

**TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG**

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**October 3, 2023 — 7:00 P.M.**

1. **CALL TO ORDER 7:00 pm** **By CP Wyant**
2. **OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT STATEMENT** **Read by CVP Clark**
3. **MOMENT OF SILENCE** – CP Wyant asked for a moment of silence in honor of the passing of Bob Stem.
4. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** **All**
5. **INVOCATION** **Led by CVP Clark**
6. **ROLL CALL** – Present - Wyant, Clark, Marino, Kennedy  
Absent - Piazza  
  
-Also in attendance: Mayor Tersigni, Business Administrator Hall, Attorney Wenner, Deputy Clerk Turner.
7. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** - Contract Negotiations

**ROLL CALL Motion to enter Executive Session at 7:02 pm Motion Carries 4-0**

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			

**ROLL CALL return from Executive Session at 7:21 pm**

Councilmembers	Present	Absent
Councilman Piazza		X
Councilman Marino	X	
Councilman Kennedy	X	
Council VP Clark	X	
Council President Wyant	X	

**8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 19, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes**

**ROLL CALL**

**Motion Carries 4-0**

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			

**9. BILLS LIST –**

**ROLL CALL**

**Motion Carries 4-0**

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			

**10. ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS – None**

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

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

October 3, 2023

I am pleased to announce that the groundbreaking of McWane Field at Walters Park will take place on Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. this is a huge achievement for our town and I hope to see you all there. Our pickleball and basketball courts continue to move towards full completion as well. Recently we received a much needed area in need of redevelopment designation for the former Norton Complex from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, and we’ve also received a proposed PILOT agreement from the developer of the former Elks building. Development continues to flourish in Phillipsburg. Preparations have already begun for the remediation of the Corliss Avenue building and we await the commencement of active mitigation work in mid-October.

I am also working with County of Warren on a comprehensive truck plan and will be presenting an ordinance to Council for passage at our next meeting.

As previously discussed, I’ve presented my appointees for the Open Space Committee, and I encourage Council to act upon the remaining vacancies this evening so that the Town can move forward with Green Acres.

Lastly, when reviewing the UCR “Uniform Crime Statistics”, there has been an increase of one crime “443 to 442” from 2022 to 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd M. Tersigni, Mayor of Phillipsburg

**12. PUBLIC DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEMS**

None - Public Discussion Session closed.

**13. ORDINANCES FOR 2<sup>ND</sup> READING –**

O2023-14 ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING ARTICLE XXI – HISTORIC PRESERVATION – OF CHAPTER 625 ENTITLED “ZONING” TO MODIFY DEADLINES APPLICABLE TO THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

Public Discussion – None  
Council Discussion – None

**ROLL CALL**

**Motion Carries**

**4-0**

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			

**14. ORDINANCES FOR 1ST READING – No ordinances for first reading**

**15. 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.*

R2023-178 RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE BUDGET OF ANY COUNTY OR MUNICIPALITY PURSUANT TO N.J.S. 40A:4-87 (CHAPTER 159, P.L. 1948)

R2023-179 RESOLUTION DESIGNATING HANDICAP PARKING SPACES WITHIN THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG

R2023-180 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A REFUND OF PAVILION RENTAL FEES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$125.00 TO SHANNON STEVENS

R2023-181 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE BOND FOR ALL STATE TECHNOLOGY

R2023-182 RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CORRECTION ACTION PLAN

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

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. OLD BUSINESS –**

McDonald’s Sidewalk waiver – postponed to the October 17, 2023 meeting.

**17. NEW BUSINESS – No New Business****18. MOTIONS –**

Open Space Committee Appointments

Mayoral:

Steve Stocker  
 Kelly Lefler  
 Tina Longacre  
 Nancy Reilly

Council:

Meliss Paulus  
 Kelly Post-Sheedy  
 Tim Berger  
 Bill Benz

Councilman Marino moved to carry the appointments to the October 17, 2023 meeting because Councilman Piazza is not in attendance and because there has been no Open Space Committee meeting in at least a year and a half. No second for the motion. Motion failed.

CP Wyant stated that no vote is held for the Mayoral appointments. Attorney Wenner confirmed there is one resident on the committee so Council will vote on two additional Resident appointments and one Alternate Council appointment. There is no Recreation Advisory Board member for vote tonight. The terms will be staggered.

CVP Clark moved to appoint Bill Benz for one Resident appointment

**ROLL CALL****Motion Carries****3-1**

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			

CVP Clark moved to appoint Kelly Post-Sheedy for the second Resident appointment

**ROLL CALL**

**Motion Carries**

**3-1**

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			

CVP Clark moved to appoint Tim Berger for Alternate Council appointment

**ROLL CALL**

**Motion Carries**

**3-1**

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			

**19. PUBLIC PETITIONS**

-Ann Davis, 220 Willow St, Phillipsburg – asked if all the “match” funding for the Cal Ripken field has been secured. Administrator Hall stated there is no “match” for the town. Council is utilizing the \$300,000 Bridge had allocated for Recreation as the town’s portion for the field. Ms. Davis asked for an accounting of MPP funds and how they are spent. CP Wyant stated she should contact Mr. Hall who can get the information from the CFO. She also stated there has been no Recreation Advisory Committee for over a year so there will be no appointment for the Open Space Committee.

-Matthew Scerbo, 1073 Pearl St, Phillipsburg – It is redundant for the Mayor to include encouragement in his report to appoint Open Space Committee members tonight when there has not been a committee in almost two years. The Mayor had championed cleaning up blight in town but along South Main St, the Ice House and old Agway site are still a blight after four years. As a gateway to the town, it would be a great place to start. The Mayor had a chance to sign off on the RAD program which would have demo’d the 1930’s Housing Authority buildings and built new ones. Mr. Scerbo doesn’t feel the town is doing a good job cleaning up the town.

-Stuart Ridley, 198 Summit Ave, Phillipsburg – thanked Council President Wyant for all he has done for the town, as Mayor, as a Councilmember and especially as Council President. He has brought a sense of decorum to the Council.

-Dan Boyce, 58 Sitgreaves St, Phillipsburg – asked that the Green Space dealings be voided as it is political grandstanding. There has been no Green Space committee for two years but a month before the election, it must be done now. One appointee had been removed from a youth organization and shouldn’t be involved where children are involved. If it is not voided, “I will personally beat everyone in the head with the facts of what is going on”.

**Public Petitions closed.**

**20. COUNCIL OPEN TIME**

Councilman Marino – No comments.

Councilman Kennedy – Coach Stem had a lot of influence in his life. CM Kennedy was coached by him and is the reason he got into coaching himself. Coach Stem will be missed a lot. On a personal note, at his last oncology visit CM Kennedy was declared cancer free. He thanked his family and friends and residents for their support. He encouraged everyone to get cancer screenings.

Council Vice President Clark – Congratulated CM Kennedy on his diagnosis. It is a positive story for others dealing with cancer. CVP Clark announced several upcoming events:

October 29<sup>th</sup> at 10 am the Fall Festival will be held at the Open Air Market

October 29<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm Phillipsburg Easton Halloween parade

November 27<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm the Phillipsburg Tree Lighting

As the Council Liaison for the Open Space Committee, he thanked the Mayor and Council for their appointments. He is looking forward to the next steps with Green Acres and future Recreation programs and opportunities.

Council President Wyant – No comments.

**21. ADJOURNMENT – 7:45 PM**

Council VP Clark moved to adjourn. Seconded by Councilman Marino.

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

Absent: 1

Motion passed.