

NEW PHILADELPHIA CITY COUNCIL MET IN A SPECIAL MEETING MEETING IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON JULY 23RD, 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 20-2015.

COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: MS. SANDY COX
MR. DAN LANZER
MR. DARRIN LAUTENSCHLEGER
MR. ROB MAURER
MRS. CHERYL RAMOS
MS. WINNIE WALKER
MR. JOHN ZUCAL

MR. ZUCAL MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE JULY 23RD, 2015 AGENDA
MR. DARRIN LAUTENSCHLEGER SECONDED THE MOTION

ROLL CALL
7 YEAS
MOTION PASSED.

THE PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL MR. SAM HITCHCOCK ASKED FOR A MOTION TO FORGO THE SECTION MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS SESSION, CORRESPONDENCE, ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS, BOARD/COMMISSION REPORTS AND STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS AND GO DIRECTLY TO THE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA.

THE MOTION WAS MADE BY MRS. RAMOS AND WAS SECONDED BY MS. COX
ROLL CALL
7 YEAS MOTION PASSED.

MRS. RAMOS MADE A MOTION FOR RESOLUTION 20-2015 BE READ IN ITS ENTIRETY
MS. COX SECONDED THE MOTION
ROLL CALL
3 YEAS, 4 NAY (MR. LANZER, MR. LAUTENSCHLEGER, MR. MAURER, MR. ZUCAL)
MOTION FAILED

READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCES:
NONE

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION 20-2015

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NECESSITY OF 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 TO VOTE ON PASSAGE BY MR. LANZER
SECONDED BY MR. ZUCAL

COMMENT FROM MR. JOEL DAY:

Joel Day
714 Oak Street NW,
New Philadelphia

Thank you Mr. President for allowing me the time to address council....

First I want to commend Chief Parrish for his determination and passion in pursuing the construction of a new fire station. During a lunchtime tour on Tuesday, I saw for myself the structural cracks, deterioration and twisted basement I-beam that the chief has described. It was clear to see that our station has reached its end life. The crack on one of the second floor support columns is particularly concerning to me, because those columns hold up our firefighters living quarters.

We have heard arguments from both sides of the room over the need to put a 25 year bond issue before voters in November, and arguments over the cost of a new station. Apparently there is no common ground or no time to discover it in the haste to put the issue on the November ballot. So I urge you to put your differences aside and finish the process to let the voters decide whose argument is best for the future of our fire and EMS city services.

Personally I don't like the idea of our taxpayers carrying the bond issue's 25-year debt. And to me there has not been enough research into the actual design and cost of building a fire station that fits the future needs of our city. I look forward to sharing those thoughts with our citizens and the business community. But the need now is to restore decorum to city council discussions and give voters their turn to speak. As their representatives, and employers of our firefighters, you have an obligation to do that.

COMMENT FROM CHERYL RAMOS

I urge Council to vote against Resolution 20-2015. This is such a critical issue and should not be rushed. A costly and disastrous mistake must be avoided. A well planned approach must be used. In this case, the old saying, "Haste makes waste" rings true. Although this issue has been talked about for years, no plans have been made and no funds have been obtained.

After the architects are chosen and requests for bids are received, the Administration, Council and residents will know what needs to happen. Those who fail to plan, plan to fail. Now, it is unwise for the Administration and some in Council to ask for a \$5 million credit card limit plus interest for an unplanned project made on assumptions and stabs in the dark.

We have heard voices in this chamber asking that they be given on chance to vote on a property tax increase. Rest assured this will happen. Meanwhile, you can make donations to the new fire station construction fund. Several have said they are ready to write checks now, please do.

Together, together, we can develop a plan that will answer this question that involves the whole community. The best deal can be obtained for the tax payer and still have enough money to run the city.

Cheryl L. Ramos

Ward One

COMMENT FROM COUNCIL AT LARGE WINNIE WALKER:

I've never said I am against a new fire station. But I am against the way it has been presented to me. The time limit on information or the lack of. Yes, I see the picture of a fire station. It's only a picture. It doesn't tell me what the building construction material is, not to mention is explained. The cost seems out of reason and not being included in most of the planning is very disappointing. I wish for the voters to know what they are voting for. And ask. Is this the best and only choice we have. Thank you.

P.S. Interviewing for an architect is not until August 12, 2015.

Comment from COUNCIL AT LARGE Ms. Cox

The position of council person is certainly an important position in municipal government. The pay is small, the hours long, but very few other positions offer a better opportunity for serving our residents.

When I mention service to our residents, it also includes co-operation from the administration and council members. When someone breaks that bond many things occur and it is not for the betterment of our community.

Where is the idea of working together on a project for the best of our citizens and having round table discussions among all of us? Right now I am in contact with our Fire Chief through e-mails to have my questions answered in regards to the fire station.

It is really problematic these resolutions have to be at the County Auditor's office by August 5th and our architect will not be named until after August 12th. The City will have no actual bid on the fire station's cost when we go to ballot, we are hoping the estimates are close enough for this \$5 million dollar station (with interest - total project is estimated at \$7,900,000). Even FEMA requires prints, permits and bidding process done prior to application for a grant.

We are moving too fast and we are on a collision course with November's election. I believe we need to know the actual cost of the fire station before presenting this issue to the citizens for a vote. What is wrong with continuing to look for grants, donations and showing the community a sincere effort on the City's part before we place this issue on the ballot? I am not against building a new fire station, but this is a major investment and right now I do not feel comfortable without having accurate costs.

Roll call, 4 yeas and 3 nays (Ms. Cox, Ms. Walker, and Mrs. Ramos)

Resolution 20-2015 has passed

UNFINISHED OR OLD BUSINESS:

The Mayor thanked Council.

NEW BUSINESS:

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

CLERK OF COUNCIL _____

APPROVED _____

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL _____