

NEW PHILADELPHIA CITY COUNCIL MET IN REGULAR SESSION IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON JUNE 24TH, 2013 WITH PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL, SAM HITCHCOCK, PRESIDING.

MR. HITCHCOCK OFFERED A PRAYER AND A SPECIAL BLESSING FOR SOME OF OUR FAMILY MEMBERS WHO ARE STRUGGLING WITH DIFFICULT TIMES. "OUR TREASURER LORI STATLER SUFFERING THE LOSS OF HER FATHER WE ASK THAT YOUR BE WITH THE FAMILY AND GIVE THEM COMFORT. WE ALSO ASK THAT YOU BE WITH COUNCIL MEMBER WINNIE WALKER AND SAFETY DIRECTOR GREG POPHAM AS THEY STRUGGLE WITH SOME ILLNESS IN THEIR FAMILIES."

ALL IN ATTENDANCE RECITED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

- MS. SANDY COX
- MS. COLLEEN ESPENSCHIED
- MR. DAN LANZER
- MR. DARRIN LAUTENSCHLEGER
- MS. WINNIE WALKER
- MR. JOHN ZUCAL

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL SAM HITCHCOCK ANNOUNCED MAYOR MICHAEL TAYLOR, TREASURER LORI STATLER AND COUNCIL MEMBER MR. ROB MAURER ARE EXCUSED FROM TONIGHT'S MEETING.

MS. COX MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT TONIGHT'S AGENDA

MR. ZUCAL SECONDED THE MOTION

ROLL CALL, 6 YEAS, MOTION PASSED.

MS. COX MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 10TH, 2013

MS. WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION

ROLL CALL, 6 YEAS, MOTION PASSED.

CORRESPONDENCE..... CLERK, PATRICIA MCKAY

1. Revised Public Works and Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes from June 10th, 2013
2. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes dated Monday, June 10th, 2013
3. City of New Philadelphia Airport Commission Meeting Minutes from Tuesday May 14th, 2013
4. May 2013 Month End Summary for the New Philadelphia Fire Department
5. Copy of Letter dated June 13th, 2013 from Mayor Taylor to Governor John Kasich in regard to Local Government Funds and Estate Taxes. (originally Clerk had read as letter from Governor John Kasich)
6. Letter dated June 21st, 2013 from Debbie Aubihl-Knisely Administrative Director of the New Philadelphia Business & Community Association 's Board & Members stating they are in support of the City of New Philadelphia passing a 3% Lodging Tax.
7. Letter dated June 20th, 2013 from Dee Grossman, Executive Director of the Tuscarawas County Convention and Visitors Bureau, encouraging the passage of the proposed 3% Lodging Tax stating once passed asking the money be used to further business development in the City.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

MAYOR'S REPORT/REQUESTS.....MAYOR MICHAEL TAYLOR.....NO REPORT
EXCUSED ABSENCE

SERVICE DIRECTOR.....MR. JAMES ZUCAL

Mr. Zucal reported the following:

- The Five Point Storm Sewer bid package was opened. Tucson Inc. of New Philadelphia Ohio was low bidder. Construction will begin in July 2013 for the Five Point Storm Sewer Project. (From five points proceeding south down 7th Street under the Railroad through Gradall's property to the River)
- CDBG bid package was opened Mid-Ohio Contracting and Concrete were low bidder. (Maple Avenue new curbs, sidewalk, gutter, and catch basins.) This will last about three weeks; begins July 8th, 2013(attentive start date) and will be finished before first day of school.
- The paving is gearing up as ODOT has awarded paving for State Route 39 and East High which is 259.

At the out skirts of the City, they are starting to bring in the equipment and do some preliminary work. There will be a lot of paving in the community in the City this year and in the area. Mr. Zucal announced that later in the summer we'll look forward to Fourth Street being paved to the Corporation Limits.

- Mr. Zucal commended the Mayor for all his work in obtaining grant funds for the Five Point Project and just so everyone would know recognized Amy Gilland, Assistant Service Director who worked on this also and did a fine job putting all this information together. Mr. Zucal displayed the scope and the size of the packet for the ODWA application. The Service Director commented to fill this out takes a lot of work and a lot of time and again Mayor Taylor is very diplomatic and did a nice job with that and complimented Ms. Gilland for doing a lot of the actual work herself.

President of Council Sam Hitchcock comments:

“Please pass on our congratulations/appreciation for the work Ms. Gilland did.”

“I join with many others in hoping the Storm Sewer Project will correct our flooding problem at these intersections.”

Mr. Zucal’s reply:

“As we reminded everyone this year, the impact will be noticed next year the whole system is tied together but it is part of a big picture and a big plan. We think we really worked hard in making sure we covered all the bases and all what needs to be done to make sure that it is done properly.”

AUDITORMS. BETH GUNDY.....NO REPORT

SAFETY DIRECTOR.....MR. GREG POPHAM.....NO REPORT

TREASURERMS. LORI STATLER.....NO REPORT
EXCUSED ABSENCE

LAW DIRECTORMR. MARVIN FETE

Mr. Fete reported that over the past week he has had a number of consultations with Ryan Styer, Tuscarawas County Prosecutor’s office regarding the vandalism that was done to the New Philadelphia High School by Dover students. What to do on the felony level was handled by Mr. Styler and any decisions regarding the misdemeanor charges would be handled by the New Philadelphia Prosecutors’ office, which falls under the Law Director auspices, will be handled by Doug Jackson. That will be done after we review all the facts and talk to all the participants and determine how we are going to handle that. The Law Director announced the he may have further comments when it comes time for the meeting on the tax lodging but at this time he doesn’t have anything.

BOARD/COMMISSION REPORTS:

PLANNING COMMISSION.....MAYOR MICHAEL TAYLOR..... EXCUSED ABSENCE

Mr Zucal reported there was no Planning Commission Meeting in the month of June. Mr. Zucal announced that the Planning Commission Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 9th, 2013 at 1:00 PM in Council Chambers pending an agenda.

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS.....MR. JAMES ZUCAL.....

Mr. Zucal announced the Board of Zoning Appeal’s next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, July 9th, 2013 at 5:00 PM in Council Chambers depending on whether or not there are any various requests. At this time there are not any.

AIRPORT COMMISSION..... MR. JOHN ZUCAL

Mr. John Zucal announced pending a quorum, the Airport Commission will meet Tuesday, July 9th, 2013 at 6:00 PM at the Airport meeting room.

PARK BOARD..... MR. DARRIN LAUTENSCHLEGER.....NO REPORT

HEALTH BOARD.....MS. SANDY COX

Ms. Cox announced that the next scheduled meeting for the Health Board is Wednesday, July 17th, 2013 at 12:00 Noon at the Health Department.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE COMMITTEE. MS. SANDY COX

Ms. Cox announced the Finance Committee will meet tonight in Council Chambers 5 to 10 minutes following the regular session of Council in regard to the Lodging Tax.

Ms. Cox also announced that she will be scheduling a Finance Committee Meeting July 8th, 2013 immediately following the 7:00 PM Public Hearing.

SALARY COMMITTEEMR. JOHN ZUCAL....NO REPORT

**SAFETY HEALTH & SERVICE COMMITTEEMR. ROB MAURER....NO REPORT
EXCUSED ABSENCE**

PUBLIC WORKS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ...MR. DARRIN LAUTENSCHLEGER

Mr. Lautenschleger reported the Public Works & Economic Development Committee met this evening at 6:45 PM in Council Chambers with one subject to discuss on the agenda and that was the update from the Park Board Members about a Master Plan concept for the South Side Community Park.

Joining the Public Works & Economic Development Committee were Park Board Member President Don Kemp, member Mike Ernest and Dave Frantz along with Ted Hardesty from Edge Landscape and Paul W. Garland who is director for Legat and Kingscott from Columbus which is a Recreational Planning Firm.

Mr. Kemp updated the committee members and explained that over the last 18 months Park Board Members have been discussing the future of the South Side Community Park and decided that it is important to obtain the assistance of a professional planning firm to discuss the future of that facility.

They have recognized that it has started to be used more frequently by Community Members, School Systems and other events in the community. They have reached that point where it is important to receive that outside assistance.

Both Mr. Garland and Mr. Hardesty provided a little background on their firms and their expertise. Some of the work they have dealt with range from Civic and Community Projects to Urban Planning as well as other community types of projects. They would encourage quite a bit of community input through forming community focus groups and other ways of obtaining public input through that process.

Mr. Kemp did explain that the Master Planning Process would probably cost in the range of 15 to 30 thousand dollars depending on what type of process would be selected by the Park Board. They will be looking for funding sources for that in the upcoming months. They hope to kick that off as soon as possible.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.

ZONING & ANNEXATION COMMITTEEMS. COLLEEN ESPENSCHIED....NO REPORT

CONTACT & SPECIAL COMMITTEE MR. DAN LANZER....NO REPORT

PARKS & CEMETERY COMMITTEEMS. WINNIE WALKER....NO REPORT

VISITOR’S COMMENTS:

- Cheryl Ramos
759 Ray Avenue NW
New Philadelphia, Ohio 44663

Ms. Ramos is a taxpayer, wife mother and concerned resident who addressed Council (stewards of the taxpayer’s money) with the following comments and concerns:

Two weeks ago, Ms. Ramos attended the Finance Committee and Council Meetings.

She stated that several different options were presented to avoid an anticipated 2 million dollar budget deficit.

- One was raising our income tax rate to 2.25% on earned income which was accepted by council members. (If accepted by the voters this option would give Council and City Management time to study the budget and see where spending cuts could be made.)

Ms. Ramos’ comments:

- At the first council meeting she attended in January, Council approved retroactive pay raises back to January 2012 for certain officials and is still granting retroactive pay raises knowing that the money will not be there to pay for these increases and continue to provide services to residents.

- The City Budget should be carefully scrutinized and managed.
Many residents and taxpayers have lost jobs, benefits and have not had wage increases for over two years, but the cost of living keeps rising. Yet, we the taxpayer have to live within our income.
- There should not be a question of possibly raising taxes until the budget is balanced.
(No resident should be punished because the City Budget was not carefully scrutinized and managed.)

Ms. Ramos' concern:

"If the budget is not balanced now, all residents in New Philadelphia will be negatively affected".

Ms Ramos thanked everyone for their time.

- Debbie Aubihl-Knisely
322 Bowers Avenue NW3
New Philadelphia, Ohio 44663
New Philadelphia Business and Community Association,
126 East High Avenue,
New Philadelphia, Ohio 44663
Debbie Aubihl-Knisely, Administrative Director, of New Philadelphia Business and Community Association

Ms. Knisely updated Council on the NPBCA activities:

May 2013 was Clean - Up in the City with the help of the following:

New Philadelphia High School
Welty Middle School
Rotary Club
Kiwanis and
Many volunteers

July 25th, 26th and 27th, 2013 Beach Theme for the Sidewalk Sale

August 17th, 2013 will be the Artists and Merchants Walk headed by George Laurence and Bill Weisgarber

September 7th, 2013 the Classic Corvette Car Show

Ms. Knisely announced that she welcomed new ideas or suggestion:

She is in her office Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, and all day Thursday. Just give her a call.

She thanked everyone for all their support and efforts and the time tonight.

President of Council Sam Hitchcock welcomed Ms. Knisely to her new position and stated that we are looking forward to her future reports.

- Mr. Jeff Graham,
1780 Hicks Ave NE
New Philadelphia, Ohio 44663
Mr. Jeff Graham, President of and representing the New Philadelphia Quaker Club
"I am here on behalf of the Lodge Tax. Later I would like to share our concerns on why we feel we should be included in this debate as to how we are going to set aside or possibly use the tax money. We have a lot of good issues; what we have provided for the City in terms of renovation work, how we do bring in income. Because of that, I would just like to be a part of that later this evening."

President of Council Sam Hitchcock thanked Mr. Graham and did confirm that there will be a meeting on the bed tax following the Council meeting tonight.

READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCES:

- 6-2013 AN ORDINANCE BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW PHILADELPHIA, OHIO TO PERMANENTLY REZONE CERTAIN LAND LOCATED AT 655 WABASH AVENUE NW FROM RESIDENTIAL TO BUSINESS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (4TH READING)
- 11-2013 AN ORDINANCE BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW PHILADELPHIA, OHIO TO REPEAL EXISTING ORDINANCE 767.05 (a) THROUGH (i) AND ENACTING NEW SECTION 767.05 (a) THROUGH (i), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (1ST READING)

RESOLUTIONS:

- 20-2013 A RESOLUTION BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW PHILADELPHIA, OHIO TO PAY FORMER NEW PHILADELPHIA POLICE CHIEF JEFFREY L. URBAN FOR UNUSED VACATION EXISTING AT THE TIME OF HIS RETIREMENT ON MARCH 22ND, 2013 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (3RD READING)

Comment from Council Member John Zucal

“Just before I make a formal movement for that resolution I did want to clarify to the members of the audience and members of the media as well, Resolution 20-2013 addresses the payment of vacation time for Chief Urban after I conversed with and received a report from the Law Director we are continuing with past practice to be fair and just with Mr. Urban in receiving his payment for his unused vacation time. And future issues such as this will be addressed in the new Handbook that is being drafted by the City of New Philadelphia given those comments I do move that resolution 20-2013 be passed.”

Motion to vote on passage made by Mr. Zucal, seconded by Mr. Lanzer
Roll call, 6 yeas resolution passed

- 21-2013 A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NECESSITY OF AN ELECTION ON THE QUESTION ON APPROVING THE PASSAGE OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 51-2003 PROVIDING FOR AN INCREASE OF THREE FOURTHS (¾%) IN THE EXISTING INCOME TAX LEVIED BY THE CITY OF NEW PHILADELPHIA, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2014 AND CONTINUING UNTIL REVOKED, TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (1ST READING)

- 22-2013 A RESOLUTION BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW PHILADELPHIA, OHIO TO REPEAL RESOLUTION NO. 9-2007, WHICH CREATED FUND #420 KNOWN AS THE FIRE EQUIPMENT AND CAPITAL FUND AS THIS ACCOUNT WILL NO LONGER BE UTILIZED BY THE CITY AND SAID FUNDS WILL NOW BE PLACED IN THE GENERAL FUND, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (1ST READING)

UNFINISHED OR OLD BUSINESS:

NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

Council Member Zucal shared a commendation with the Service Director and the members of the General Services offices. As you know many times we do receive information into our laps as being a Ward Representative for Council as to ways we can help our citizens. I know in many different circumstances throughout the past year any time a resident has addressed a concern question for assistance to me I've been able to forward to the Service Director Office or the General Services they have responded in a very efficient manner and I've heard nothing but great things back from the Citizens of New Philadelphia in regard to those efforts and I know from time to time we get caught up in the pace of things we don't always have time to share that on council floor. Those services and work of many are keeping the City looking good and helping our residence with many of their issues is deeply appreciated by the folks out there and myself as a members of Council.

President of Council Mr. Sam Hitchcock Thanked Mr. Zucal and stated that his comments are well taken.

The President reminded everyone that prior to the next meeting we have here, we will be celebrating the 36th Annual First Town Days Festival. This is the City's Festival a Family event that start entertaining young children the baby contest and we go all the way up to senior citizens and everybody in between. It is a great festival it is a great time and celebrates a very important week-end over the Fourth of July and we need to remember the reason why we have the Independence we have today and the freedoms we have. We hope that everybody has a great time over the Fourth of July Holiday and welcome you all out to the festival.

John Zucal just for the record, the City Slickers defeated Dover last year and I'm presuming that will be the case again this year.

President of Council Mr. Sam Hitchcock stated he hopes Mr. Zucal is right.

President of Council Mr. Sam Hitchcock encouraged everyone to come to the game and cheer for their home team.

Mr. Hitchcock reminded everyone of the Finance Committee Meeting on the Bed Tax Issue tonight following the Council Meeting.

MS. COX MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:57 PM.

CLERK OF COUNCIL _____

APPROVED _____

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL _____