**TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG**

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2021   
SENIOR CENTER  
7:00 P.M**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - by Council President McVey – 7:08PM
2. **OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT STATEMENT:**

**THIS MEETING IS CALLED PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW. THIS MEETING OF August 17, 2021 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**

1. **INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE**  - led by Cnclman Randy Piazza
2. **ROLL CALL –** McVey, Fulper by phone, DeGerolamo, Piazza, Wyant

**Also in attendance –** Attorney Wenner, Deputy Clerk Loudenberry, Recreation Superintendent, DJ Kophazy

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES -**  July 20, 2021
2. **BILLS LIST -**

ROLL CALL

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Councilmembers | First | Second | Yea | Nay | Abstain | Absent |
| Councilman Wyant |  |  | X |  | X |  |
| Councilman Piazza | X |  | X |  |  |  |
| Councilwoman DeGerolamo |  |  | X |  | X |  |
| Council Vice President Fulper |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Council President McVey |  | X | X |  |  |  |

Councilman Wyant abstains from Ck#7014

Councilwoman DeGerolamo abstains from Ck#83079

1. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

NORWESCAP/Family Success Center – August 26, 2021 - 14th Annual International Day

Relay for Life – September 18, 2021

Halloween Parade – October 24, 2021 – 3:00PM

1. **OLD BUSINESS**

Habitability Hearing – 277 Warren Street – as no one was present to represent and no Construction Official was present to speak to situation the Habitability Hearing was moved to Wednesday, September 8.

Cnclwmn DeGerolamo noted she had conversation with Attrny Wenner and would like to reach out to Habitat for Humanity. Stated they are looking for single family homes in Phillipsburg to rehab. Continued, could be nice alternative and family has a home and Town retains a ratable.

CP McVey – added, most know 277 Warren Street and a short 3.5 years ago was a nice property.

1. **MAYOR’S AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS**

Noted as there was no Mayor’s Report asked if any Council liaison reports to be heard. Also noted with Mayor Tersigni and BA Benjivenga absent from tonight’s meeting, Recreation Superintendent Kophazy was sole representative from Administration.

1. **PUBLIC DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEMS**

CP McVey began by stating with the BA not being present, he would introduce Resolution 2021-213 awarding contract to All State Technologies for the municipal pool adding this was handed in on the 11th hour. Continued with ever rising costs- would like to see proposed under New Business and advised Public they were welcome to comment on this as well.

Tosha Monk 896 Mill Street

Addressed Council noting it was difficult subject, spoke to addiction/recovery – both sons 3 years and 8 months in recovery now. Stated did not think park should be named for one person, but maybe Park of Hope or Day of Recovery – not one person/one family. Noted 300-400 posts on facebook saying same, not one person. Shared August 28, 2021 Shappell Park – Recovery Walk, contact Amanda Lance for more information. Also CARES wallk in September.

Kelly Craven 58 Sitgreaves Street

Stated, met Tosha today. What’s going on in Phillipsburg website, noticed discussion about naming of Park. Continued son plays there, has family members dealing with addiction/recovery. Lost sister to struggle-adding we all know someone in rehab – this Town knows about the lines waiting for help at the Clinic. Didn’t know Jessie Delgado, other people have passed, those who don’t struggle – turn a blind eye. Need to come together as a Community and share the struggle. This disease does not discriminate.

Joe Meyner 392 South Main Street

Suggested naming park, Help for Hope – Hope for Help.

CP McVey closed Public Discussion on Agenda Items

1. **ORDINANCES – SECOND READING** (1st Rdg. 08.03.2021, 2nd Rdg. 08.17.2021)

**O2021-19**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY RENAMING “MERCER STREET PARK” TO BE KNOWN AS THE “JESSE DELGADO RECOVERY PARK”

ROLL CALL **Vote to Amend (Jesse Delgado Addiction Recovery Park) 4-1**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Councilmembers | First | Second | Yea | Nay | Abstain | Absent |
| Councilman Wyant |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Councilman Piazza | X |  | X |  |  |  |
| Councilwoman DeGerolamo |  |  |  | X |  |  |
| Council Vice President Fulper |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Council President McVey |  | X | X |  |  |  |

Discussion – Public – None

Discussion – Council

Cnclman Wyant – Noted so many others affected can’t possibly name all. Will vote yes, sends message about recovery. Maybe add word “Addiction” recovery.

Cnclman Piazza suggested using wall behind the basketball court, add names of those lost to addiction. Continued, upon request from family – names could be added. Adding grew up in area, remembers this individual, this is why he voted yes, for the area and those who knew him understand. Town has benches and plaques dedicated – trees outside of Maloney Stadium.

Cnclwmn DeGerolamo noted she was not present last meeting. Spoke of her grandmother and Ms. Essie Williams living on Mercer Street. Used to be pool at Mercer Street Park, fond memories of the park. Noted Ms. Craven brought up lack of information available to those not effected by addiction. Cnclwmn made effort to attend Narcan events learn about disease. Adding only elected official attending and TOP Officer Widemond was recognized for his use of Narcan to save individuals. Continued has attended Parent to Parent meetings, not missing any and found them to be eye opening. Perhaps brick pathway – in honor of someone. Stated doesn’t know if struggle should be in just one name. Noted numbers climbing for Narcan being used. Suggested Park of Hope or Recovery – theme around this subject. Would like to see Community decide together – more inclusive of others ideas.

CP McVey thanked Cnclwmn DeGerolamo.

VP Fulper – (by phone) Stated this Project is to create awareness. Added, he chose this person, not going to argue. His opinion to move forward-everyone has contributed. Added he will vote yes.

CP McVey – noted there have been many dedications – all stemming from a happening over his 3.5 years on Council adding Cnclman Wyant 16 years as Mayor, much longer time and Cnclman Piazza 1.5 years. Stated Council VP made an admirable suggestion. Asked audience if they remember the Red Sticker on license plate – Kileigh’s Law came out of person who lost life to underage person drinking and driving. Under one person’s name, noting many others lost their lives, but meant to bring awareness and save future lives. Commended VP Fulper and encouraged this idea-will take time to learn about person park being named for. Reflect on those lost to addiction – maybe go and reflect at the pocket park.

Attorney Wenner stated the Ordinance to be amended the name of the Park to addiction recovery.

Cnclman Wyant moved to Amend the name to be Jesse Delgado Addiction Recovery Park. Councilman Piazza seconded.

ROLL CALL **Vote to Adopt as Amended (Jesse Delgado Addiction Recovery Park) 4-1**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Councilmembers | First | Second | Yea | Nay | Abstain | Absent |
| Councilman Wyant |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Councilman Piazza | X |  | X |  |  |  |
| Councilwoman DeGerolamo |  |  |  | X |  |  |
| Council Vice President Fulper |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Council President McVey |  | X | X |  |  |  |

1. **ORDINANCES — FIRST READING**  **(Motion to Table until Admin can clarify)**

**Ordinance 2021 – 20 (**1st Rdg. 08.17.2021)

An Ordinance of the Town of Phillipsburg, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, AMENDING CHAPTER 100-6, COMPENSATION PLAN

ROLL CALL **5-0**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Councilmembers | First | Second | Yea | Nay | Abstain | Absent |
| Councilman Wyant | X |  | X |  |  |  |
| Councilman Piazza |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Councilwoman DeGerolamo |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Council Vice President Fulper |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Council President McVey |  | X | X |  |  |  |

**Discussion – Council**

Cnclman Wyant – tighten up the range, too wide.

VP Fulper – Agreed

Cnclwmn DeGerolamo – Vast, agree too large a gap. Asked does not the new Inspector have these certifications, thought had. Or is this to cover someone on Vacation?

Cnclman Wyant – came about when we needed someone immediately, prior to filling spot left by retirement of Kevin Duddy. This is part of that need.

Cnclman Piazza – believe we could only go 72 hours without. If someone leaves, we can fulfill that need within the prescribed timeline.

Cnclwmn DeG – agreed there is need for vacation, time off to cover, but still thinks range too high. Councilwoman DeGerolamo moved to table till next meeting, September 8, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilman Piazza.

Attorney Wenner stated, currently do not have existing rate, that was the impetus. Meet again and table to September 8, 2021.

1. **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: 2021-207**

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING REFUND OF TAX OVER PAYMENT DUE TO 100% EXEMPT VETERANS Receiving Homestead Rebate

**R: 2021-208**

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING REFUND OF TAX OVER PAYMENT

**R: 2021-209**

A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING HANDICAP PARKING

SPACES WITHIN THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG

**R2021-210**

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG COUNTY OF WARREN STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A 2022 FORD F250 REGULAR CAB 4X4 PICK UP

**R2021-211**

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG COUNTY OF WARREN STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A 2022 FORD F250 CREW CAB 4X4 PICK UP TRUCK

**R2021-212**

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTY OF WARREN,

STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AWARDING CONTRACT FOR SOFTWARE SERVICES

ROLL CALL Consent Agenda

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Councilmembers | First | Second | Yea | Nay | Abstain | Absent |
| Councilman Wyant | X |  | X |  |  |  |
| Councilman Piazza |  | X | X |  |  |  |
| Councilwoman DeGerolamo |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Council Vice President Fulper |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Council President McVey |  |  | X |  |  |  |

Discussion

Council - None

1. **NEW BUSINESS**

VP Fulper suggested a Sub-Committee be formed to address the Recovery Park and put Amanda Lance’s name forward. Asked if sub-committee could be off-shoot from Recreation or Open Space. Noted could we reach out to Recreation Superintendent DJ Kophazy.

Attorney Wenner stated, could be formally adopted by Council and ask DJ through the office of Mayor to execute.

CP McVey suggested could also include two Council members.

VP Fulper stated, let DJ handle – get job done, but felt Amanda Lance would be integral. DJ can create subcommittee of Open Space/Recreation.

CP McVey stated, let’s move forward and asked for any other New Business from Councilmembers.

Cnclman Piazza stated, he would like to create a Business Registry regarding the businesses being operated in the Town of Phillipsburg. Continued, as discussed at Sewer Mtg. prior that evening, there is a lot of grease and oil being sent into the WWTP. There are EPA requirements; which must be met. We need to know the type of business, grease and oil must be monitored monthly and there needs to be consequences for violators. Look at Business Registry procedures – PPP loans a lot, perhaps start with that list. If operating in residential, is it legal, operating outside of use, must be addressed.

Cnclwmn DeG noted a good idea. Stated the County has no such list, TOP doesn’t have either. If these businesses come to Inspections first, as they should, could start there.

Cnclman Piazza stated perhaps if property has boxes of Peanut Oil behind property, could be they’re operating food service and should not be. Needs to be looked into.

CP McVey stated would take up with BA. He continued by introducing R2021-213 Pool Project – Awarded to All State Technologies. Advertised for Bids on June 24, 2021. All State was the low bidder at $2,406,000. Roy Palmer was the only other bidder at $3,317,670. The Bid from All State was reviewed by our Counselor and All State was found to be the low bidder. Moved to award the Contract to All State in the amount of $2,406,000, hereby authorized the Mayor and Municipal Clerk.

Discussion – Council

Cnclwmn DeG questioned the amount of the Original bid in March or April?

VP Fulper noted, yes a lot higher this time due to demand for Construction materials.

Cnclwmn DeG stated a lot higher then Planned for, questioned Alternates?

Attorney Wenner noted alternates initially 492k. Base bid plus alternates is the bid of 2,406,000.00

Recreation Superintendent, DJ Kophazy addressed the Council. He noted no change in the alternates, but the base bid is more due to cost of construction materials.

Cnclman Wyant questioned if the Pool would be ready next year?

RS Kophazy stated May 13, 2022 is the Contract deadline.

DeG – asked if the Contractor feels confident he will be able to procure sufficient concrete for Project. She spoke to knowledge of concrete out till 2022.

Cnclman Piazza asked if Mayor aware?

CP McVey stated yes, discussed with CFO Merlo and BA Benjivenga and has Cert of Funds. He continued saying, best to lock in now, before prices escalate any higher. Adding, would personally like to see elderly residents and our children beat the heat that we’ve been experiencing.

VP Fulper (by phone) called out Save the Pool!

Attorney Wenner added that June 24, 2021 was the bid date, must award bid within 60 days. Costs will continue to rise. Can’t hold award or reject, there are force major.

CP McVey moved to award. The motion was seconded by VP Fulper.

Ayes: McVey, Fulper Piazza, Wyant

Nays: None

Abstain: DeGerolamo

1. **PUBLIC PETITIONS**

Joe Meyner – 392 South Main Street

Complimented Deputy Clerk Loudenberry as he received Agenda early. Continued, wished the Pool construction has been on original Agenda – would have been nice to know ahead of time.

Attorney Wenner stated it was on him.

1. **COUNCIL OPEN TIME**

Cnclman Wyant – Good

Cnclwoman DeG – agreed with Mr. Meyner in appreciation of Deputy Clerk Loudenberry’s efforts to have Agenda out early.

Cnclman Piazza also agreed knowing the Clerk’s Office is understaffed and thanked Deputy Clerk.

VP Fulper noted he would have been at meeting, but currently quarantined, thanked Deputy Clerk Loudenberry too.

CP McVey noted while at Municipal Bldg. on Thursday to formulate Agenda, power outage was experienced at 120 Filmore Street, but many other residents as well. Thanked Deputy Clerk Loudenberry and congratulated Attorney Wenner – heading to Florida Keys for a week, noting he doesn’t take much time-off. Also noted Cnclman Piazza would be celebrating a birthday.

1. **MOTIONS**

Application from Michael L. Smith for active fire duty at Reliance Hose Co. No. 1.

Councilman Wyant moved to accept application. VP Fulper seconded.

Ayes: McVey, DeGerolamo, Fulper, Piazza, Wyant

Nays: None

1. **EXECUTIVE SESSION -**

R: 2021- 214

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

ROLL CALL **Motion to go in to Executive at 8:12 PM 5-0**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Councilmembers | First | Second | Yea | Nay | Abstain | Absent |
| Councilman Wyant |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Councilman Piazza |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Councilwoman DeGerolamo |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Council Vice President Fulper |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Council President McVey |  |  | X |  |  |  |

ROLL CALL **Motion to Reconvene at 8:32 PM 5-0**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Councilmembers | First | Second | Yea | Nay | Abstain | Absent |
| Councilman Wyant |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Councilman Piazza |  | x | X |  |  |  |
| Councilwoman DeGerolamo |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Council Vice President Fulper | x |  | X |  |  |  |
| Council President McVey |  |  | x |  |  |  |

1. **ADJOURNMENT**

CP McVey moved to adjourn meeting. It was 8:32.