN TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF*

**ROLL CALL**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Council Members | First | Second | Yea | Nay | Abstain | Absent |
| Councilman Davis | X |  |  | x |  |  |
| Councilwoman DeGerolamo |  |  | x |  |  |  |
| Councilman Lutz |  | X | X |  |  |  |
| Council Vice President McVey |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Council President Fulper |  |  | X |  |  |  |

Discussion

Open to Public

Peter Endrea – 1st VP – PBA

Bond Ordinance – Asked why no plan to house Police temporarily during remediation, adding you moved your people out. Noted the Police are an asset to the community, moved other assets, not all assets. Need to hear a plan/help with a plan.

R.Regrut

Support troops/Police. Paying taxes – members of PBA & community. Asking Council to work with Mayor – say something to this situation.

RF – responded after he closes the Public portion, then he can respond.

Fran Isely – 116 Rose St

Out of Town 5 years took ride around Town – noticed vacant buildings, trailers sitting on Municipal Lots and a Mayor who doesn’t stay at meetings.

RF – asked Mr. Isely to speak only to Bond Ordinance at this time. Directing Mr. Regrut not to yell out. He then closed the Public portion

CLOSED PUBLIC PORTION

Councilman Lutz – noted initial meetings went well adding always need prices. Did not receive prices for either location. No firm commitment given, never pricing. Under impression we would go back to Corliss Avenue and if so why can’t ALL go back to Corliss. Added Council did not move us out of Corliss, but the Mayor did and it is up to the MAYOR to find a place. Noted when mold was discovered in 2017, Mayor looked all over Town. The Freeman School on Filmore St was looked at and Mayor said could not go there due to age of building and probable Asbestos, yet offices ended up there. Added it is not for Council to find temporary place, it is Mayor’s job to find place and Council approves money. Mayor must provide plan.

Councilman Davis stated he would be voting NO to this Ordinance tonight. Added does not have sufficient plan/details/information to issue debt of this magnitude. Unaware of plans, unless something submitted of which he was unaware. Noted clarification – originally through Mayor’s Office to move Police temporarily with understanding at time that short term mitigation and CONSTANT testing to determine air quality would be safe for Police to remain. It was determined to cost over a million dollars to renovate the old Journal of Commerce building to hold prisoners and move all dedicated communication equipment. We (Council) did try, and apologize myself for hiccups, hopeful engineer – fully detailed plans for a safe and permanent solution in the very near future.

Councilwoman DeGerolamo noted she wished to clear up some information about the temporary move, adding there was significant funding in the Budget for move. Noted Sub-committee created to discuss temporary move adding move comes from the Mayor’s Office – not Council. Proactive approach – against and saying No to move to Armory. Noted she walked with Chief of Police through Armory, asbestos and mold, adding not to make same mistake twice. Stated Plans should include ALL staff to go to one building. Added she has 25 years construction experience, working on 200-Billion-dollar Project.

Councilman McVey thanked both Vice Presidents from PBA for attending Council Meeting adding positive to have clear communication with them. Also thanked Police Chief Stettner and Officers who were present. He asked for all in attendance to understand the role of Council; which they have exceeded in trying to move forward. It is the Mayor’s duty to create a plan. Feels Council is being blamed for what Mayor does not do. Stated there are (2) developers interested in the Armory Bldg. for a positive Community use, adding it may never come to fruition. Added Mayor did not speak of Plan on Corliss Bldg. At 6.5 million the Town would have just (2) sharp looking buildings. Noted if air wasn’t bad where would City Hall Bldg. be. He continued that the Lt. at the Podium received a call back from both Council President Fulper and himself within 40 minutes, regarding the cancellation of the sub-committee meeting. Mayor’s job to have plan and Council’s job to appropriate funds.

Council President Fulper – Noted back in November 2017, prior to Council being elected, SOA letter – 2016 emails – 2017 letter after being elected meeting with Attorney Chris Troxell, Fire Chief Hay, at that time, Councilman Davis asked for (2) sets of specs, one to remediate/rebuild City Hall, 675 Corliss Ave., and the Armory. Not on Mayor’s mind 2/18 until 6/2018 when we finally sit down, ask PD and FD to come in – give me a list of questions- I’ll have them answered. The vote in August passed 4-1. December bids back – 1 million over – instructed to reject bids. January 26, 2019 letter – get us out now. I immediately picked up phone and called Lt./sent msg. to Mayor requesting Police Dept left behind too long and was told – “you **have no authority** to make that decision.” Stated we all are pawns in a Political game. Sat in Executive Session worked our tails off, to plan together with the Mayor and within 48hrs. he tells lies on Facebook. This is the Mayor’s job, not Council’s. There is mold and asbestos in the Armory – it is someone’s pipe dream. Added he was good until the Press Conference held in front of the Library. The decision to move everyone, but the Police was the Mayor’s decision, not ours. He’s procrastinated. Move everyone back in without the Police being in the basement, assured me no offices would be in basement. I know what you want (Police) implore the Mayor to move you – he won’t, he won’t. It is an election year and he wants to make Council look bad. Smoke and mirrors, he is playing Politics. I support you guys but must do a job. Politics in way of everything – people are divided. I’m voting yes, pray Mayor will move to temporary space.

12. **ORDINANCES – FIRST READING** NONE

13.  **PUBLIC HEARING BUDGET**

2019 Municipal Budget - Final Adoption

* Open the hearing
* Discussion/ Council / Public
* Close the hearing

**R: 2019-74 (***R: 2019-74 Adoption – may need to table – waiting on Division answer)* ***TABLED 05-07-2019 UNTIL May 21, 2019 – for State approval on Budget in order to adopt.***

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE 2019 MUNICIPAL BUDGET FOR THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG

14. **RESOLUTIONS** - **CONSENT AGENDA** \* \**Matters listed on the Consent Agenda Resolution are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion of the Council and one roll call vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council member requests an item to be removed for consideration*

**R: 2019-75**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING INSTITUTION OF IN REM TAX FORECLOSURE PROCEEDINGS

**R: 2019-77**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL, TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING A RELEASE OF ESCROW FOR CHASE BANK

**R: 2019-78**A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ISSUANCE OF A SPECIAL PERMIT FOR A SOCIAL AFFAIR TO SAINTS PHILIP & JAMES SCHOOL

**R: 2019-79**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL, TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, REGARDING THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG REVOLVING LOAN

**ROLL CALL**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Council Members | First | Second | Yea | Nay | Abstain | Absent |
| Councilman Davis |  | X | X |  |  |  |
| Councilwoman DeGerolamo |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Councilman Lutz |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Council Vice President McVey | X |  | X |  |  |  |
| Council President Fulper |  |  | X |  |  |  |

**R: 2019 – 76 pulled for discussion**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES WITH RT ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC FOR A SEVENTH ROUND INDOOR AIR QUALITY MOLD SURVEY FOR THE FIRST FLOOR OF PHILLIPSBURG TOWN HALL

Discussion: Council would like to have Mayor have another company come in and do the air quality test.

**ROLL CALL**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Council Members | First | Second | Yea | Nay | Abstain | Absent |
| Councilman Davis |  | X | X |  |  |  |
| Councilwoman DeGerolamo |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Councilman Lutz |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Council Vice President McVey | X |  | X |  |  |  |
| Council President Fulper |  |  | X |  |  |  |

15. **VETOED ORDINANCE**

**O: 2019- 14 First Reading 03-26-19 Second and Final Reading on April 16, 2019**

ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING CHAPTER 67, *VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC,* SECTION 28, *PARKING LOTS,* subsection I entitled *Municipal Lots*, *Payment Required* OF THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG IN ORDER TO REMOVE RIVERSIDE WAY LOT

Discussion

None

**ROLL CALL OVERRIDDEN**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Council Members | First | Second | Yea | Nay | Abstain | Absent |
| Councilman Davis |  |  |  | X |  |  |
| Councilwoman DeGerolamo | X |  | X |  |  |  |
| Councilman Lutz |  | X | X |  |  |  |
| Council Vice President McVey |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Council President Fulper |  |  | X |  |  |  |

16. **OLD BUSINESS – also including any tabled items from previous meeting**

***O: 2019-03 First Reading 01-22-2019 Tabled 01-22-2019 remained tabled 04-16-19***

*BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE STORM SEWER COLLECTION SYSTEM, BY AND IN THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, IN THE COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING $1,300,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF $1,300,000 BONDS OR NOTES TO FINANCE THE COST THEREOF*

***O: 2019-04 First Reading 01-22-2019 Tabled 01-22-2019 remained tabled 04-16-19***

*BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SANITARY SEWER COLLECTION SYSTEM, BY AND IN THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, IN THE COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING $1,300,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF $1,300,000 BONDS OR NOTES TO FINANCE THE COST THEREOF*

**ROLL CALL UNTABLE AND REMOVE INDEFINETELY BOTH O: 2019-03 and O 2019 -04**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Council Members | First | Second | Yea | Nay | Abstain | Absent |
| Councilman Davis | X |  | X |  |  |  |
| Councilwoman DeGerolamo |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Councilman Lutz |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Council Vice President McVey |  | X | X |  |  |  |
| Council President Fulper |  |  | X |  |  |  |

***O: 2019 – 13 First Reading 03-26-19 Second and Final Reading on April 16, 2019 \* to be tabled for***

***revisions.. Next work session.***

***AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTYOF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 530 “SOLID WASTE; RECYCLING,” SECTION 3 “SOLID WASTE; RECYCLING,” OF THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG TO ADDRESS THE MAINTENANCE OF WASTE RECEPTACLES***

17. **NEW BUSINESS**

Councilman Lutz – None

Councilman Davis – None

Councilwoman DeGerolamo – (3) items 1. List of Foreclosures, names of (2) Developers with foreclosures – 12 properties, are their Rental inspections/Registration up to date – ck. status of properties

RF – Asked if Councilwoman sent list to Clerk Kleiner and she stated she had.

DD – 2. Noted incorrect information on Facebook, claiming due to Tariffs by Trump, there is no recycling. False statement, solutions addressing the recycling problem in the League Magazine. Single stream recycling, presorting machine technology – separated at that point, there is a contamination issue, volume of container. Stated perhaps going back to separate containers may be what is needed.

3. Noted after last Board of Ed mtg., there was to be a Clothing Bin on the Green St School property; which was done in conjunction between the Phillipsburg Police Dept and the School Board

Councilman Frank McVey – Stated would like to address Quality of Life in our Community. Vision-Mission-Goal. Would like to involve Department Heads,but told by Mayor’s Office not to speak directly to Dept Heads. Would like to start going in right direction.

Council President Fulper – Paramount Trash Ordinance, especially Seniors – all ideas at Work Session next week. Stop piles of trash from mounting in the alleyways. Enforce Rental Property Ordinances-did not happen. Issue this morning, complaint about Narcotic/Drug Activity near the old Star Dollar Cleaner on Irwin St. Noted had been in touch with Guardian Angels invited in to Work Session adding he invites their participation with open arms. Added we have 36 Police officers and the Police Dept cannot be everywhere, noted residents are our eyes/ears. Attended event with Councilman Lutz recognizing Mike Perrucci – received Developer Award by Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce.

18. **PUBLIC PETITIONS**  **(**Time public can speak)

Lindsey Stone – 505 N. Brunswick Ave

Stated she/her family wants to buy 874 Culkin Avenue – confusion with seller because of C of H certificate – sidewalk being installed – asking for waiver for the contiguous sidewalk.

RF – clarify you want to buy home here, move your family here and be owner/occupied. Spoke to Engineer Shrek about this

RW – Put off to discuss

JD – don’t think we have authority – talk to attorney clear up in 10 minutes

Mr. Eisley – 1951 Rose St, streets clean beautiful

Where do we start, remove the slumlords. Noticed new neighborhood signs, that’s nice, but doesn’t help the residents. Stated he worked for Town in 1967 – 6 parks maintained with much smaller DPW. Stated alleys look like a war zone, he put out 19 bags of leaves because vacant next door, boat/camper. Baker Chemical’s problems, people dumping furniture across street in fields. Need to enforce ordinances in regard to people’s property maintenance. Crack down on landlords, fine people. Disappointed Mayor not at meeting to answer questions. Town gone down hill in last 20 years. Need investors from outside to come and restore Downtown, nothing for people to go downtown for. Need Pride in our Town.

Councilman McVey – Izzo tackled that guy, you are Number 1.

RW – Motion to grant waiver regarding contiguous sidewalk at 874 Culkin Ave. has been granted per our Engineer evaluation.

Jeff Lutz – 359 Firth Street

Stated he agreed with Mr. Eisley 100%. Agreed Town looks like dump since Mayor in office. All these cheerleaders, more stories than Walt Disney.

RF – Noted, afforded Freedom of Speech

Joe Meyner – 392 South Main Street

Reiterate last 20 plus years Town Council working to keep taxes low. RCA Grants have been spent. Council/Mayor must act to save money. Austerity will not help Town look good, need street sweepers, wants more garbage containers on South Main Street.

Dan Boyce – 244 Irwin Street

Noted, glad that Truth came out earlier-so people know Council not responsible for Police move. Resident called and emailed Town Hall for employer, no response regarding need for 32-gallon trash containers. Employer bought new cans, docked employees pay $200 over trash cans.

Handicap Parking – don’t understand if handicap person not in vehicle, even though handicap plate, unable to park in handicap spot.

RF – aware of problem, attempted to change, unable as State Law supersedes all else.

DB-Agree 32 gallon can enforced for all will look good in Town. Stated in past had lid chained to can, DPW ripped lid from can. Ask that DPW pick up can, not drag, dump and replace where picked up. Watched street sweeper go up middle of street through Town and not do any work. Star Dollar cleaners, no lighting – need to deter drug activity.

RF – Stated cannot speak to street sweeper, call Mayor.

Jen Stone – 153 Lewis Street

Patronized Hilltop Café on Hudson street noticed (2) young men-never seen before louder than used to in this establishment, they left. Shortly after, she left and was approached by these (2) who said they were new in Town and asked me to show them around. I responded my husband would not like, they responded he doesn’t need to know.

RF – asked if she had notified Police/made report.

JS – responded no. She noted this is what our Town is becoming, we do not know our neighbors. Adding this is our Town all outsiders.

Reggie Regrut – 390 Heckman Street

Born 1951 graduated around same time as Mr. Eisley

Councilman Davis asked Mr. Regrut not to address public, but to keep comments directed to Council.

RR - continued we all make choices,1st Ellis, 2nd Mark and Tersigni 3rd for Mayor. All should make choices before Primary. Hope to find our more facts, failures and positions of candidates prior to Primary. Prior to Ellis being in office, Council voted to reduce the Mayor’s salary to 40k from 71k. Ellis took office and inherited many problems, can’t be held accountable for what came before. Harry Wyant was in office 16 years, thankfully got developers interested in IR property.

Meliss Paulus – 26A Glen Avenue

Noted saying for 2 yrs. Mayor not doing job, requesting his salary be reduced. Recently told Council could not support motion to reduce salary. Live close to Town Hall, never see his car at Municipal Bldg., he does not return phone calls, emails. Adding he is on Facebook more than all else, maybe being paid by Facebook. Stated Councilwoman DeGerolamo responded to question she posed. Later posed more questions on Community part never received response and all got deleted, adding this is against the 1st Amendment. Mayor Ellis guilty of same. Asked previously, Council to consider Social Media Policy to adopt and abide by. OPRA’d info yet to receive. Added before taking any action, would ask Mayor’s Facebook page to put back any deletions and remove being blocked as well as Councilwoman DeGerolamo adding you can’t sensor residents comments.

Councilwoman DeGerolamo responded it is not deleted. Added she did comment to Ms. Paulus in error as page is meant to be informational only and that is why she left it there for 10 days before changing Privacy setting. Repeated not deleted, still there adding informational pages are just that, not meant for comment. Added someone talked about Councilwoman deleted Tweet, that is impossible, factually incorrect as she does not have that ability. Twitter must have blocked because of use of word Suicide; which is a blocked word.

RF – asked if anyone else

Mrs. Paulus – 225 Red School Lane

Noted past Mayor Wyant did not start at the top but started low wage and worked up over 16 years to salary when left.

RF – thanked Ms. Paulus

No other comments from Public

19. **COUNCIL OPEN TIME**

Councilman Lutz – (2) days ago had Joe Clark take me through Norton’s Complex as possible temporary location for Police Department. Will not work, place is total mess. Good news is building gutted where food store is going to be – Heckman St. Added it has been 6 weeks since Mr. Cotty told to do something with his Market Street property, still NOTHING DONE. Noted, Mr. Cotty says he wants to bring people in to Phillipsburg, but his building is a big eyesore and needs to be fixed ASAP. Asked RW about Star Dollar cleaner. Adding comment about Mayor Ellis only receiving 40k, but noted he did end up getting 65k.

RW – responded inspections must go out.

Councilman Davis – Excited to talk about new event 5K on new night, Friday night of Ole Towne Festival, new route starting at Shappell Park, course Downtown including Delaware River Park. Want to bring back glory days of Mercer Street Striders, illustrious organization. He has been involved in event most of his life, challenging anyone to beat him, putting up $100 of own money goes to winner. If he is not beaten will give $100 to charity. Want all to come out and cheer participants or participate yourself.

Councilwoman DeGerolamo – Thursday, May 9, 2019, 6:30 PM the first Stigma Free Mtg will be held here, hope Public will attend. Overwhelming positive response from County and Hospital please join. Councilman Davis and she attended State of County became aware of businesses there. St Luke’s well rated by CMS-healthcare industry, expansion on Roseberry St./acquisitions, services for women, gyn coming back. Sent (2) Resolutions to Council President- hope to see on next Agenda-required Attorney review. Two State mandates – up to local Municipality to choose – Storm Water utility-state started and wish to make declaration not to become Sanction city status. Noted had sent request to Mayor’s Office for the 7th time to participate in TAP INTO – News Program-81 sites/8 million readers – revenue generating Program. 1st yr. 40k, 2nd yr. 55k and 3rd yr. 70k. No response from Mayor. Thank Clerk for departmental reports had not seen after 16 months except Fire, they are always current. Lastly, speak to Joe Meyner’s comment about budget, added Council put significant amount in 2018 budget for Inspections and 0 zero amount was used, so it was removed. Hope for better 2020 – focus on quality of life.

Councilman McVey – Noted Saturday morning came to find Mayor Ellis taking pictures of signs on his front lawn, Lutz for Mayor, Tersigni for Mayor. Stated while Mayor continued conversation, traffic continued to back-up behind him. Felt Mayor’s time could have been better spent looking for temporary space for Police Department or answer OPRA, pick up rake or broom.

Council President Fulper – read emails between Eric Eichholtz and Mayor Ellis regarding Vacant/Abandoned properties and Mr. Eichholtz’s wanting to purchase at short sales with Mayor Ellis’ help in order to pay as little as possible.

20. **MOTIONS**

Councilman Lutz moved to turn over to FBI for mortgage fraud. Seconded by Councilman Fulper.

VOTE:

Yeas: Fulper, DeGerolamo, Lutz, McVey

Nays: None

Abstain: Davis

21**. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

R: 2019 - NONE

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

22.  **ADJOURNMENT**

Councilman Lutz moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Councilwoman DeGerolamo. Adjourned at 9:36 PM.