

**TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, September 20, 2022
7:00 P.M.**

(Town Council Meeting to be held in person at PHA Community Bldg., 535 Fisher Ave., Phillipsburg, NJ 08865)

(subject to change pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-8(d)-this agenda is tentative to the extent known at time of posting”

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - 7:01 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 September 20, 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** - Led by Councilman Piazza

4. **ROLL CALL**

Wyant, Clark, Kennedy, Marino, Piazza - All Present
Attrny Wenner, BA Hall and AMClerk Loudenberry

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - Town Council Mtg. Mins – Sept. 06, 2022

ROLL CALL

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			

6. BILLS LIST –

ROLL CALL

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. EXECUTIVE SESSION -

R: 2022- 203

A RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE FOR AN EXECUTIVE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING possible disposition of Municipal Property. No Action to be Taken.

ROLL CALL - Vote to enter into Executive Session Passed 5-0

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			

ROLL CALL - Vote to return from Executive Session 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			

Habitability Hearing - UPDATE ON PROJECT - Demolition completed today, 09.20.2022 - carried to a future session.

293 South Main Street – Wynkoop

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

Aaron Coleman – recap of Phillipsburg Railroad Festival

Spoke to success of 1st Annual Phillipsburg RR Festival. Shared an overview of happenings throughout that day. Shared hopes for an even greater Event next year.

- 2500-3000 attendance
- Miniature Train Ride – RR Historians – 34 trips, 918 passengers - broke record
- Friends of NJ Transportation Center – best organized, well attended raised over \$500
- Chris Cotty – most walk-up ticket sales - \$3,440

Introduced Redevelopment idea, 51 acres – bring all Railroad Organizations together, create campus – Train Station – connect PU Station and Tower would like to come back and make Presentation in January of 2023. Need trolleys or buses to move folks from parking areas to sites of interest.

CP Wyant stated loved the entire event. Thanked Aaron Coleman, Mary Jo Harris, Laurie Nelson and all who volunteered/invested their time and talent.

VP Clark – impressed with presentation, but the Event itself blew him away. Continued walked all the way down to Riverside Parking lot – a lot of foot traffic, all businesses benefited. Stated that day we were a destination. Hoping next year could be a (2) day Event. Commended Aaron for turning his dream, through hard work and organized cooperation, into a reality.

Mayor Tersigni stated Aaron Coleman brought the idea to him early on and he promised his support for the Event. Adding, knowing his personality, energy and entrepreneurship, he knew it would be a success.

Cnclman Piazza – noted he had a fantastic time at the Event. Checked out Tug from Bethlehem. Happy to see local Vendors sharing their wares. Stated was evident great effort made at PU Tower – thanked Aaron for personal passion, investing of time and money, using his talents to showcase the TOP.

AC – stated, had (1) recommendation regarding the difficulty getting to the PU Tower. Hoping to open up the staircase – with fencing, the outside steps to platform. Noted people were going over fence.

Cnclman Piazza stated, liked idea of staircase, but noted the cobblestone road is a nice feature of the Town and only (1) of (3).

CP Wyant stated would need an easement from NJ Transit

Cnclman Kennedy couldn't thank Aaron enough for all his effort. Noted his first time visiting the PU Tower. Continued could easily become a (2) day Event.

Tim O'Brien, Engineer – Presentation

Spoke about a Grant from NJEDA of 50k becoming available for the TOP.

GOAL – public assets currently owned by TOP – feasibility enhancement.

Delaware Park – current state potential rails to trails, small amphitheater, support, market study, support such a venue. Other assets include into Park and rest of Downtown.

CP Wyant asked if there was a fee?

TOB stated because TOP in top 10% of need, there is no fee.

VP Clark noted support the initiative, adding Delaware River Park is underutilized – free money a positive. Continued that Section of TOP could use accessibility for residents to Recreation.

TOB stated worked with CP Wyant and Mayor.

Cnclman Piazza asked what other groups were asked to participate. Continued, first hearing of the opportunity and it is after the fact. Felt lack of transparency.

CP Wyant stated learned of opportunity at a UEZ meeting.

TOB – UEZ coordinated reaching out to others.

Cnclman Piazza stated again, first time hearing of opportunity at a Public Meeting. Continued we will be asked, but no opportunity to participate.

TOB spoke to application of Grant – intended to improve an underutilized asset. Studies, NORWESCAP, NPP, Delaware River Park has been on radar for awhile. Riverside Way, developers interested. Other assets, underutilized Transit Parking Lot – Railroad owns – Municipal Programs to consider.

Cnclman Marino asked TOB is could provide a list of assets considered. Continued, heard rumor regarding parking Kiosk?

Mayor Tersigni responded, yes Kiosk had been installed.

Cnclman Marino stated did not want to vote.

VP Clark thanked Engineer, Tim O'Brien.

Cnclman Piazza noted, his displeasure was not directed at TOB, adding you do an excellent job.

CP Wyant asked if Grant was time-sensitive?

TOB stated yes, it is. Advised if TOP in percentage, should move quicker, adding he would circulate grant information.

CP Wyant noted, he just found out about the Grant at Monday's UEZ meeting. Presented tonight, no cost asked to move forward a

Resolution 2022-204 to allow submission of Grant Application.

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			

Pork Roll Palooza – October 8, 2022 10AM – 6PM – Shappell Park

OPEN AIR MARKET – SUNDAYS FROM 10AM – 2PM THROUGH OCTOBER 2ND. If interested in being Vendor, please email EVENTS@PHILLIPSBURGNJ.ORG.

MUSIC IN THE PARK CONCERT SERIES – 6PM – 9PM AT SHAPPELL PARK – September 22 – Lucky 7 - please check website for future dates/bands www.phillipsburgnj.org

Train Ride – for more information and future dates visit: <https://877trainride.com/thomas.htm>

9. Administrative Officers

Mayor Tersigni gave report – overview

- Phillipsburg Railroad Festival – Thnkd A. Colmena, Community Partners and Downtown Association and all who attended.
- September 11 Dedication – Memorial – Brothers before Others

- Parking Meters and Kiosks
 - Ordinance – clarifying parking in Municipal Lots – maximize
 - Warrant Street – traffic, striping
 - Aqua contractors – Warren Street – sidewalks, galvanized line replacement
 - Elizabethtown Gas doing work – will be notifying public of work to be done
 - BA – high level meetings
 - Smoke Testing – Hillcrest/Pursel Hill
 - Notifications – contact DPW or TOB, Engineer
-

Matthew Hall, BA stated nothing at this time, Mayor covered all.

10. PUBLIC DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEMS

Joe Meyner – 392 South Main Street

Spoke to Delaware River Park being considered for improvements by Grant, if given to TOP. Stated he has recommended the bathrooms at the Park be left open, the tennis courts are in disrepair and lost forever. Added improvements need doing, Grant or not. Continued, O2022-27 – makes Chief of Police head/supervisor – feels Principal should be supervisor of Class III officers and Chief of Police only if Principal under duress. Headed by school administration – not Police.

Nicole Timberman – spoke to O2022-28 Municipal Parking Lots – normal rate .25/min – 20 mins. confused?

Attorney Wenner explained minimum of \$1 hour @ .25/ 15mins. - \$1. Added in talking with Captain Swick – kiosk does not give changed. Must do 1 hour increments with cash, no change given. If using credit/debit card – can choose 15 minute increments.

NC asked about Special Events being \$10.

RW – stated intention of Council – Special Events sponsored by TOP. Adding at Work Session last Tuesday, added Shad Tournament be written into Ordinance specifically.

NT – 4th Section – leases parking from Top.

RW – noted some organizations within the Town – that lease from the Town – you already have – not an additional permit.

Dan Seyler – 22 N. Main Street

Stated need more than 25 permits at Riverside Way – residents and Businesses at least 40 needed. Businesses need more than 25 themselves. Continued, feels \$10 for a Special Event a bit high for parking, people won't spend money at Event if already paid \$10 for parking.

11. ORDINANCES - First Reading

O2022-26

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING ARTICLE V, *SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS*, OF CHAPTER 105 *POLICE DEPARTMENT*, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG TO INCLUDE SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, CLASS III (SLEO III)

ROLL CALL -

Passed 5-0

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

O2022-27 – Assembly Bill No. 2877, which standardized the Vacant Property Registration procedures for the municipalities of New Jersey was signed into law on January 18 of this year by Governor Murphy. As a result, NJ municipalities are required to amend their Vacant Property Ordinances to reflect the changes

ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DELETING IN ITS ENTIRETY CHAPTER 448 ENTITLED “PROPERTY, MAINTENANCE AND REGISTRATION OF VACANT AND ABANDONED”, AND REPLACING SAME TO BE CONSISTENT WITH P.L. 2021, C. 444

ROLL CALL -

Passed 5-0

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

ROLL CALL CONSENT AGENDA

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

13. NEW BUSINESS

VP Clark suggested use of string lights downtown – reduce Crime – helps draw people downtown – Quotes needed regarding cost.

CP Wyant stated would like to support the idea – will look to UEZ for possibility of funds for Project and seek Quotes to bring back to Council.

Cnclman Piazza – last meeting – introduced Ordinance regarding Howard Street and the change to Zoning, request to put on October 4, TC mtg. – actually have put on to Agenda – feels owe up/down vote.

CP Wyant stated will put on Agenda if Planning Board recommends.

Cnclman Piazza – tonight would work. Asked TOB in regard to Grant of Howard Street extension – did we receive the 250k – was it to be paid out in phases?

TOB – stated TOP applied for discretionary aid – applied for 7 million and the State awarded 250k for the design costs. No other promises were made. Normally there is an Agreement – terms – then triggers discussion, currently at this place of scope of consideration.

Cnclman Piazza asked if any future meetings are scheduled?

Matt Hall, BA noted he is aware of Project and will look into.

Cnclman Piazza asked about progress of Municipal Pool Project?

CP Wyant noted it would be discussed in Executive Session.

14. PUBLIC PETITIONS

Joe Meyner – 392 South Main Street

Spoke to Parking Ordinance requiring more work, noted a lot needs fixing – due to mixed use Zoning. May require even more than (1) additional work session.

Mike Perrucci – Washington Lane, Bethlehem, PA

Noted, in speaking to Engineer Tim O’Brien, just a hearing is scheduled regarding Howard Street at Planning Board Meeting. Requesting Ordinance introduced by Cnclman Piazza be considered for October 4 TC Meeting for 1st Rdg introduction. Continued, then get Planning Board recommendation between 1st and 2nd Rdg.

David Morrisette – 5 Fairview Hghts

Spoke to gun range on the flats effecting quality of life for residents in that area.

Daniel Seyler – 22 N. Main Street

Spoke to parking in his neighborhood, North Main Street. Regarding the Lease between TOP and Brothers before Others and their leasing of (4) parking spaces in the Municipal Lot on North Main Street. Continued Lessor overstepping the limits of the (4) spaces in taking over the whole area.

CP Wyant noted the Business Administrator will address the issue.

DS inquired if CP Wyant knew if the lease has been continued as it was for (1) year, May 2021 – May 2022.

CP Wyant stated will have to check.

DS asked, “does he have control of lot?”

CP Wyant responded, (4) spaces jurisdictional – 3 other spaces

DS continued, August 22 – September 15 after Event – continued prevention of parking to October 22. Was there an extension?

15. COUNCIL OPEN TIME

Cnclman Kennedy noted attended the Firth Youth Center Sports Banquet held at Flynn’s on the Hill. Adding, truly showed off all FYC does for the Youth in TOP. Continued, only (2) weeks until Pork Roll Palooza. Stated PHS 3-0 going in to game against Hillsboro.

Cnclman Marino thanked Aaron Coleman for making the Phillipsburg Railroad Festival such a Great Event. Directed question to BA, Matthew Hall, regarding update on (2) cannines for Police Dept and former city hall.

CP Wyant responded regarding former Municipal Bldg., RT Environmental did not understand Council wanted them to prepare specs regarding removal of all ceiling tiles to expose any hidden problems – that caused delay; which is now being worked on.

BA, Matthew Hall noted, spoke to Engineer, Tim O’Brien who clarified request to RT and being worked on currently.

Cnclman Marino spoke to safety regarding traffic/speed near Wawa and O’Donnell Apartments (elderly) and need for signage or painted warnings on roadway, especially if Quick Chek purchases former Warren Lanes.

Mayor Tersigni responded he would talk with Police Chief.

Cnclman Piazza connectivity of community addresses some issues – painting on roadways – near schools and also Wawa – believes John Turnbull did brooch the Subject with Planning Board. Spoke to Parking Ordinance; which was Tabled needing an additional Work Session, adding the first work session was successful and there are areas needing clarification. Noted, better to do 1 or 2 things well than try to address all and do none well. Continued, Municipal lots already being used by taxpayers (Residential/Businesses) lottery system confusing.

CP Wyant responded, trying to achieve a balance, residents, businesses and out of Towners.

Cnclman Piazza noted we could do better

VP Clark thanked Tim O’Brien for providing amazing maps in regard to Municipal Lots. Excited to see TOP as a destination Town, necessary for redevelopment. Noted Open Air Market continues another (2) weeks – live music, vendors. Shared information regarding 1st time homebuyers information on September 21, 7-9 PM – Delaware Park Firehouse. Also Brothers before Others boxing match on November 19, 6:30PM boxing match.

CP Wyant – noted Firth Youth Center Banquet very well attended and recognized their great programming.

16. MOTIONS

Pork Roll Palooza – October 8, 2022
Invertase Microbrewery to be a Vendor at the Event

Councilmembers	First	Second	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Kennedy		X	X			

Councilman Piazza			X			
Councilman Marino			X			
Council Vice Clark	X		X			
Council President Wyant			X			

Motions – continued

Seeking active membership in the Fire Department as a **Firefighter** is –
Leah M. Graffin. Seeking active membership in the Fire Department as a **Junior Firefighter** is – **Steven P. Fulse, Jr. and Jayson A. Garcia.**

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

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION -

R: 2022- 205

A RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE FOR AN EXECUTIVE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING Contractual issue All State Pool and Board of Education. No Action to be Taken.

ROLL CALL - Vote to enter into Executive Session Passed 5-0

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

ROLL CALL - Vote to return from Executive Session 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			

Attorney Wenner noted during Executive Session contractual matters were discussed regarding All State Pool and purchase of assets from Board of Education. No Action Taken.

Ray Patt – resident of Phillipsburg stated Service Electric had aired the Bethlehem Catholic football game instead of Phillipsburg High School.

Cnclman Piazza noted TOP has a contract with Service Electric regarding the broadcast of local teams.

Matt Hall, BA stated, would reach out to Service Electric representative.

18. ADJOURNMENT - 9:19 PM

Councilman Piazza moved to adjourn.

Ayes: Wyant, Clark, Kennedy, Marino, Piazza

Nays: None