

**TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, February 1, 2022 7PM**

(Virtual Zoom Code to Join: 898 3649 2926- instructions located on Town website)

- 1. **CALL TO ORDER** - 7:03 PM
- 2. **OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT STATEMENT:** - read by VP Clark

THIS MEETING IS CALLED PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW. THIS MEETING OF February 01, 2022 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

- 3. **INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE** - by Councilman R. Piazza

- 4. **ROLL CALL**
Wyant, Clark, Kennedy, Marino, Piazza – All Present
Acting Municipal Clerk Loudenberry and Attorney Rich Wenner present.

- 5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES -** None

- 6. **BILLS LIST -**

ROLL CALL

Passed 5-0

Councilmembers	First	Second	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Kennedy			X			
Councilman Marino			X			
Councilman Piazza	X		X			
Council VP Clark		X	X			
Council President Wyant			X			

7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** - PRESENTATION – 43-45 South Main Street, Block 903, Lot 47

Mr. Joseph A. Paparo

8. **OLD BUSINESS** - None

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

Mayor Tersigni gave report. Concurred with Councilman Piazza and CP Wyant regarding 43-45 South Main Street being a great Project, adding Parking is a concern to be addressed.

- Town Engineer/Police Department regarding Speed Limit Study – seeking recommendations
- Public Safety – Reviewing Roseberry/Green/Logan
- Speed Limits – Irwin/Hudson
- 2022 Sewer inspections prior to paving
- Warren Street Improvements – portion of Hudson – NJ DOT Grant – coordinated with utilities-portions funded by Utilities
- Preconstruction meeting regarding Arby’s/Popeye’s-secured demo permits-Ahart’s
- Improve stormwater run off

Congratulated Employees for 35 years of dedicated service:

Lauri Kaulius, Municipal Court Administrator

Sandy Callery, Tax Collector

Rich Hay, Fire Chief/OEM

Robert Merlo, CFO for 34 years of service

Proclamation regarding National Black History Month

10. **PUBLIC DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Discussion - None

11. **ORDINANCES — SECOND READING**

O2022-02

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE SALARY RANGE FOR CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG

**O2022-02
ROLL CALL**

Passed 5-0

Councilmembers	First	Second	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Kennedy			X			
Councilman Marino			X			
Councilman Piazza	X		X			
Council VP Clark		X	X			
Council President Wyant			X			

O2022-03

ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 123 OF THE TOWN CODE ENTITLED “SEWER UTILITY”

Due to wrong Ordinance being advertised, 2nd Rdg. will be at next Regular Meeting of Feb. 15, 2022.

O2022-04

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

ROLL CALL

Tabled 5-0

Councilmembers	First	Second	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Kennedy		X	X			
Councilman Marino			X			
Councilman Piazza			X			
Council VP Clark			X			
Council President Wyant	X		X			

12. ORDINANCES — FIRST READING

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2022-06

BOND ORDINANCE AMENDING BOND ORDINANCE NUMBER 2019-07 FINALLY ADOPTED ON MAY 7, 2019, AS FURTHER AMENDED BY BOND ORDINANCE NUMBER 2021-05 FINALLY ADOPTED ON FEBRUARY 16, 2021, IN ORDER TO REVISE THE DESCRIPTION OF IMPROVEMENTS AUTHORIZED THEREIN

ROLL CALL

Passed 3-2

Councilmembers	First	Second	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Kennedy	X		X			
Councilman Marino				X		
Councilman Piazza				X		
Council VP Clark		X	X			
Council President Wyant			X			

13. 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.*

R2022-41

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CERTAIN PROPERTY OWNED BY THE TOWN AND NOT REQUIRED FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES, PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13 ET SEQ.

R2022- 42

STATEWIDE INSURANCE FUND RESOLUTION APPOINTING FUND COMMISSIONER

R2022-43

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING A POOL OF SPECIAL PROJECTS ENGINEERS FOR THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG

R: 2022-44

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

ROLL CALL CONSENT AGENDA

Passed 5-0

Councilmembers	First	Second	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Kennedy			X			
Councilman Piazza	X		X			
Councilman Marino		X	X			
Council Vice Clark			X			
Council President Wyant			X			

14. NEW BUSINESS

Phillipsburg Housing Authority Appointment – The time to submit a letter of interest has been extended to February 10.

CP Wyant noted Acting Clerk Loudenberry has received (3) good Letters of Interest/Resumes

15. PUBLIC PETITIONS

Nicole Timberman – 112 N. Riverview Rd.

Spoke to Riverside Way Parking Lot – hours to park 8am to 8pm. Added not really clear – need clarification.

CP Wyant stated a number of spaces are not metered. Asked Attorney Wenner to address.

Attny. Wenner stated Municipal Lots are open from 8am-8pm. Enforcement is to not permit overnight parking. Noted Council could amend now to extend hours.

CP Wyant noted he would consider extending hours.

Councilman Piazza stated quite a bit needs to be worked out in the present Ordinance. Stated the presentation regarding 43-45 South Main Street brings the matter of parking to the forefront. Residents will want to utilize Municipal Parking Permits to park in the municipal lots, maybe even outside those hours. Added the fisherman would utilize before 8am to use the boat ramp.

CP Wyant noted, hold for Work Session

RP continued need to flesh out for Permit Parking. Stated a No from him at this time – not right time, need to go over metered Parking/Market Street. Added 43-45 South Main Street and former Elk’s Bldg. – 2 Projects need Permit Parking – no for those reasons.

Councilman Marino stated, tried to speak up during Old Business. Noted he is a No on the Parking. Wants to hear from Stateliner United regarding the Union Square redevelopment. Feels the Ordinance regarding the Riverside lot is too premature until we know redeveloper’s plans for the Parking Lot.

VP Clark noted in support of the kiosk at Riverside Way Lot, willing to amend extended hours. Stated losing Revenue, open to increase time until 10 PM.

Councilman Kennedy noted in agreement with amending time to 10 PM.

Attorney Wenner stated if Ordinance is approved as amended to change to 10PM, would still require 3rd Reading and need to be readvertised.

CP Wyant questioned, if Council tables tonight and then amends later?

Attorney Wenner noted would still need a 3rd Rdg., adding any substantial change would require re-advertising. Such as, Hours, Rates, Spaces – dedicated, continued might save time to do all changes at a Work Session.

CP Wyant moved to Table until next Work Session.

David Morrisette 5 Fairview Hghts.

1. Commended CP Wyant for professional way of running TC Meetings
2. Suggested all future meetings be via Zoom – far greater attendance
3. Asked Attorney Wenner if aware of lawsuit, conflicts regarding 2021-14, wanting to know if Planning Board Attorney, Scott Wilhelm was aware.

CP Wyant noted Attorney did not need to comment.

Attorney Wenner stated, he is not handling the litigation – carrier – no involvement.

DM commented, then the Attorney representing would be the one to contact.

Bobby Fulper 941 Mill Street

Spoke to O2022-04 Riverside Parking Lot, stating not a viable Plan. Questions as to Staff, Programming kiosk, anything budgeted. Too hasty, adding the original ordinance was plagued with problems. Stateliner United – our Events. Referred to 43-45 South Main Street, needing Parking Passes to use that lot. Made mention of \$6,000 to Democrats and should recuse. Mayor's Budget – implored Mayor to fully fund the PFPL.

Nicole Timberman 112 N. Riverview Rd.

Wanted someone to revisit the Revolving Loan Program – money lost. How many defaulted and got off scott-free. Adding when Council froze program in 2018 980k in the red. Asked if TOP recovered any of that and if Plan in place so doesn't happen again.

CP Wyant stated will be working on it. Added several of the loans were written off.

Attorney Wenner spoke to revolving loan program, noting some accounts were closed out, some debts were written off, others entered into a payment plan. A plan will be established – underwriting – lending monies – securities will be attained – if not, then appropriate action would be taken.

Kevin Keyser 563 South Main Street

2016 – CP Tersigni stated all Parks would be non-smoking and he has yet to see any signs. Continued, in December bus parking was to be limited, but he sees bus parked at Norton’s Liquor Store. He asked Council to follow through on action taken at meetings.

CP Wyant – addressed bus parked at parking lot. Noted the Ordinance addressed buses parked on Public Streets, does not include parking lots.

Councilman Piazza noted, there are no smoking signs at Walter’s Park. He has seen by the Foot Bridge.

Dan Boyce 1526 Warren Street

Parking – kiosk – be realistic. Stated in the 8 months Mayor Ellis used the kiosk it generated \$1800 - \$225 /month – it lost money because of lack of enforcement. Added this is only the 3rd meeting of the year and already controversy. Hoping for change.

Karen K – 163 Hudson Street

Asked about Demo/updates regarding the other half of duplex she occupies – 165 Hudson Street. CP Wyant – noted, we would have Jack Daniels at next meeting.

Joe Meyner 392 South Main Street

Liking the way Council is operating, noted an improvement. Glad attention focused on TOP. Proud of Council so far this year. Addressed the following through of Ords/Resolutions noting minutes must be approved first, then Mayor should have time to follow through. No minutes approved yet this year. Council doing a good job.

Randy Piazza, Sr. 309 Mercer Street

Questioned final bill for demo of Agway Bldg.? Continued strongly disagree with meetings continuing in Zoom only, should have in person meetings with Public involvement when Pandemic over.

CP Wyant stated, he know bill paid. Agreed with need for live meetings, working toward in person meetings.

Rob Bengivenga, BA stated 62k – will email to him.

Robin Coe Donaldson – 344 South Main Street

Addressed downtown Parking situation. Thought plan to have multi level parking in the lot next to former Elk’s Bldg.

CP Wyant noted that was a plan years ago, adding there was to be a cross over with elevator, but never came to fruition.

RCD – noted Mary Jo Harris, NORWESCAP – could funding come from working with her downtown program. Continued, asked about Angela Knowles – difference between verbal review and consistency review regarding Peron project. According to RCD, Angela stated not go forward unless the Howard Street extension is realized. Asked why not written into consistency report.

Cnclman Piazza – noted 3 minutes were up. That questioned should be posed to Planning Board.

CP Wyant noted, we do not have answer, ask the Planning Board.

Meliss Paulus 26A Glen Avenue

Stated after last Council meeting, encouraged to submit questions via email. Noted still waiting for answers.

CP Wyant asked to whom they were sent?

MP stated the BA said he was not responsible to answer.

CP Wyant stated he would look through his email to find and if not would reach out to Meliss.

MP – Questioned the Salary ranges – some increase 15k – large increase

CP Wyant noted they are ranges

MP wondered where information came from to formulate range, other municipalities, League report, what tools?

RB, Bus Adm – because not adopted last year. Last year or year before some positions had to be increased for cost of living. Specific statutory positions – average of other employees.

16. COUNCIL OPEN TIME

Councilman Kennedy noted nothing at this time.

Councilman Marino noted wanted to speak during Old Business. Haven't been privileged to talk with Stateliner United. Would like them to come to Public Meeting – 90 day extension – afforded time. Invite their Engineer, Attorney.

Councilman Piazza – Thanked DPW and Police regarding snow over weekend. Sent Happy Birthday to wife, adding we should all remember Valentines Day. Glad to see Van Cleef voted back in as Engineering firm. Added Stan, Tim and Angela do a fantastic job. Also can't wait for in person meetings.

VP Clark agreed, looking forward to in person meetings. Noted February, Black History Month a time of reflection. Adding Black History is American History,

Apprvd. 02.15.2022

noted reading biography of Frederic Douglas encouraged all to make selves more aware. Thanked Mayor Tersigni for Proclamation – adding as Councilman and resident.

Continued Green Philly – article about TOP. Opportunity to advertise TOP – put in positive public light. Businesses invest, positive press- redevelopment. Share history/traditions.

CP Wyant - nothing

17. ADJOURNMENT

Council Vice President Clark moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Kennedy.