VILLAGE OF PHILLIPSBURG

COUNCIL MEETING

MAY 20, 2025

Meeting called to order at 7 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of silence for firefighters, police, and military

Roll Call: Josh Simpson, Chris Steiner, Hope Hoard, Heather Craft all here
Donna Mullins excused. Guests: Charity Grille, Fiscal Officer, and Ben Mazer, Solicitor
All department heads are in attendance as well.

Charity Grille: Today I have for Council approval the request for Resolution 25-0042, which is supplemental appropriations whereas certain amendments are necessary for the 2025 budget for the Village of Phillipsburg, Montgomery County, Ohio. Resolution 25-0030,

Now therefore be it resolved by the Council of the Village of Phillipsburg, as follows:

Section 1. That appropriations for 2025 expenditures purposes for the Village of Phillipsburg, Montgomery County, Ohio, be amended pursuant to the attached addendum to cover Village expenditures.

Section 2. That the 2025 Budget as per Resolution 25-0030 be appropriately amended per the attached memorandum. The Village Fiscal Officer is further requested to provide Amended Appropriations Budget to Montgomery County Auditor in accordance with the above per applicable law.

Section 3. This Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary to pay Village operational expenses; therefore, this Resolution shall be in full and in effect immediately upon its adoption by Council.

The addendum contained a requested supplement of $298,820.00 of which $296,060.00 is in the water fund. These are funds we have received pertaining to the water project allowing me to pay Wessler Engineering.

Discussion regarding the addendum, where funds are coming from and how they are being appropriated.

Steiner makes a motion to approve amendment of Resolution 25-0030, Hope seconds the motion.
Mayor: All in favor. Motion unanimously approved.
Mayor: Motion passes.

Charity: Resolution 25-0056 for the modification of any prior credit card policies. This is not necessarily an immediate measure. It's up to Council if they want to waive the three reading rule. Otherwise, it will have to go through three meetings. We're in the process of setting up the new credit cards established for the Village.

Discussion re current credit cards and how much they are costing the Village. Discussion regarding how credit cards will be issued and used in the future. Discussion re spending limits.

Next reading of Resolution 25-0056 re credit card policy will be at the June 17 meeting.

Motion for approval of Council Meeting minutes from April 15, 2025
Heather abstain, Hope and Steiner approve. Motion to remove inappropriate language.
Motion made and seconded. Approved by unanimous vote.

Motion for approval of Emergency Council Meeting from April 29, 2025
Steiner Motion, Hope second. Unanimous approval.

Motion for Emergency Council Meeting from May 1, 2025
Motion to amend roll call and add Hope Hoard. Motion seconded. All approved.
Motion to accept May 1, 2025, meeting. Hope - Motion and Steiner - seconded.
Unanimous approval.

Josh makes a motion to amend and accept May 13 minutes, Steiner second. All approved.
Motion passes.

Mayor: **Resolution 25-0055 Resolution authorizing creation of position of part time rental custodian for the Village of Phillipsburg to maintain the cleanliness of rental locations operated by The Village of Phillipsburg, Montgomery County, Ohio, declaring an emergency.**

We have not set an hourly rate in Section 3. Discussion took place regarding how much is available in the budget for this position. Some of the funds will come from the general fund, and some will come from the park fund. Council decided to pay $225 per month for a cleaning person, with the ability to amend the amount at a later date.

Mayor: the Village Council hereby appropriates $225 for the monthly salary and benefits of the part time rental custodian. This appropriation shall be funded through the park fund. The resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure due to an immediate need to ensure uninterrupted services to the residents of the Village of Philipsburg, Montgomery County, Ohio. Making this resolution effective immediately upon adoption.

Josh Motion to approve Resolution 25-0055. Hope second.
Heather, Hope, Josh, Steiner, all yesses. Motion passes.

Mayor: We're at the 6 month mark for the interim fire chief.

Resolution 25-0037 Designation of Financial Institution as Depositories for the Village of Phillipsburg, Montgomery County, Ohio

A Resolution designating certain financial institutions as depositories for active, interim, and inactive funds of the Village of Phillipsburg for a period of five (5) years commencing May 20, 2025, authorizing depository agreements with said institutions.

Mayor: We're currently with Chase. We want to go to Huntington.
The following institutions are hereby designated as depositories for active, interim, and/or inactive funds of the Village of Phillipsburg for the five (5) year period beginning May 20, 2025.

The Huntington National Bank
525 Vine St., 14th Floor
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Discussion regarding problems with Chase Bank and reason to switch to Huntington National Bank. Taking the deposits to the bank. Potentially buying a scanner to scan deposits directly to Huntington. Making this change will make money for the Village because we will earn interest on monies in the bank.

Steiner makes a motion to approve Resolution 25-0037. Josh seconds the motion.
Heather, Hope, Josh, Steiner, all yesses. Motion passes.

Mayor: Because the interim six month period has expired, we need a Motion to either make the current fire chief permanent or to not.

Discussion re need for fire chief.

Josh makes motion to end six month contract. Council wants each candidate to speak. New chief needs to be named immediately, or fire department will shut down.

Chief Buker speaks of his accomplishments and status of the fire department. Council asks about staffing issues.

Fire Department employees speak of the status of the fire department. It's good and bad, but it is understaffed.

Lengthy conversation between Heather Craft and Nate Davis (fire department). Wants to see changes and improvements, more equipment and staffing.

Josh and Council members also spoke at length. Josh thinks there needs to be a change in leadership. Nick Reser and Sherry Widner also spoke.

Pat Aldrich spoke at length regarding the fire department.

Lori Hartman: spoke about the staffing back when she was younger. There were so many more villagers were on the fire department. She wants more volunteers.

Ben Mazer is going to research ethics issues regarding being on the Council and an employee of the village.

Matt Rhodes spoke regarding the fire chief position and giving reports to the Council.

Josh: I motion to end the six month contract with Chief Buker. Hope: I second the motion. Heather, Hope, Josh, Steiner all yesses. Motion passes.

Mayor spoke on the situation. She has to appoint someone to vote on. Based on her conversations with various Council and community members, the Mayor appoints Pat Aldrich to be the interim fire chief.

Heather motioned to hire Pat Aldrich as interim fire chief. Josh seconded the motion. Heather, Hope, Josh, Steiner, all yesses. Motion passed.

Swearing in of Patrick Aldrich

I, Patrick Aldrich, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the state of Ohio and that I will faithfully, honestly, and impartially discharge the duties of the position of Interim Fire Chief of the Village of Phillipsburg, Ohio, according to the best of my ability and my understanding.

A thank you was spoken for interim chief Buker. Matthew Buker is appointed as Captain of the Village of Phillipsburg Fire Department.
Hope Motioned, Josh seconded. Heather, Hope, Josh, Steiner all yesses. Motion passed.

Matthew Buker sworn in as Captain.
I, Matthew Buker, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the state of Ohio and that I will faithfully, honestly, and impartially discharge the duties of the position of Fire Captain of the Village of Phillipsburg, Ohio, according to the best of my ability and my understanding.

Thank you, Matt, for staying on.

Mayor spoke on Police Department funding issues. We need additional officers and more funding is needed. Charity Grille will look into that. Needs Council approval to request levy numbers from the County. Discussion about levies.

Josh motioned to approve, Steiner seconded the motion. Hope, Heather, Josh, Steiner all yesses. Motion approved for a fact finding mission.

Mayor appointed Josh Simpson as fire liaison, and Heather appointed as zoning liaison.

Discussion re new emails for Council members.

Wendall spoke on mowing issues. He is mowing the school grounds. Ben will talk to the Council in executive session to discuss the progress on the school property. Also talked about removing unsafe equipment from the park.

Council needs special meeting to appoint new Council member to fill vacant seat. Meeting set for May 27, 2025, at 7 pm.

Chief Wysong spoke about the police department. 29 years as chief. Spoke about his duties, budget, and concerns. He wants a budget meeting with Charity and Mayor regarding the budget.

Discussion regarding availability for a meeting with Chief Wysong. Wednesday, May 28, at 5:30 p.m. was selected for meeting the Chief Wysong, Mayor, and Charity.

Zoning, Vik moving forward with plans to put up new building and take down old building. Discussion regarding the shape of the new building from an L shape to a square. Vik wants Council's approval.

Steiner motions to allow change to Vik's building. Heather seconds the motion.
Heather, Steiner, Josh, Hope all yesses. Motion passed.

Darcy Foreman's application for firefighter/EMT is presented to the Council.
Discussion regarding her certifications.
Josh motions to approve, Steiner, seconds motion, Heather No, Hope Yes, Josh, Yes, Steiner Yes.
Motion passed.

Pat Aldrich discussed minimum hour requirements for the job. He is available 24/7, but those hours are sporadic due to his wife's occupation as a veterinarian. Josh discusses the role of paramedics and the hours they work.

Hope? Motioned to pay bills, Josh seconded. All in favor. Motion passes.

Hope stated she needs a rental custodian and asks for it to be published in the paper.

Heather makes motion to schedule a meeting to discuss updates to zoning. Charity will help prepare for the meeting. Mark Wysong needs to attend the meeting.

Mayor: Possible executive meeting. Ben needs to speak to Council regarding the topic.

No old business.
No new business.

Nothing from the public.

Mayor moves to enter into executive session re investigation of the complaints against a public official by division G1 of the section 121.22 of the ORC.

Josh Motion to go into executive session. Heather seconded. All in favor. Motion to go into executive session passes.

Return to regular session at 9:36 p.m.
Steiner Motion to Adjourn, Several seconded. All yesses.

Meeting adjourned 9:38 p.m.

Mayor: Shawna Newsom

Fiscal Officer: Charity L Lewis

(Council Meeting Minutes May 20, 2025)