

TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG

MEETING MINUTES

WORK SESSION – (ACTION MAY BE TAKEN)

MARCH 14, 2023 – 7:00PM

Congressman Tom Kean, Jr. announced on the evening Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> the FY2024 Community Project Funding Initiative application process which closes Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. Council will need to hold a work session on Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in order to pass a resolution of support.

**\*\* VIA ZOOM \*\***

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82404182484?pwd=VUI0dkFkQk9peXpXSW82WFBUCe1odz09>

Meeting ID: 824 0418 2484

Passcode: 937192

**CALL TO ORDER – VP CLARK**

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT STATEMENT – READ BY COUNCILMAN KENNEDY**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – ALL**

**INVOCATION – LED BY COUNCILMAN PIAZZA**

**ROLL CALL – PRESENT: CLARK, KENNEDY, MARINO PIAZZA**

**ABSENT: WYANT**

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

**NONE – CLOSED 7:03**

Mayor Tersigni thanked Tim O'Brien, Engineer and Matt Hall, BA for setting up Work Session quickly due to last minute information. He then spoke to Resolution 2023-48; which lists 5 Projects in order of priority:

1. Construction of and/or refurbishment/renovation of public safety facility housing the Phillipsburg Police Department and associated agencies as deemed necessary.
2. Mercer Street stormwater and water quality improvements addressing longstanding drainage issues.
3. Rehabilitation of Delaware River Park and repair of landfill cap within the park.
4. General town-wide stormwater repairs.
5. ADA/barrier free curb ramp improvements town-wide.

He shared his view that number 2. Mercer Street stormwater project should take the number 1 priority place as flooding has been going on in this area far too long. He asked Council to consider and re-

prioritize. Noted last flooding took a proactive approach by pumping water near the Hygrade building, but this was a temporary fix. Feels for downtown, businesses and residents great need.

**Discussion – Council**

Councilman Kennedy agreed with Mayor Tersigni. Also thanked Tim O’ Brien for assembling the five Projects listed in the Resolution. He noted all five Projects have merit, but hard to put anything ahead of the Mercer Street Project.

Councilman Piazza stated he spoke to residents and businesses in the area and feels this is a Public Health issue. He noted that last flooding caused basements to fill with water containing raw sewage, he stated this is a Public Health issue and a quality of life issue. He is in favor of making Mercer Street Project priority number one.

VP Clark agreed that Mercer Street Project should be priority number one. He stated the flooding is a huge issue and managing the stormwater needs to be a priority for our residents in that area.

Councilman Marino stated the residents in the Mercer/Sitgreaves Street area have been too long forgotten. He thanked Tim O’ Brien, BA Hall and Congressman. He noted that Mercer Street should be number one, but the Phillipsburg Police Department needing a public safety facility should not be forgotten. He continued, they are currently in a building owned by the Board of Education and should they change their mind, where would the Police go. He noted the General town wide stormwater repairs should be number 2, moved up from number 4.

**MOTION – to Amend R2023-48 – move Mercer Street Stormwater Project into the number 1 place**

Councilman Piazza moved to accept the amendment. The motion was seconded by Councilman Kennedy.

AYES: Clark, Kennedy, Marino, Piazza

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Wyant

**MOTION – R2023-48 – as amended**

Councilman Kennedy moved to accept the Resolution as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilman Piazza.

AYES: Clark, Kennedy, Marino, Piazza

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Wyant

Attorney Wenner explained a motion supporting the need or desire for submitting the Grant Application is warranted. He also noted Public Comments on any issue should be on the Agenda.

**MOTION** – Demonstrating support to submit a grant application

Councilman Piazza moved to support submission of Grant Application. The motion was seconded by Councilman Kennedy.

AYES: Clark, Kennedy, Marino, Piazza

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Wyant

VP Clark asked for Public Comment on any item and seeing none, he closed that segment and called for adjournment.

Councilman Piazza moved to adjourn.