

Approved 06.15.2021

TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2021 AMENDED AGENDA
via ZOOM
7:00 P.M.

MAY 18, 2021 Town Council Meeting ZOOM LINK

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82304529414?pwd=bnNuWUZMNI1FzRzRnREcVdWMGtMZz09>

Meeting ID: 823 0452 9414

Passcode: Pburg

One tap mobile

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Passcode: 108031

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82304529414?pwd=bnNuWUZMNI1FzRzRnREcVdWMGtMZz09>

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 18, 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 **By CVP Fulper**

3. INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE -

by CVP Fulper

4. ROLL CALL -

All Council Members Present

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES -

No Minutes to approve

**6. BILLS LIST -
ROLL CALL**

Passed 5-0

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

VP Fulper abstain ck#82235. Approve as amended removing Statewide Insurance Company – Litigation payment at this time for clarification.

CM Wyant Abstain vendor #7014;

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Old Town Festival

8. OLD BUSINESS

9. MAYOR’S AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

None received at this time. CP McVey would like to have one along with other administrative reports to be noted into the record

10. PUBLIC DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEMS

11. ORDINANCES – SECOND READING - None

12. ORDINANCES — FIRST READING

O-2021-15

TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG AMENDING ORDINANCE 2021-12 REGARDING 2021 SALARIES FOR UNCLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES

ROLL CALL

Passed 5-0

Councilmembers	First	Second	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Wyant			X			
Councilman Piazza			X			
Councilwoman DeGerolamo		X	X			

Council Vice President Fulper	X		X			
Council President McVey			X			

13. PUBLIC HEARING BUDGET

2021 Municipal Budget - Final Adoption

- Open the hearing.
CVP Fulper motion to open the hearing, CM Piazza seconded the motion – the motion carried a 5-0 Vote

Auditor Heidi Wohlleb-Nisivocchia – no tax increase despite significant shortfall of revenue. Received approval from DCA to adopt Budget tonight.

- **Discussion/ Council / Public**

D. Morissette – 5 Fairview Heights

Please fund Library 740k, if you support this Budget, can't say you support Library.

D. Schneider- 26 Meadowview Dr., Lopatcong Twp.

Cut-off last comment – said saving 260k if approve 2021-136 purchase agreement. This does have to do with Budget, let may say question, then decide.

Cnclman Piazza noted the Lopatcong TC meeting from January 2021- mins/video with Agenda; which Ms Schneider stated were not on website are there. Added if she had question, to review the Lopatcong video and reach out to Lopatcong Township.

T. Chapman – 362 Brainards Rd., Harmony Twp.

Noted didn't think appropriate to censor comments.

CP McVey asked if about Budget?

T. Chapman stated previous speaker asked about Budget.

CP McVey responded, not Budget question, but rather question regarding last Resolution.

VP Fulper stated Ms. Chapman – out of order

Emil Brisson – 94 Bullman Street, Phillipsburg

Urged Council to fully fund Library. Wanting long term commitment from Mayor/Council, for stability going forward. Would hope support Cnclwomn DeGerolamo in November and put funds toward Library and not somewhere else.

Closed Public Statements

Council speaks to Budget

Cnclman Wyant – This is a tight Budget, kept rate flat. Down Police Officers, DPW also – everybody has to tighten belt, Library included-wishes had more money for Library and hire for Public Works and put officers on the street. Feel did well considering Pandemic, hopefully coming year/better year.

Cnclwomn DeGerolamo – Stated many parts to Tax bill, County, TOP, Open Space, Library and School, asked residents take notice as per school board meeting believes 1.5% increase of School Tax. Town of Phillipsburg rate remained flat. Noted any excess funds- between Pool/Library, would choose Library every time. Open to all/free to all-does not require paid membership-open all year. Would like to move forward tonight with this Budget.

Cnclman Piazza – Stated likes Budget Mayor presented. Able to keep flat – a lot less Revenue. A lot of other Depts. have taken a hit these past 2 years. Some provisions later this year, currently waiting to hear back from-think Library had Special meeting-they have some add'tl funds at their disposal, if not mistaken. With cutting our salaries able to give Library add'tl 35k over what Mayor has given Library and add'tl 5k to Senior Center, those 2 areas needed a little bit more than what originally given.

VP Fulper – noted Budget process daunting. Stated in terms of Library, had offer on table last week, believe Mayor made motion for Board to spend 160k to save employees. Continued did not know if accepted, having not heard back. Library not only department cut or hurting as Cnclman Piazza noted. Cnclman Wyant noted no new garbage trucks/street sweepers. Spent 200k and 218k on top of that, stated number Director Krolak asking for unreasonable. Disagree with Mr. Morisette – feels Library is fully funded.

CP McVey - Stated Budget is 19 million. Good Budget, noting first 2 years as Councilman did not have support of Administration, extremely difficult – Mayor did not attend Budget meetings. Mayor Tersigni submitted good Budget - Council worked collectively – kept Budget flat this year. Unsung hero, BA Benjivenga working with CFO Merlo and all departments with Mayor Tersigni, who does attend Budget meetings, making it much easier for Council to make decisions. Library – save comments for Open Time. If get behind just one department – Inspections – new Code Official. When November comes we all have concerns, but this is sound Budget – will talk it out. Keeping it flat is amazing.

- Close the hearing.

CVP Fulper motioned to close the public hearing; CM Piazza seconded the motion. The motion carried a 5-0 Vote – Public hearing closed.

R: 2021-130 A

Passed 5-0

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE 2021 MUNICIPAL BUDGET FOR THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG

ROLL CALL

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			

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: 2021 - 131

RESOLUTION TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY IMPOSING A LIEN ON 85 LEWIS STREET, BLOCK 1402, LOT 33, FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES

R: 2021-132

A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING HANDICAP PARKING SPACES WITHIN THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG

R: 2021-133

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES WITH MARK J. ZGODA, AIA FOR ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES

R: 2021-135

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

R- 2021-137

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE BONDS IN CONNECTION WITH BRIDGE POINT 78 (PHASE I)

R: 2021-138

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN BROTHERS BEFORE OTHERS AND THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG

R: 2021-139

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING RESOLUTIONS 2020-186 AND 2020-246 TO REMOVE CERTAIN LICENSES

R: 2021-140

A RESOLUTION APPROVING 2020-2021 LIQUOR LICENSES WITHIN TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG WITH A SPECIAL RULING 12:39

R: 2021-141

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYOUT OF ACCRUED SICK, VACATION AND COMPENSATORY LEAVE FOR CONSTRUCTION OFFICIAL KEVIN DUDDY

R: 2021-142

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING DISCHARGE OF FIREWORKS AT OLE TOWN FESTIVAL

R: 2021-143

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG IN SUPPORT OF THE OLE TOWNE FESTIVAL'S REQUEST FOR AN ALCOHOL PERMIT AT THE OLE TOWNE FESTIVAL

ROLL CALL CONSENT AGENDA

Passed 5-0

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

Pulled From Agenda

R: 2021-134

Passed 5-0

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, IN SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSED UNITED STATES BICYCLE ROUTE #1 THROUGH WARREN COUNTY

ROLL CALL

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

R: 2021-136

Passed 5-0

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY ENDORSING THE NEGOTIATION OF A POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG AND PHOEBUS FUND, LLC

ROLL CALL

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

15. NEW BUSINESS

Habitability Hearing on 124 Mercer Street – 159 Mercer
Carried to June 01, 2021 meeting

16. PUBLIC PETITIONS

Cnclman Wyant spoke with Bill Spencer regarding resuming in person TC Meetings at the Senior Center located on Firth Street. CP McVey and BA Benjivenga will meet with Mr. Spencer prior to TC meeting.

Ms. Chapman – 362 Brainards Rd.

Asked about 2021-136 – Power plant, where located. Brown field in Phillipsburg?

Project been approved in Lopatcong? Unless it is approved??

Donna Schneider – 26 Natalie Drive, Lopatcong

-136 new article..Phoebus did presentation. Nothing on website nor in minutes, reached out to Lopatcong Township, got nothing – location in Lopatcong. How did they come to be in Lopatcong, did the TOP seek them out? Did they come to you?

CP McVey noted the BA is on the line. A power point was done, people who operate, discussion at our Town Council meeting. You did not get answers from Lopatcong? – I will get the information to you. Please email me directly.

17. DISCUSSION

18. COUNCIL OPEN TIME

19. MOTIONS

Special Events permit for Bernardine May American Legion Post 457 to have a coin toss at the intersection of South Main and Union Square June 12, 2021.

CM Piazza motion to approve the event . CM Wyant seconded the motion the motion was carried with a 5-0 Vote. CVP Fulper asked if the fee can be waived for the Veterans if so do it at the next meeting.

20. EXECUTIVE SESSION -

R: 2021- 144

A RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE FOR AN EXECUTIVE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING.... Litigation and contractual – no action taken.

ROLL CALL

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

ROLL CALL RECOVENE

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			

21. ADJOURNMENT

ROLL CALL

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

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