

**TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG**  
**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**My 16<sup>TH</sup>, 2023 — 7:00 P.M.**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** **By CP Wyant**
- 2. OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT STATEMENT** **Read by CVP Clark**
- 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** **All**
- 4. INVOCATION** **Led by Councilman Piazza**
- 5. ROLL CALL** – Present - Wyant, Clark, Piazza, Marino, Kennedy

Absent - None

-Also in attendance: Attorney Galacio, Business Administrator Hall, Deputy Clerk Turner.

- 6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – April 18, 2023

**ROLL CALL** **Motion Carries** **4-0-1**

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

**7. BILLS LIST**

Councilman Marino questioned entry 1387 of \$44.50 for the Mayor’s vehicle. Mayor Tersigni replied he believed it was to replace a sensor and he will get more information.

**ROLL CALL** **Motion Carries** **5-0**

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

**8. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

7:06 PM Motion to enter Executive Session to discuss Personnel matters – No action will be taken.

**Motion to resume Open Public Session 7:42 PM**  
**ROLL CALL**

**Motion Carries 5-0**

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			

**9. MAYOR’S REPORT/ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS**

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

My Administration continues to work closely with the Police Department. On Monday morning I swore in Officer Matthew Nugent, enhancing the strength of our Police Department even further. Additionally, this evening Council will consider a resolution authorizing the purchase of surveillance camera equipment which will serve to keep our officers informed and the public safe. These cameras will augment the Police Department’s recent work of walking the beat in known problem areas and keeping our streets safe in response to recent incidents. I am committed to keeping our Police Department strong.

Repaving and reconstruction of the existing tennis court area in Walters Park, changing to one tennis court striped for pickleball in addition to tennis, as well as the addition of four pickleball courts and the replacement of two basketball goals, has been successfully rebid. I expect that a contract will be awarded for this important project soon. Also with regard to Recreation we will be extending early bird pool registration rates to residents until June 16th. Our Recreation Director Matthew Noel continues his diligent work of making the timely opening of the pool priority one. At the conclusion of my remarks, I will turn the floor over to Mr. Noel who will discuss his work to reconvene the Recreation and Open Space Committees.

Also on this evening’s agenda is also a discussion item regarding NJDOT local aid grant applications. I look forward to a productive discussion with Councilmembers on prioritization of these projects.

Finally, before turning it over to Mr. Noel I’d like to recognize the many volunteers who demonstrated their community spirit by coming out to the Bernadine May American Legion Post 457 over the weekend. It was heartening to see so many support this local pillar of our community. On that note the annual Memorial Day Parade will begin at Abbott and South Main Streets at 9:00 a.m., marching north to Shappell Park for a ceremony of remembrance. Immediately following the ceremony, I, along with Easton Mayor Sal Panto will participate in a wreath laying on the Delaware from the Free Bridge. With that, I will turn it over to our Recreation Director, Mr. Matthew Noel.

Respectfully Submitted, Todd M. Tersigni, Mayor

**Report by Recreation Supervisor Matthew Noel**

Matthew Noel reported on events and progress during his first month as Supervisor - The Home Run Derby was held at Walters Park. DPW did a good job on the field and they had the snack bar open. Lots of kids and families are using the park. The pool is his priority. He hired a manager with experience in aquatics as well as 13 other staff. He is hoping for a soft opening on May 27<sup>th</sup> but has run into delays getting an ADA compliant railing installed. He plans to definitely be open for the season on June 10<sup>th</sup>.

Matt stated that many positions on the Recreation/Open Space Committee are vacant or terms expired. He would like to hold an open meeting, see who wants to serve and start fresh. VCP Clark stated he was the Open Space liaison last year. CP Wyant stated that last year's council positions continue to this year.

**10. PUBLIC DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEMS**

CP Wyant reminded the audience they will be able to comment on/discuss Ordinance 2023-06 when it is up for discussion at 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading.

-Joe Meyner, 392 South Main Street, Phillipsburg – Mr. Meyner read the following statement

Town council - Ordinance 2023-09 -Upping the police department to 41.

First, correcting the false data.  $24 \times 365 = 8760$  hours/year,  $10 \times 48 = 1920$  hours/police year,  $2860/1920 = 4.6$  police employees to maintain 1 policeman 24/7.

Last I knew we had 24 patrolpersons and 9 officers (33). This averaged 5.7 patrolpersons (not 4) on duty 24/7. Whatever we actually have, that's where I start.

Rather than throwing more police at the problem let's try to solve it by supporting our police as suggested nationally. 1 new patrolperson bringing the on duty number to 6. One new officer (just for the hell of it). This brings the total to 35. Finally paid supporters on call from policeperson as follows:

Drug counselor, Trauma/rape counselor, Dispute (domestic and otherwise) counselor, Crazy person(s) counselor, Spanish speaker (to be eventually superseded by police)  
This should cost less than 5.7 police. Bringing the total police plus support cost equal to 41 police.

Ordinance 2023-10 - You are doing it again. The only item that should be bond financed is the fire truck. The rest should be in the budget including local road repair. It destroys our good credit to look good to the public.

CP Wyant state that Ordinance 2023-09 has been changed to eliminate the cap at 41 and will allow for as many as needed.

Joan Bishop, Prospect St, Phillipsburg – Asked how many officers will there be? Since Mother's Day there have been multiple incidents when other jurisdictions have been called in to assist. We will need more officers just to cover what is going on. Council should reconsider the ordinance.

**Public Discussion Session closed.**

**11. ORDINANCES FOR 2<sup>ND</sup> READING**

**ORDINANCE 2023-06 ORDINANCE AMENDING § 422-14 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG POOL RATES**

**ROLL CALL**

**Motion Carries**

**5-0**

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			
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Public Discussion – none

Council Discussion - none

**12. ORDINANCES FOR 1<sup>ST</sup> READING**

**ORDINANCE 2023-07**

AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING ARTICLE VIII – PAYMENT BY CREDIT CARD – OF CHAPTER 290 ENTITLED “FEES” TO AUTHORIZE CERTAIN FEE COLLECTION VIA THE MUNICIPALITY PROGRAM

**ROLL CALL**

**Motion Carries**

**5-0**

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			

**ORDINANCE 2023-08**

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE SALARY ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MOU WITH PBA LOCAL 56 AUTHORIZED BY RESOLUTION 2023-79

**ROLL CALL**

**Motion Carries**

**5-0**

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

**ORDINANCE 2023-09**

ORDINANCE AMENDING § 105-1 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG

**ROLL CALL**

**Motion Carries**

**5-0**

Councilmembers	First	Second	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Piazza	X		X			

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

**ORDINANCE 2023-10**

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS 2023 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BY AND FOR THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, IN THE COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING \$1,994,425 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,894,704 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWN TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF

**ROLL CALL**

**Motion Carries**

**5-0**

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

**\*\* Second reading and public hearing will occur on Tuesday, June 6, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. \*\***

**13. 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.*

**Resolution 2023-81**

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING HANDICAP PARKING SPACE WITHIN THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG

**Resolution 2023-82**

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING DISCHARGE OF FIREWORKS AT OLE TOWN FESTIVAL

**Resolution 2023-83**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF TAX OVER PAYMENT

**Resolution 2023-84**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN INCREASE OF BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,785.00 TO THE CONTRACTR FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES WITH RT ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC FOR CORLISS AVENUE ACM & MOLD ABATEMENT

**Resolution 2023-85**

RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL TO THE BETHLEHEM LANDFILL COMPANY

**Resolution 2023-86**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES WITH KING, MOENCH & COLLINS LLP

**Resolution 2023-87**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF SURVEILLANCE CAMERA SYSTEM COMPONENTS FROM JOHNSON CONTROLS UNDER STATE CONTRACT # CPQ-310107

**Resolution 2023-88**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYOUT OF ACCRUED SICK, VACATION AND COMPENSATORY LEAVE TO LORAINNE LOUDENBERRY

**Resolution 2023-89**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXTENSION OF EARLY POOL REGISTRATION RATES UNTIL JUNE 16TH, 2023

**Resolution 2023-90**

RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE INTO THE BUDGET PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A 40A:4-87

**Resolution 2023-91**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN INCREASE OF BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$14,997.00 TO THE CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES WITH RT ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC FOR MADISON PARK SOIL CAP DELINEATION AND WASTE CHARACTERIZATION

**Resolution 2023-92** RESOLUTION REQUESTING PERMISSION FOR THE DEDICATION BY RIDER FOR UEZ TRUST FUND PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 52:27 H-CO

**ROLL CALL**

**Motion Carries**

**5-0**

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

**14. OLD BUSINESS** – No Old Business

**15. NEW BUSINESS**

NJDOT grant applications – Tim O’Brien, Van Cleef Engineering, stated NJDOT Municipal Aid applications are due by July 1, 2023. This is the program funding Heckman Street Improvements and future Hudson Street improvements. A resolution must be submitted with the application and he requested

one be on the next meeting’s agenda. An email was sent to council outlining 5 projects from which 2 can be chosen.

US Forestry Grant – Mr. O’Brien emailed council regarding a US Forestry Grant for tree planting and management, removing hazardous trees, including youth participation and community partnerships over a 5-year period. He noted this will likely not to be offered again and removing hazardous trees and planting more trees improves the community and reduces street level temperature for the residents. It is titled the US Forest Service and USDA Urban and Community Forestry Inflation Reduction Act Grant and is 100% Federally funded with no cost share to the town.

**Resolution 2023-93 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PHILLIPSBURG TO ACCEPT US FOREST SERVICE AND USDA URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY INFLATION REDUCTION ACT GRANT.**

**ROLL CALL** **Motion Carries 5-0**

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			

**16. MOTIONS**

Fire Department application – Stephen Smith

**Motion to approve Fire Department application**

**ROLL CALL** **Motion Carries 5-0**

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			

**SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATIONS**

Ole Town Festival – June 17, 2023

Delaware River Sojourn Conclusion – June 23, 2023

**Motion to approve Special Events**

**ROLL CALL** **Motion Carries 5-0**

Councilmembers	First	Second	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent

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

**17. PUBLIC PETITIONS**

Pete Dafelo 913 Gate St, Valley View, Phillipsburg – While working in the back yard he smelled sewage. A manhole cover in the neighbors back yard at 901 Gate Street had water coming up through it and the water was running into his yard. The neighbor said it has been ongoing for years but each time the town sent someone out to look at it, the water had subsided. She never had any other response from the town regarding this issue. Mr. Defalo stated it is a serious health hazard and he cannot sell the property without this being remedied. CP Wyant asked Business Administrator Matt Hall to contact DPW tomorrow. Mr. Defalo spoke with Dan Baransky earlier today.

Ann Davis, 222 Rose St, Phillipsburg– stated there is a rumor going around that free family pool passes are being given out. CP Wyant does not know of any municipal plan offering that. Matt Hall will investigate it.

Kelly Lefler, 549 Congress St, Phillipsburg – On Mother’s Day, as her daughter was driving from her residence, her car, with her family inside, was hit with water pellet projectiles shot by a group of young people. She stated the police are having a hard time dealing with all the calls.

Meliss Paulus, 26A Glenn Ave, Phillipsburg – Ms. Paulus noted there has been no action regarding adding a virtual (Zoom) aspect to the Town Council meetings. CP Wyant stated that a poll of the council indicated that it was not favored now due to the cost. Cameras and microphones would have to be purchased and installed and a different Zoom subscription would be required. Ms. Paulus asked about the Town Wide Yard Sale and was told it is the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in June, as per the ordinance. She requested that the Bills List include revenue information including month to month and year to year comparisons.

Dave Morrisette, 5 Fairview Heights, Phillipsburg – Mr. Morrisette stated that having Town Council meetings virtually is more involved than when members meet virtually from home for work sessions because special cameras, network links, speakers and microphones are needed. He presented a crystal ball and a Magic 8 Ball to the Town Council.

Joan Pierce, Prospect St, Phillipsburg – Ms. Pierce stated Mr. Morrisette’s actions were not funny. She also stated the flyer for pool passes was from the Youth Center.

Dan Tyler, 22 N Main St, Phillipsburg – Mr. Tyler asked how far away the Bethlehem and Chrin landfills are and how the transportation costs were included in the bid proposals. CP Wyant stated that transportation costs were not part of the bid as those are a municipal cost, not a landfill cost.

**Public Petitions closed.**

**18. COUNCIL OPEN TIME**

Councilman Marino – No comments

Councilman Piazza – suggested discussing/looking into online virtual meeting options during a Work Session. He attended an archery tournament in Kentucky where his daughter finished in the top 5% which qualifies her for the National event.

Councilman Kennedy – stated that at the last meeting a resident asked why council was funding a library no one goes to. He collected the following information: In 2022 there were 24,229 library visits

which equated to 1027 each month, 468 each week, 94 each day. From January to April 2023 there have been 9,770 visits, 2233 each month, 113 each week 54/d 20% increase over the same period last year. There have been 97 new members registered through May 9th versus 78 in the same period in 2022. The library is flourishing.

Council Vice President Clark – offered congratulations to Kanje Moody, recipient of Citizen’s Bank Community award of \$10,000. He congratulated them on being amazing business owners and standout citizens. He reminded residents the library is hosting its 100<sup>th</sup> year celebration on June 21<sup>st</sup> from 4:30 to 7:30 PM.

**19. ADJOURNMENT - 8:43 PM**

Councilman Piazza moved to adjourn. Seconded by Councilman Kennedy.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Absent: 0