VILLAGE OF PHILLIPSBURG

COUNCIL MEETING

April 15, 2025

Mayor Newsom called the meeting to order at 7 pm

Moment of silence to honor firefighters, police, first responders, and military personnel

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Charity Grill, Chris Steiner, Donna Mullins, Hope Hoard, Heather Craft (absent), Steve Booker, Wendell Harleman (excused), Mark (excused), Fire Chief had to be at different meeting (excused), Ben Mazer (Solicitor), Steve Woolf (Village Administrator).

Consent Resolution 25-0003 approval of 3/18 meeting minutes, approval for FO to pay bills and invoices, approval of meeting agenda for today (4/15), approval of Mayor and FO to process payroll, In packet are RFP for computer system, communications, and new bank services.

Steve explained RFP (Requests for Proposals). The request was made two meetings ago. Advertisements for such were sent out. The packet shows the bids that came in. Shows bids for the first two categories. I received only one banking response from Huntington Bank. So, there is no pricing for Banking RFP. Consent to resolution approves that you received the bids. Bids will be discussed later in the meeting.

Resolution 25-31 will need a Motion. Steve Booker made Motion, Donna 2nd, Approved by unanimous vote. Motion passes.

Presentations:

Northmont City Schools –Tony Thomas, Superintendent, and Ann Ferraro (Treasurer):
Mr. Thomas talked about prior levy proposal that was unsuccessful. Emergency levy will be on ballot for 5/6/25 vote. Due to levy failing in the past, Englewood Elementary was closed. 41 positions cut. consolidated central office and preschool to space previously occupied by Sinclair. Spoke of reduction plans if levy doesn't pass.

Montgomery County Recorder's Office Project Coordinator – explained some free programs.
Identity theft (quit claim deed theft). QR Code to enroll in protection program.
TOD Deed (transfer on death)
Veteran Outreach Programs
Vendors who give discounts to veterans (e.g. Lowes)

Old Business:

Playground equipment (slide) taped off, waiting for approval to take it down. Just take slide down. No approval needed.

Community Garage sale. Dates need to be set. May 15, 16, and 17th were picked.
September dates – 18th, 19th, 20th. Needs to be advertised. Place message on water bill. Distribute fliers. Contact Republic for pickup after garage sale weekends.

Hope Hoard had surgery so there was no Easter party planned.

New Business:

Two Meetings per Month: requested by Heather and Hope so meetings aren't so long. Council must discussion and make decision. Donna Mullins - Motion to not have two meetings. 2nd Motion. Approved to stick with one meeting per month.

Charity Grill F.O. – caught up through March. OPERS determination of who needs to be on OPERS as opposed to Social Security.
Trying to reschedule a meeting with Huntington Bank.

Mayor: Anything from Wendell, Keith, or Mark? Fire Personnel to be hired.

Steve: Received final determination of paperwork not filled out correctly by former employees. Get reversal of $22,000 bill. Medical Billing Company – Medicaid/Medicare payments will be resumed. Now working on getting up to date on state audits. Compliant with state auditor.
A virtual meeting was held on water project. Working to secure funding. Application for the project was submitted and accepted. Letters were sent on March 28 to recruit former firefighters. Some have responded to stay or come back. They will be subject to drug tests and background checks.
Working on trash pickup provider.
Working on proposals to update computer systems. None are tied together in a server, no protection from cyber attacks. Involve MVRPC to help community project to plan the future of this community. Asking council to consider resolution. The Village is losing money on the water and sewer system.
Fire equipment needed fixed. Repairs have been approved. Discussed alternate staffing.
Discussed the police department to send a car to memorialize the fallen police officers.
The rental coordinator has resigned. Money management needs to improve. All rentals are to be paid at the office. Rental venues need to be inspected before and after rentals.

Park Board chair (Hope Hoard) made comments about not knowing about the resignation of the rental coordinator and damage at Hunters Club. Was told that Steve just found out as well. She was also told that employee matters can only be discussed at executive session.

Hope Hoard: mentioned about handling open council seat. She was told it can be discussed after resolution has been passed. Mentioned Keith Koontz had cleaned up brush at the former elementary school.

Public Comments:

Greg Stose11766 Pansing Road – concerns about fire department coverage. What percentage of time does the Village provide fire department coverage and response time. He asked if there are paid on call firefighters. Steve assured him there is. Steve explained how the department is staffed and contracts with other departments. Steve talked about economics. He explained how the fire department is funded. A tax levy would need to be voted on by the citizens to cover costs of more fire personnel and equipment. Steve thanked Greg for his concerns and questions.

Lori Hartman 7293? Phillipsburg-Union Road, Brookville, Ohio. She's here to speak about the property that has a shooting range on it (owned by the Village of Phillipsburg). When she called the police, Clay Township responds because they never shoot when a Phillipsburg officer is on duty. Clay Township has no authority to give a ticket. The County says they can't respond because they're understaffed. There is that issue that I've been discussing since 2018. When one of my cows dies because it had been shot, be prepared to write that check.
Public Records requests. I've had public record requests out since last November. Donna (Mullins) was working on one of them. Lori still has not seen those. I had November, March, and February. I made multiple requests. They are still not done. Just this evening I've heard Mr. Woolf state legal, state compliant, according to the ORC, yet his position was never created according to the ORC. And Council still refuses to step up and do anything about that. And Mr. Mazer (Solicitor) has sat there the entire time, even though he was provided last month with the ORC numbers, and it still hasn't been addressed.

Mayor stated resolutions to be addressed.

Resolution 25-0032 the Village of Phillipsburg Council Hereby accepts and authorizes the Village Mayor and the Village Administrator to sign the agreement for the water supply by the City of Union as per contract terms between both parties. The issue was referred to Ben Mazer (solicitor). Ben recommended that the resolution be tabled until the time when we have a final contract. We're still in negotiations, and we are making progress. The ball is in Union's court. They have to get back to us on that. They have my latest edits, so I would recommend we table this tonight as we are not in a position to sign the contract. Donna Motion to table, 2nd Motion. Motion passed.

Hope: I'm frustrated. There are resolution here I haven't seen before. 16. I haven't seen one of them. I vote to table every single one of them until I read them! Mayor: okay. Hope: I don't feel I'm doing the best I can for the Village by saying yes or no to things I have no idea what I'm doing. I don't have a moment to comprehend this information. I have never…we did not get an email, we did not get a agenda today. We got nothing for the meeting today. Steve: The Agenda

was sent out Thursday and Friday of last week. Hope: I did not get an agenda. Steve: then you could have called here and asked because everybody else acknowledged they got theirs. Hope: So, these resolutions were attached to the agenda? Steve: Yes. Hope: So, these were attached to the agenda and you all had time to prepare for these. (Council Member): Yep.

Hope: I don't think that's the truth.

Lori Hartman: It's kind of funny that Hope is one of the ones who was elected. I will escort myself out before you have to remove me because this is a farce.

Hope: So, my vote, I'm going to have to excuse myself from the vote for the next 16 resolutions 33 through 53. Those are tabled until the next meeting.

Mayor: We have a motion to table resolutions 25 to 33. We need second? We don't have a quorum.

Ben: The record should reflect that the meeting automatically adjourns because we don't have a quorum.

Mayor: 8:25 is the adjourn time of the meeting as we don't have a quorum. Okay. Thank you.

Mayor: Shawna Newsom

Fiscal Officer: Charity E Lee