

NEW PHILADELPHIA CITY COUNCIL MET IN REGULAR SESSION IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON APRIL 27, 2020 WITH PRESIDENT OF NEW PHILADELPHIA CITY COUNCIL DON KEMP PRESIDING. PRESIDENT KEMP OFFERED A PRAYER, AND ALL IN ATTENDANCE RECITED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

MR. DEAN HOLLAND
MR. DAN LANZER
MR. ROB MAURER
MRS. AIMEE MAY
MRS. CHERYL RAMOS
MR. KELLY RICKLIC
MR. JOHN ZUCAL

EXCUSED ABSENCES

SAFETY DIRECTOR GREG POPHAM
TREASURER TOM GERBER

- MR. ZUCAL MOTIONED TO ACCEPT TONIGHT’S AGENDA
MR. LANZER SECONDED THE MOTION
7 YEAS
TONIGHT’S AGENDA HAS BEEN ACCEPTED

- MR. MAURER MOTIONED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 13, 2020
REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL
MRS. RAMOS SECONDED THE MOTION
7 YEAS
MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 13, 2020 REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL HAVE BEEN
APPROVED

CORRESPONDENCE CLERK, JULIE COURTRIGHT

1. *To Clerk of Council from Treasurer Tom Gerber, dated April 14, 2020. This is the City of New Philadelphia March 2020 Investment and Savings Report and March 2020 Deposits.*
2. *To Mayor Day from Councilman Zucal, dated March 21, 2020. This is an email with the subject FW: Call to Action.*
3. *To Council and Administration from Mayor Day, dated April 27, 2020. The Mayor’s Report.*

Administrative Reports.....

MAYOR’S REPORT/REQUESTSMAYOR JOEL B. DAY

Mayor Day had the following report:

➤ Gradall Industries Sends a Notice of Employee Furloughs due to COVID-19 : Today my office received a letter from Gradall stating that “it is possible, but unlikely” that the company’s employee furloughs from February 28th to August 31st of this year may qualify as a mass layoff. Under the federal Workers Adjustment Retraining Act or WARN, the company is required to send such a notice to the City. The letter stated that, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, it had to implement a series of temporary layoffs. The first was voluntary and occurred on February 28th involving 10 union workers. The second was on March 24th and affected an additional 158 union employees and 17 non-bargaining unit employees. On March 31st, 79 of the 158 union employees returned to work. The letter stated that, as of today, 8 more union employees returned to their jobs. The notice also said that the company does not anticipate these layoffs to be permanent and hopes the remaining workers can be recalled as business conditions improve.

➤ How has the Pandemic Shutdown affected the City’s Finances? : The news from Gradall is a clear indication that the coronavirus epidemic has been very costly to our local businesses and our families. By this time next week the Income Tax Department should issue its report on April City income tax collection. And that will be the first true indicator of the financial impact that layoffs and the closing of businesses have had on City finances. In the Central Business District alone 60 small businesses labeled “non-essential” were closed. I don’t know the exact figures but it’s likely that those closings resulted in over 200 employees being laid off. When people aren’t working, no payroll revenue is produced to fund City services.

To counter downturn, I’ve asked department heads to look for ways to cut their budgets by up to twenty percent. It’s likely that very few if any seasonal workers will be hired for City departments this summer. Next week Health Commissioner Ionno, Service Director McAbier, Parks and Recreation Superintendent Miller and myself will meet with RTY and First Town Days Festival officials to discuss the reopening of Tuscora Park and whether social distancing protocols will prohibit large gatherings at the park, including Festival events. It’s very possible that the decisions we make will be unpopular but necessary in order to limit the spread of COVID-19 and reduce costs to the City’s budget.

➤ #Restart Tusc Plan: An initiative is underway to help reopen the closed small businesses in New Philadelphia and across the county. The action plan has been labeled as #Restart Tusc. And as reported in the Times-Reporter, it will allow the closed businesses to apply for a grant of up to \$5000.00 and to receive further assistance from an advertising campaign organized by the Tuscarawas County Chamber of Commerce. The #Restart Tusc group is close to reaching its goal of \$100,000.00 in contributions to fund the grants. If you own a closed business, or know of one that could use the help, visit the #Restart Tusc Facebook page or contact the Chamber or Tuscarawas Economic Development Corporation

➤ Business Reopening’s Announced by Governor Dewine: If you missed his Monday press conference, Governor Dewine announced that the following businesses can reopen in the month of May:

- May 1st – Hospitals can conduct procedures that don’t require overnight stays. Dentists and veterinarians can be fully open.
- May 4th – Manufacturing, distribution and construction.
- May 12th – Consumer retail and services

Each reopening has restrictions. Go to <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov> for details.

➤ Preparing for the Reopening of the John Knisely Municipal Centre: City Health Department Commissioner Vickie Ionno and myself have been working on protocols for the reopening of the John Knisely Municipal Centre a week from today on Monday, May 4th. They include the installation of new windows at the Health Department, Water Office and Income Tax Department customer counters that will shield employees from direct contact with the public. Ropes will be set up in the hallway of the lower level to assure that six foot distancing is maintained at each window. No more than ten members of the public will be allowed to occupy the lower level at City Hall at any given time. Employees and members of the public will be required to wear masks. The building will be open limited hours: from 10am until 2pm weekdays. All City offices can be reached by telephone or email. They will be open their regular business hours, which are 8am until 4:30pm. To avoid coming into the building, you can still use the night depository slot by the main entrance door for water bill payments or to file your City income tax returns. Water bill and income tax payments can also be paid online. Visit the City's website at www.newphilaoh.com for instructions.

➤ Please be Patient. It was a lot easier to close than to start a reopening: In some respects, the reopening of businesses and the relaxing of COVID-19 restrictions will be more difficult than the closings. There will be confusion and mistakes will be made. I'm asking all New Philadelphians to be patient during this process. We have to encourage each other to do the right thing and to remain calm as the reopening process plays out. Because of your efforts the curve has been flattened in Ohio. But remember the virus is still active in our community. To have total victory over it, we will have to remain vigilant in practicing social distancing, frequently washing our hands, wearing face masks when in public and disinfecting surfaces and fixtures. We are now on a new path in this journey together.

Mayor Day made the following statement:

I'd like to yield the rest of my time to Health Commissioner Vickie Ionno for an update from her department.

Health Commissioner Vickie Ionno made the following statement:

I just wanted to give you an update of what's going on since we started with the Covid 19 crisis. I've developed a timeline that I will go through with you. In the timeline it shows the first Covid 19 diagnosis in Wuhan China on December 1st. On January 20th we had our first diagnosed patient in Washington State that had travelled to Wuhan. On March 9 we had our 1st diagnosed patient in Ohio in Cuyahoga County. On March 14 we had our 1st positive case in Tuscarawas County. Since then we've had 57 total cases in the County, 30 active and 27 recovered. The age range starts at 7 to 68 and the average age is 41.3. It's a younger group than what we've seen across the state. We've had a total of 9 here in the City. We're up to 16, 325 in the State. 753 Ohioans have died. Because of the shortage of testing we've only been testing the sickest or first responders. Right now we have 25 quarantined people in the City of New Philadelphia. Today the Governor announced that all employees have to wear face coverings at all times. They encourage you to maintain good hygiene, social distance and clean surfaces throughout the day in any work area. I also gave you some other handouts about the opening of other businesses such as manufacturing.

Ms. Ionno went on to explain types of businesses that still need to open and dos and don'ts of wearing face masks.

President Kemp asked how far away New Philadelphia is from having more testing.

Ms. Ionno said right now we don't have the capabilities to do testing but the goal is to get enough tests that any doctor could order it. She explained that she has on order tests to determine if a person has antibodies for the virus.

Law Director Fete said we also don't know how long the virus stays in the system. Some viruses like Chicken Pox stay with you. Chicken Pox develops into shingles later in life.

Ms. Ionno said she's also heard of this virus attacking your T Cells which is what HIV does.

Mrs. Ramos had the following question:

I believe that the Governor still has churches closed, correct?

Ms. Ionno had the following response:

Churches were not closed, they were an exemption, but it was highly suggested that people stop going to churches because it's over the 10 people per group.

Mrs. Ramos continued:

You talked about healthy people getting this are overwhelmed, but what I've been reading and hearing, like 98% that are at risk are those with diabetes, obesity, pre-diabetes, heart conditions, high blood pressure, and lung disease.

Ms. Ionno had the following response:

We know that there are some factors that make it more likely you can die from that. Those are people over 65, those that fall in the categories you mentioned, people with emphysema or lung issues. There is a lot we don't know but we know that blocking our droplets does help stop the spread.

Mr. Zucal asked Ms. Ionno her thoughts on gloves. She said gloves are the one thing that can get cross contaminated.

Mr. Maurer asked Ms. Ionno for guidance for financial institutions with handing money back and forth. She said to use hand sanitizer each time money is passed.

Mrs. Ramos had the following question:

To piggyback on the question about gloves, my husband has worked for years in an emergency room. When I go to a store and see people using their gloves wrongly it would be better to just use sanitizer.

Law Director Fete had the following comment:

My read of this order from the Governor is that face masks will be mandatory. Ms. Ionno said that face masks will be mandatory. Law Director Fete asked Ms. Ionno what her advice will be for people still at risk. Ms. Ionno said anyone at risk should stay home until there's a vaccine, possibly 18 months from now.

SERVICE DIRECTOR.....MR. RON MCABIER

Mr. McAbier had the following report:

The Wabash Ave Project got started two weeks early. We did post on our Facebook page the street closure schedule. I have copies of that and they are on the City's Facebook page. We'll start having road closures probably mid morning tomorrow, weather permitting. Also the materials have all been delivered for the maintenance building. Brian Builders is hoping to get started next Monday on Phase 1. Phase 2 is the office building. Next meeting I will have a paving list to hand out to everyone.

Mr. Ricklic asked the location of the water and sewer line.

Mr. McAbier said the storm line will be going south in the westbound lane on Park Lane, the water line will stay there.

AUDITORMS. BETH GUNDY

Ms. Gundy had the following report:

We did get our rebate check for \$109,733.00. I just got that today. They don't look at what we paid in 2018 but what we paid in 2017. Also there's a \$400,000 ODNR Grant for the Southside Park that we're still going to have to appropriate.

SAFETY DIRECTORMR. GREG POPHAM.....EXCUSED ABSENSE

Mayor Day had the following report:

The City has received a stimulus payment from Medicare \$13,274. 74. They'll use it to purchase supplies in response to Covid 19. It was deposited into the Ambulance Fund.

TREASURER MR. TOM GERBER.....EXCUSED ABSENSE

LAW DIRECTOR MR. MARVIN FETE

Mr. Fete had the following report:

One of the things I have on my Agenda to do is I'm going to be getting with Ms. Ionno probably tomorrow to tweak the guidelines that we drew up for the stadium to allow our students to use the facilities there. There's some changes I want to make to it so it also applies to the track. As soon as we make the changes I want to release that to the press so everybody knows what our rules are out there. I did have to send the police to the stadium about 2 weekends ago because there were people violating our order at the stadium. I want to make sure we get those rules out and that they're widespread to the public as much as possible. We have had to deal with a lot of businesses and a lot of complaints regarding what was essential. My goal was always to interpret the rules as broadly as possible. Our first goal was always to find a way to keep businesses open but in a safe way. A lot of the guidelines that we've adopted are now in this order. One place that we did have to cite would not follow guidelines. Some of the guidelines that we drew up were adopted by the County and some by Mahoning County.

Mr. Ricklic asked Mr. Fete to copy the Council on any changes he makes after speaking with Ms. Ionno.

Mrs. Ramos asked if rules for the track were just social distancing. Mr. Fete said that was correct.

Mr. Maurer asked why kids are allowed on the football field now when there are always signs to not use the field. Mr. Fete said the field is open in New Phila High School students, but team sports were prohibited. There was an incident where Garaway students were playing 5 on 5 football on the field.

Mayor Day said there have been numerous complaints and he thinks the stadium needs to be closed.

Ms. Ionno said we have to make sure the Governor's orders are being followed. We can't have people congregate in groups.

MR. RICKLIC MOTIONED FOR AN EXECUTIVE SESSION ON THE BASIS OF PERSONEL AND HEALTH AND SAFETY AND SERVICE
MR. ZUCAL SECONDED THE MOTION

7 YEAS

AN EXECUTIVE SESSION WILL BE HELD DURING TONIGHT'S COUNCIL MEETING FOLLOWING THE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

BOARD/COMMISSION REPORTS:

PLANNING COMMISSION.....MAYOR JOEL DAY

The Planning Commission is planning to meet the 2nd Tuesday of May at 1:00 PM in Council Chambers. The Agenda is being developed.

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS.....MR. RON MCABIER

The Board of Zoning Appeals will meet May 12th at 5:00 PM in Council Chambers. Right now we have four variance requests to be heard.

AIRPORT COMMISSION.....MR. JOHN ZUCAL.....NO REPORT

PARK BOARD.....MRS. AIMEE MAY.....NO REPORT

CEMETERY BOARD.....MRS. AIMEE MAY.....NO REPORT

HEALTH BOARD MR. KELLY RICKLIC.....NO REPORT

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE COMMITTEEMR. ROB MAURER.....NO REPORT

SALARY COMMITTEEMR. JOHN ZUCAL.....NO REPORT

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE.....MR. DEAN HOLLAND.....NO REPORT

SAFETY HEALTH & SERVICE COMMITTEE... .MR. KELLY RICKLIC.....NO REPORT

ZONING & ANNEXATION COMMITTEE.....MRS. CHERYL RAMOS.....NO REPORT

SPECIAL & CONTACT COMMITTEEMR DAN LANZER.....NO REPORT

PARKS & CEMETERY COMMITTEEMRS. AIMEE MAY....NO REPORT

VISITOR'S COMMENTS:

Rob Frutchey of 1358 Old Town Valley Rd. SE had the following comment:

I'm a professional engineer registered in the State of Ohio. I actually began my career in 1982 with W.E. Quicksall and Associates. I get involved quite often with touchpoints with the public with my infrastructure projects, making sure that they work well with the public. So, it's kind of a different lens that I come to you tonight from the public side. I'm very excited about the Southside Park. What I do have is a question relative to the aspect of design. What I'd like to ask Council is that my suggestion is that there could be some kind of a barrier, perhaps a split rail fence. It would help the safety of the citizens who are walking on the pathway that could meander off toward the driveway. That's way we're here tonight to ask you to give your consideration to this idea.

President of Council Kemp had the following comment:

The Park Board is basically in charge of developing the Southside Park. Mrs. May sits on the Park Board as a Representative of the City. We'll make sure that you're aware of the next Park Board meeting.

Mr. McAbier had the following comment:

That project is so tight budget wise we have no room to add fence at this time. We will look at it after the fact but right now we can't.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mr. Holland had the following comment:

Certainly we all understand the difficulties that the City's been experiencing and for many years I've heard about how giving our Community is. Certainly in the last several weeks I've had the opportunity to see how truly giving this Community is. A number of ladies with different churches have distributed more than 400 masks which they made. Those have been distributed to nursing homes, to the women's shelters. I just wanted to acknowledge that we have so many individuals in our community that are willing to volunteer to serve our community and make our community a better place to live.

READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCES:

- 5-2020 AN ORDINANCE BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW PHILADELPHIA, OHIO TO HAVE AN HONORARY DESIGNATION OF A PORTION OF BANK LANE SE DESIGNATED IN HONOR OF JIM LOCKER FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CITY OF NEW PHILADELPHIA, SPECIFICALLY, THE PORTION OF BANK LANE SE FROM 3rd ST SE TO 4th ST SE WOULD HAVE SIGNAGE PLACED UNDER THE STREET NAMES THAT WOULD READ “HONORARY JIM LOCKER LANE”, THE STREET NAMES THEMSELVES WOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED.
5th Reading

RESOLUTIONS:

- 5-2020 A RESOLUTION BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW PHILADELPHIA, OHIO TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF MIKE ERNEST BY THE MAYOR TO THE NEW PHILADELPHIA PARK AND RECREATION BOARD FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS
3rd Reading

MRS. MAY MOTIONED FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 5-2020
MR. RICKLIC SECONDED THE MOTION
7 YEAS
RESOLUTION 5-2020 HAS BEEN APPROVED

- 6- 2020 A RESOLUTION BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW PHILADELPHIA, OHIO TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF COURTNEY SHALOSKY BY THE MAYOR TO THE NEW

PHILADELPHIA PARK AND RECREATION BOARD FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS
3rd Reading

MRS. MAY MOTIONED FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 6-2020
MRS. RAMOS SECONDED THE MOTION
7 YEAS
RESOLUTION 6-2020 HAS BEEN APPROVED

**COUNCIL ADJOURNED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:37.
AT 9:13 PM COUNCIL RECONVENED INTO REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL**

UNFINISHED OR OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Holland had the following comment:

I wanted to enlighten everyone so that you are aware of what I have been doing concerning videos for Council. I know we were talking about it in the past and we were not able to get an agreement with the University concerning them televising the Meetings. The Mayor and I have discussed several times livestreaming but it became a lower priority when we got into the Covid 19. I contacted Off The Wall Ministries because I knew that they had done some of this kind of work with different businesses in town. I asked Off the Wall Ministries to meet with the Mayor and I so that we can discuss a system with them and they could tell us the amount of money I would need to include in a grant request. The Mayor and I will be meeting with Off the Wall Ministries in Council Chambers at 1:00pm if anyone wants to attend.

Mr. Fete suggested Mr. Holland call Tusco TV to see if they would be interested in televising meetings.

Mr. Maurer motioned to adjourn at 9:19 pm

CLERK OF COUNCIL _____
Julie Courtright

APPROVED _____

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL _____
Don Kemp