

NEW PHILADELPHIA CITY COUNCIL MET FOR A SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON THURSDAY, JULY 30TH, 2015 AT 7:00 PM WITH PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL SAM HITCHCOCK PRESIDING.

MR. HITCHCOCK OFFERED A PRAYER, AND ALL IN ATTENDANCE RECITED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

***THIS SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL WAS CALLED BY MAYOR JOHNSON
THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS RESOLUTION 21-2015.***

COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

MS. SANDY COX
MR. DAN LANZER
MR. ROB MAURER
MRS. CHERYL RAMOS
MS. WINNIE WALKER
MR. JOHN ZUCAL

***PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL SAM HITCHCOCK ANNOUNCED THAT
MR. DARRIN LAUTENSCHLEGER WAS RUNNING LATE BUT WOULD BE IN ATTENDANCE.***

***MR. HITCHCOCK ANNOUNCED THAT THE LAW DIRECTOR ADVISED HIM THAT HE
WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE TONIGHT'S SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING.***

MS. COX MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE JULY 30TH 2015 AGENDA
MR. ZUCAL SECONDED THE MOTION

ROLL CALL
6 YEAS
MOTION PASSED.

THE PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL MR. SAM HITCHCOCK ASKED FOR A MOTION
TO FORGO WITH THE REPORT SECTIONS AND ANYTHING FROM THE AGENDA UP TO THE
LEGISLATIVE AGENDA.

MOTION WAS MADE BY MS. COX
MR. ZUCAL SECONDED THE MOTION

ROLL CALL
6 YEAS
MOTION PASSED

READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCES:
NONE

RESOLUTIONS:

***21-2015 A RESOLUTION DETERMINING TO PROCEED WITH SUBMITTING THE
QUESTION OF THE ISSUANCE OF FIRE STATION CONSTRUCTION
BONDS, IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$5,000,000, TO
THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY PURSUANT TO SECTION 133.18 OF THE
REVISED CODE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (3RD READING)***

Motion by Mr. Lanzer for passage of Resolution 21-2015

Seconded by Mr. Zucal

COMMENT FROM COUNCILPERSON MR. JOHN ZUCAL, THE CHAIR OF THE SALARY COMMITTEE SPONSORING THE LEGISLATION FOR TONIGHT'S MEETING.

Mr. Zucal thanked the members of City Council, each and every one of them for their undying commitment to taking us through the process.

Making sure that we were able to look at and examine all the different issues, even though we have differences of opinion, that the democratic process be upheld.

I truly believe that was evident with the members of Council.

They exercised their rights entirely to share their thoughts and opinions an important part of the process as well as those who visited us for those meetings whether they are vested individuals such as our fireman to the members of the general public.

It is encouraging to see that level of participation and the concern they have. Everybody wanting to believe what they desire to be done right is being done right.

To all those who have been involved along with our Administration who has been supportive I just want to say thank you. I think that process has been upheld.

COMMENT FROM COUNCILPERSON. MRS. RAMOS:

I was glad to hear on Monday night Safety Director Greg Popham report that the fire station floor had been stabilized (with more reinforcement to be completed immediately) and the equipment moved around to ease the weight on the newly reinforced problem areas. Good job Chief Parrish.

Mr. Popham noted that this would last for a few years. Although this appears to be a temporary solution, it grants time for a well-planned approach to a new station and time to solicit donations from individuals, companies, foundations, and public/private grants.

I urge Council to vote against Resolution 21-2015. It is irresponsible of Council to advance a \$5 million property tax increase for a new fire station that has no plan and no cost. As we know, government always spends more than it gets; you can check the city revenues/expenditures projections for that. It is irresponsible to ask property owners, who work hard, for a \$5 million credit card limit. After the architects are chosen on August 19th and requests for proposals are received, a cost will be known. If a \$5 million credit limit for the ballot is passed tonight; the cost will certainly be \$5 million or more. What if a functional new station can be built for less than \$3 million? Sadly, I am pretty sure the voice of reason will not be heeded tonight and the \$5 million property tax increase ballot question passed tonight, therefore the target cost will now be \$5 million.

However, I urge Council to be responsible and defeat this very premature and irresponsible request for a \$5 million property tax increase to go on the November ballot. Let the voice of reason not be ignored. Rest assured the voters will get a chance to vote on a tax increase, but it should be after a plan is made, a cost has been set, and all other possible funding sources have been tapped. This is a community issue; let the community be involved and not just by giving a chance to vote on a property tax increase that will last 25 years.

Cheryl L. Ramos
Ward One Council Representative and Resident
759 Ray Ave NW, New Philadelphia, Ohio 44663
330.364.7695

COMMENT FROM MAYOR JOHNSON:

I thank everyone for doing their due diligence. We have had disagreements we always will have, that is the *American Way*. As far as not having any ideas or plans I don't think some have been listening to what has been going on.

It was said the other day the Administration didn't have a plan; this plan is in implementation right now. We have figures, ideas, we've had private citizens go and look at one of the stations we are using as a model and they seemed to be happy with that model.

That model was less than \$5 million.

The Mayor stated that, he kind of resented the fact that Mrs. Ramos would think that this Administration is going to give them a blank check because we never have and we never will. The Mayor thanked everyone.

COMMENT FROM COUNCILPERSON MR. JOHN ZUCAL:

I do respect the opinion of Mrs. Ramos and the fact that she shares that. I do believe; I don't think anyone on the Committee is saying we expect the citizens of New Philadelphia to issue us a blank check.

What we have done is factored into the scenario what a projected cost would be including potential contingencies for over run.

We have said repeatedly, the Chief is well as myself, we will do all that we can to insure two things;

We build a safe efficient fire station

With an eye for the future.

Please remember we are building a station for 50 years down the road. Not knowing what apparatus is going to look like.

Many citizens of New Philadelphia don't realize how highly trained the membership is in that group. We have people well equipped to handle almost any emergency in the City of New Philadelphia and surrounding areas.

We are trying to build a safe efficient model that will meet our current needs as well the needs of our firefighters fifty years down the road. There is no blank check, we will be as frugal and responsible as possible I can assure the Administration feels the same way. Thank you.

**COUNCILPERSON LAUTENSCHLEGER
JOINED TONIGHT'S SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING AT 7:07 PM**

Roll call,
4 yeas, and 3 nays (Ms. Cox, Mrs. Ramos and Ms. Walker)
Resolution 21-2015 has passed.

UNFINISHED OR OLD BUSINESS:

NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

NONE

MOTION BY MS. COX TO ADJOURN AT 7: 12 PM

CLERK OF COUNCIL _____

APPROVED _____

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL _____