

TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 4TH, 2023 — 7:00 P.M.

- 1. **CALL TO ORDER - 7:02 PM**
- 2. **OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT STATEMENT - Read by**
- 3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - All**
- 4. **INVOCATION - Lead by**
- 5. **ROLL CALL – Present: Wyant, Clark, Kennedy, Marino**
Absent: Piazza

- 6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES - January 17, 2023**

ROLL CALL Motion Carries 4-0-1

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

Discussion - None

- 7. **BILLS LIST -**

ROLL CALL Motion Carries 4-0-1

Councilmembers	First	Second	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Piazza						X
Councilman Marino			X			

Councilman Kennedy		X	X			
Council VP Clark	X		X			
Council President Wyant			X			

Discussion - None

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS - None

9. MAYOR’S REPORT/ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS/PROCLAMATION

Given by VP Clark as Mayor Tersigni not in attendance. Mayor’s Report attached.

10. PUBLIC DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEMS

Stuart Ridley 198 Summit Avenue

Spoke to R2023-64 – Howard Street extension. Noted owner of LMR not interested in selling Property. Is Eminent Domain being considered/cost? Also spoke to lawsuit regarding warehouse and encouraged Council to wait for results.

Matt Scerbo – 1547 Pearl Street

Spoke to R2023-68 – Walter’s Park Imprvments, why all bids rejected. Seems like great improvements.

CP Wyant agreed, big improvements, but all bids were over the bid price.

MS asked if we have Budget to spend – questioned Open Space meetings regarding funds.

CP Wyant stated, hoping to break down into smaller improvements; which can be funded.

MS agreed some improvements better than none at all.

CP Wyant noted, can go back out and re-bid smaller improvements.

Joan Pierce Prospect Street

Questioned R2023-66 regarding Shared Service Agrmnt with Firth Youth Center if we now have a Recreation Director.

CP Wyant stated cannot answer as Recreation Director has not started yet.

JP feels R2023-66 should be tabled.

Dan Seyler – 22 North Main Street

Spoke to R2023-65 – Schedule of Properties for Auction – asked if approved tonight, then the Auction would be scheduled. Also asked if larger printout would become available.

CP Wyant responded correct, approve it and then schedule.

Closed Public Discussion on Agenda items

11. ORDINANCES FOR 2ND READING

ORDINANCE 2023-04

CALENDAR YEAR 2023 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK
(N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

ROLL CALL

Motion Carries

4-0-1

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

Public Discussion - None

12. RESOLUTIONS ** CONSENT AGENDA **

Matters listed on the Consent Agenda Resolutions 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.

R2023-60

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A REFUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$125.00 TO JONI SCHMIDT

R2023-61

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING HANDICAP PARKING SPACES WITHIN THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG

R2023-62

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE TOWN TO EXECUTE A CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT WITH WOODHILL ALPHA, LLC

R2023-63

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PAYMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,000.00 TO KIERSTEN REIGLE

R2023-64

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES WITH VAN CLEEF ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES FOR THE HOWARD STREET EXTENSION PROJECT

R2023-65

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR AUCTION SERVICES WITH MAX SPANN R.E. & AUCTION CO., AUCTION SPECIALIST

R2023-67

RESOLUTION APPOINTING PATRICK KAYS AS CONSTRUCTION OFFICIAL

R2023-68

REJECTION OF BIDS FOR VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS AT WALTERS PARK

R2023-69

RESOLUTION AWARDED A CONTRACT TO SOUTH STATE, INC., THROUGH THE MORRIS COUNTY COOPERATIVE PRICING COUNCIL CO-OP

R2023-70

RESOLUTION AWARDED A CONTRACT TO DENVILLE LINE PAINTING, INC., THROUGH THE MORRIS COUNTY COOPERATIVE PRICING COUNCIL CO-OP

ROLL CALL

Motion carries – 4-0-1

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

Discussion

Cnclman Marino spoke to R2023-66 Shared Service Agreement with Firth Youth Center for a Summer Youth Program. Asked if resident has rambunctious child who has been removed from FYC program would be able to participate in the Summer Youth Program at the Parks named in the Agreement.

CP Wyant responded the Parks are open to the Public.

R2023-66

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG AND THE FIRTH YOUTH CENTER FOR A SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM

Councilman Marino moved to accept the Resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilman Kennedy.

AYES: Wyant, Clark, Kennedy, Marino
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Piazza

13. OLD BUSINESS

CORLISS AVENUE UPDATE

14. MOTIONS

RELAY FOR LIFE SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION

Councilman Kennedy moved to accept the Special Event Application. The motion was seconded by VP Clark.

AYES: Wyant, Clark, Kennedy, Marino
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Piazza

15. PUBLIC PETITIONS

Elizabeth Ridley – 198 Summit Avenue

Spoke to Senate Bill – 1474 providing protection for warehouse/temporary workers who face lack of safety and other long overdue protections. She noted that Doug Steinhardt, voted no to this legislation – though he was a proponent of the warehouse project on Howard Street. She asked if there was a status to the cold storage vendor initially interested in the Howard Street Project? Also asked the status of Cal Ripkin Athletic fields project.

CP Wyant responded he did not know the status of the cold storage/warehouse project.

Attrny Wenner stated he was recently in touch with Chuck Brady/Cal Ripkin Project, who stated great strides being made in fundraising. Added on track for success.

ER – thanked for the immediate professional response by the PPD and Lopatcong PD’s response to the false emergency’s regarding the Phillipsburg High School. She continued by noting the large warehouse fire in West Easton – and their fire department’s trouble accessing water. Questioned the fire prevention plan regarding the warehouses in TOP.

CP Wyant responded, our Fire Chief must approve all plans.

Stuart Ridley – 198 Summit Avenue

Spoke to Executive Session Meetings and when the minutes would be made available to the Public.

David Morrisette – 5 Fairview Hghts.

Spoke to Howard Street Warehouse Project, 142k square foot facility, would generate 183,456 truck trips onto New Brunswick Ave., Pohatcong Township within (1) year. Asked Council to consider impact and reconsider passing any Ordinance regarding this Project until pending lawsuit is resolved.

Ann Davis Lewis Street

Spoke to Recreation Advisory Committee and the former Recreation Director stating no reason to have meetings with the Committee. She felt he was disrespectful of those on the Committee and disappointed the Mayor allowed it. Stated former BA Benjivenga had (1) meeting with them. Continued this is why people don't want to get involved/volunteer.

Cnclman Kennedy noted he had discussion with the new Recreation Director, Mr. Noel who plans on having meetings with the Recreation Advisory Committee.

16. COUNCIL OPEN TIME

Cnclman Marino noted different parts of TOP – alleys behind Warren and Bullman – where Garbage used to be collected, not being collected now – residents need information. He then asked Attny Wenner if lawsuit against the TOP, who represents and at what cost? Attny Wenner responded, generally deferred to Insurance carrier, 50k deductible.

Cnclman Kennedy – Stated, Saturday, April 8 will be the Exchange Club's Egg Hunt at 8:30 AM at Maloney Stadium – good weather expected. Wished all a Happy Easter.

VP Clark – Noted, April 13 – UEZ dinner will be held at River of Life Church. Discussion of funds and what used for. Also mentioned NAACP Gala – April 29th – supports scholarships to all races. Wished all a Happy Easter.

CP Wyant – stated the Relay for Life will be held on April 29 with a rain date of April 30th – to be held at Walter's Park. Spoke to problem of atv's, dirt bikes, recent bad accident involving dirt bike on Howard Street. Continued PPD can monitor, try to locate, but cannot chase. Hoping Ordinance suggested by Mayor may be way to handle going forward.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None required

18. ADJOURNMENT - 7:38 PM

VP Clark moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Cnclman Kennedy.