

TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG

2024 REORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 01, 2024 — 2:00 P.M.

1. SWEARING-IN OF MAYOR-ELECT AND COUNCILMEMBERS- ELECT

Oath of Office – Mayor Randy Piazza, Jr sworn in by New Jersey State Representative Tom Kean, Jr.

Oath of Office - Councilwoman Meliss Paulus sworn in by Mayor Randy Piazza, Jr.

Oath of Office - Councilman Matthew Scerbo sworn in by former Council President Robert Fulper.

2. OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT STATEMENT – Read by Attorney Wenner

3. SELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON-PRO-TEMPORE Attorney Wenner asked for a motion for Selection of Chairperson Pro-Tempore - Councilman Marino nominated Attorney Richard Wenner to serve as Chairperson-Pro-Tempore. No other nominations were received.

Roll Call

Passed 5-0

Councilmembers	First	Second	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Clark			X			
Councilman Kennedy		X	X			
Councilman Marino	X		X			
Councilwoman Paulus			X			
Councilman Scerbo			X			

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE -

By All

5. INVOCATION

Led by Mayor Piazza

6. SELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Attorney Wenner asked for nominations for Council President for calendar year 2024.

Councilman Scerbo nominated Councilman Marino for Council President. No other nominations were received.

Roll Call

Passed 5-0

Councilmembers	First	Second	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Clark			X			
Councilman Kennedy			X			
Councilman Marino			X			
Councilwoman Paulus		X	X			

Councilman Scerbo	X		X			
-------------------	---	--	---	--	--	--

Attorney Wenner noted Motion carries and offered his congratulations. Attorney Wenner swore in Council President Marino and handed over the gavel.

7. SINGING OF OUR NATIONAL ANTHEM BY MS. DANI FINKEN

8. SELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT

CP Marino asked for nominations for Council Vice President.

Councilman Scerbo nominated Councilwoman Paulus for Vice President. No other nominations were received.

Roll Call

Passed 4-0-1-0

Councilmembers	First	Second	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Clark			X			
Councilman Kennedy			X			
Council President Marino		X	X			
Councilwoman Paulus					X	
Councilman Scerbo	X		X			

9. ROLL CALL – Present - Clark, Kennedy, Scerbo, CVP Paulus, CP Marino

10. PUBLIC DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEMS

Seeing none closed to Public.

11. CONFIRMATION OF MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS

- I. Attorney: Rich Wenner, Esq., Lavery, Selvaggi, Abromitis & Cohen
- II. Auditor: Heidi Wohlleb, Nisivoccia & Company, LLP
- III. Bond Counsel: Everett M. Johnson, Esq., Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer
- IV. Municipal Engineer: Stanley Schrek, PE, Van Cleef Engineering
- V. Wastewater Engineer: Dennis Yoder, PE, Remington and Vernick
- VI. Municipal Prosecutor: Steven Siegel, Esq.
- VII. Financial Advisor: Phoenix Advisors
- VIII. Risk Manager: Acrisure and Fairview Associates
- IX. Insurance Consultant: Acrisure
- X. Municipal Planner: Van Cleef Engineering

Roll Call**Mayoral Appointments****Passed 5-0**

Councilmembers	First	Second	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Clark			X			
Councilman Kennedy			X			
Councilman Scerbo	X		X			
Council VP Paulus		X	X			
Council President Marino			X			

12. ORDINANCES 1st READING

O2024-01 AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING CHAPTER 5, ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT, SECTION 27, MEETINGS, IN ORDER TO ADJUST THE SCHEDULE OF COUNCIL MEETINGS.

Roll Call**Passed 5-0**

Councilmembers	First	Second	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Clark			X			
Councilman Kennedy			X			
Councilman Scerbo	X		X			
Council VP Paulus		X	X			
Council Pres Marino			X			

O2024-02 AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY ESTABLISHING TITLES AND SALARY RANGES APPLICABLE THERETO.

Roll Call**Passed 3-2**

Councilmembers	First	Second	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Clark				X		
Councilman Kennedy				X		
Councilman Scerbo		X	X			
Council VP Paulus	X		X			
Council President Marino			X			

11. 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

R2024-01

A RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE TEMPORARY BUDGET FOR 2024 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOCAL BUDGET ACT

R2024-02

A RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE FOR AN ADOPTION OF A TEMPORARY BUDGET FOR DEBT SERVICE FOR THE YEAR 2024 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE LOCAL BUDGET ACT

R2024-03

A RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADOPTION OF A TEMPORARY BUDGET FOR THE SEWER UTILITY FUND FOR 2024 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOCAL BUDGET ACT

R2024-04

A RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE FOR AN ADOPTION OF A TEMPORARY BUDGET FOR DEBT SERVICE FOR THE YEAR 2024 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE LOCAL BUDGET ACT

R2024-05

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING COUNCIL MEETING DATES FOR 2024

R2024-06

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING SEWER COMMITTEE MEETING DATES FOR 2024

R2024-08

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG

R2024-09

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TOWN ATTORNEY AND/OR SPECIAL TAX COUNSEL TO EXECUTE STIPULATIONS, CORRECT ASSESSMENTS IN TAX COURT, FILE ADDED, OMITTED, OMITTED/ADDED ASSESSMENTS, ROLL-BACK TAX COMPLAINTS AND TAX APPEALS

R2024-10

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PETTY CASH FUNDS FOR 2024

R2024-11

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHANGE FUNDS FOR VARIOUS MUNICIPAL OFFICES AND DEPARTMENTS

R2024-12

A RESOLUTION APPROVING LIST FOR TOWING SERVICES WITHIN THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG FOR 2024

R2024-13

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION TO ISSUE REFUNDS WITHOUT COUNCIL APPROVAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50.00 OR LESS

R2024-14

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MUNICIPAL CLERK TO ADMINISTER ALL GAMES OF CHANCE LICENSES FOR THE YEAR 2024

ROLL CALL

Consent Agenda minus R2023-07

Passed 5-0

Councilmembers	First	Second	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Clark		X	X			
Councilman Kennedy			X			
Councilman Scerbo	X		X			
Council VP Paulus			X			
Council President Marino			X			

R2024-07 – Pulled from Consent Agenda by Councilman Kennedy

A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG

Councilman Kennedy motioned to amend R2023-07 to include Tap Into. Tap Into reaches a lot of residents in Phillipsburg and covers many local events. CP Marino requested Counsel’s opinion. Attorney Wenner stated that according to state regulations, an official newspaper must be one that publishes, not just digital media. Tap Into does not publish. Councilman Clark moved to amend R2024-07 to include Tap Into only to receive notifications. CP Marino is concerned this would allow any other news organization to request the same. CVP Paulus suggested requiring a filing fee for requested documents. Councilman Scerbo noted that Tap Into had the incorrect date for this meeting and he feels some of their stories are biased.

Roll Call

Amend R2024-07 to add Tap Into to receive notices

Failed 2-3

Councilmembers	First	Second	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Clark	X		X			
Councilman Kennedy		X	X			
Councilman Scerbo				X		
Council VP Paulus				X		
Council President Marino				X		

Roll Call**Adopt R2024-07 as written****Passed 5-0**

Councilmembers	First	Second	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Clark			X			
Councilman Kennedy			X			
Councilman Scerbo	X		X			
Council VP Paulus		X	X			
Council President Marino			X			

12. NEW BUSINESS - None**13. OLD BUSINESS - None**

14. PUBLIC PETITIONS – Ann Davis, 222 Willow St, Phillipsburg, asked for an accounting of the NPP account, which she has requested for the last 17 weeks. She wants to see how the state grant money is being spent.

15. COUNCIL OPEN TIME

Councilman Clark – he is looking forward to working with the new administration and new council members. He wants to continue moving forward and put the people of Phillipsburg first.

Councilman Kennedy – congratulated Mayor Piazza, welcomed Councilwoman Paulus and Councilman Scerbo. We all want to see Phillipsburg succeed and he looks forward to working with them.

Councilman Scerbo – thanked all who came to the meeting tonight and all who voted. He agrees with Councilmen Kennedy and Clark to work together for the betterment of the town and the people. He wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Council VP Paulus – thanked everyone for coming to the meeting tonight, family, friends, voters, and legislature. She looks forward to working with everyone and doing what is best for the town. She congratulated Mayor Piazza and looks forward to the next four years.

Council President Marino – thanked everyone for coming. Four years ago we could have had the town where it should have been, a destination, not a floor mat. He will work to move Phillipsburg forward, stop shootings, and clean up the town. He congratulated the new Council members and Mayor.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF REQUIRED) - None**17. ADJOURNMENT 2:29 PM**

Councilman Scerbo motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Councilman Clark. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent:0. Motion passed.