

Meeting Minutes

TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2022
7:00 P.M.

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - 7:00 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 JULY 19, 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 (by Phone), Piazza

Also in attendance, Attrny. Wenner, Mayor Tersigni, BA Bengivenga and AMC Loudenberry

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES -** Town Council Meeting 06.07.2022

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			

6. BILLS LIST –

ROLL CALL

Passed 5-0

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

Councilman Piazza questioned check number 86378 – Cooper Supply; Re: Street Light replacement.

BA Bengivenga responded, was to replace street light damaged in motor vehicle accident. He noted covered by insurance.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

None

8. OLD BUSINESS

O2022-06 – TBLD March 1, 2022 Awaiting Presentation of Results by RT Environmental Report – taking place August 2nd

O2022-06

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

9. Mayor’s and Administrative Officers

Congressman Malinowski spoke with Mayor regarding grade crossing – Norfolk Southern DOT – notification over Washington 2nd – identified concerns regarding needed improvements
Judge Gerald Shamey – Congratulations on succeeding

Kelly Post-Sheedy – shared data from week one of summer program, the theme was Steam. Learning and fun had by everyone

10. PUBLIC DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEMS

Joe Meyner, 392 S. Main St.

Questioned bridge mentioned in Mayor's report

CP Wyatt stated Orphan's bridge – Washington Secondary is just past the Black Bridge on Hanover St. Town of Phillipsburg is glad DOT is addressing much needed repairs and the cost is not on TOP.

Cnclmn Piazza noted the Orphan's bridge is immediately after the Black bridge bears a lot of traffic. Runs above the railroad tracks.

JM spoke to O2022-24, questioned the need for left turn only from Stockton St.

HW responded left turn from Stockton will alleviate what is on South Main St.

JM – trucks don't affect the bottleneck

RP – Orphan's bridge in need of repairs from years of truck traffic. Also, South Main St. becomes extremely narrow.

Reggie Regrut, 390 Heckman St.

Spoke to R2022-156 seeking explanation in regards to resolution.

O2022-25 regarding Referendum to gauge public sentiment for continuing annual tax levy for municipal open space and recreation trust fund – totally in favor and hoping Council communicates importance to public.

Attrny Wenner noted County Clerk must be done by Referendum, last levy was 2016, 5 year term set to expire.

David Morrisette, 5 Fairview Hgts. Thanked Council regarding Referendum. Stated Open Space Tax valuable for TOP.

O2022-24, left turn restriction for South Main St. traffic; could this be due to pending construction of warehouse. Perhaps, Council should wait for State approval of plan. You cannot limit 4 ton traffic without State approval. Also, hate to see Center St. in truck traffic route.

11. ORDINANCES – SECOND READING

O2022-23

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING MUNICIPAL CONSENT TO COMCAST TO CONSTRUCT, CONNECT, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A CABLE TELEVISION AND COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM IN THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTY OF WARREN, NEW JERSEY.

ROLL CALL PASSED 5-0

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			

Discussion – Public

None

RP – Great competition, Win/Win for residents of TOP

12. ORDINANCES – FIRST READING

O2022-24

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING CHAPTER 67-25, SCHEDULE IX, LEFT TURN PROHIBITIONS, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG IN ORDER TO RESTRICT LEFT TURNS FROM STOCKTON STREET ONTO SOUTH MAIN

ROLL CALL PASSED 5-0

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			

Discussion – Council

None

O2022-25

ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTY OF WARREN,
STATE OF NEW JERSEY, PETITIONING THE CLERK OF WARREN COUNTY TO
PLACE ON THE BALLOT A REFERENDUM TO GAUGE PUBLIC SENTIMENT
FOR CONTINUING THE ANNUAL TAX LEVY FOR MUNICIPAL OPEN SPACE
AND RECREATION TRUST FUND

ROLL CALL

PASSED 5-0

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

Discussion – Council

VP Clark – Noted appreciates Reggie Regrets comments. Wants to see Referendum continue another 5 years to enhance beauty of TOP and benefit recreation and youth programs.

RP stated does place and increase on residents, but a great value – benefits everyone in our community.

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.*

ROLL CALL CONSENT AGENDA

PASSED 5-0

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			

R2022-150

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, REGARDING THE DISCHARGE OF A DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS LIEN

R: 2022-151

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

R2022-152

A RESOLUTION IMPOSING LIEN FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES

R: 2022-153

A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING HANDICAP PARKING SPACES WITHIN THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG

R:2022-154

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR AN APPOINTMENT TO THE PHILLIPSBURG HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

R2022-155

RESOLUTION TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY APPROVING PERSON TO PERSON AND PLACE TO PLACE TRANSFER OF LIQUOR LICENSE FOR PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION

R2022-157

A RESOLUTION APPROVING 2022-2023 LIQUOR LICENSES WITHIN TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG

R2022-158

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING A REFUND OF ESCROW IN THE AMOUNT OF \$947.50 TO 125-165 Howard Street, LLC

R2022-159 (introduced after meeting began)

RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL’S SPECIAL CONDITIONS ON LIMITED BREWERY LICENSES

ROLL CALL R2022-156

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF LEGAL FEES INCURRED BY TODD TERSIGNI IN CONNECTION WITH HIS DUTIES AS MAYOR

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

Cnclmn Piazza questioned if this was in regard to a personal matter or related to Mayoral responsibilities.

Attny Wenner responded Mayor subpoenaed as a witness. Expenses incurred in defense as a subpoenaed witness only.

14. NEW BUSINESS

Cnclmn Piazza – moved to introduce Resolution in opposition of NJ ABC special conditions on limited brewery licensees. Cnclmn Marino Seconded the Motion.

Yeas: Wyant, Clark, Kennedy, Marino, Piazza

Nays: None

15. PUBLIC PETITIONS

16. COUNCIL OPEN TIME

17. MOTIONS

SPECIAL EVENTS APPLICATIONS- Iglesia Pentecostal – July 22 6:30-8:30 PM and July 23 2:00-4:00 PM.

Worship Service at Shappell Park. Local Church wanting to provide live worship music and uplifting word to the Community.

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			

18. EXECUTIVE SESSION -

R: 2022- 160

A RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE FOR AN EXECUTIVE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING redevelopment. No action to be taken.

VP Clark moved to go into Executive Session. The Motion was Seconded by Cnclmn Kennedy.

Motion to reconvene was given by Cnclmn Clark and seconded by Cnclmn Kennedy.

19. ADJOURNMENT

CP Wyant moved to adjourn at 8:58 PM.