THE VILLAGE OF PHILLIPSBURG

SPECIAL MEETING

JULY 29, 2025

Mayor Simpson called the meeting to order at 8 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call by Fiscal Officer

Mayor Simpson – Here
Council Member Hoard – Here
Council Member Craft (excused absent)
Council Member Ritter - Here
Council Member Steiner – Here

Approval of Regular Council Meeting Minutes of June 17, 2025.
Council Member Hope Hoard motioned to approve Regular Council Meeting Minutes from June 17, 2025.
Council Member Chris Steiner seconded the motion to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes from June 17, 2025. Mayor: All in favor – Hope, Steiner, Josh all yesses. Council Member Jill Ritter abstained. She was not a council member at that time.
Motion to approve Minutes from June 17, 2025, passed.

Approval of Emergency Council Meeting Minutes from July 8, 2025.
Council Member Hope Hoard motioned to approve Emergency Council Meeting Minutes of July 8, 2025. Council Member Chris Steiner seconded the motion to approve the Special Council Meeting Minutes of July 8, 2025. Mayor: All in favor – Hope, Steiner, Josh all yesses. Council Member Jill Ritter abstained. She was not yet a council member at that time.
Motion to approve Special Council Meeting Minutes from July 8, 2025, passed.

Approval of Emergency Council Meeting of July 10, 2025.
Council Member Hope Hoard motioned to approve Emergency Council Meeting Minutes of July 10, 2025. Council Member Chris Steiner seconded the motion to approve the Special Council Meeting Minutes of July 10, 2025. Mayor: All in favor – Hope, Steiner, Josh all yesses.
Motion to approve Special Council Meeting Minutes of July 10, 2025, passed.

Approval of Regular Council Meeting of July 15, 2025.
Council Member Hope Hoard motioned to approve Regular Council Meeting Minutes of July 15, 2025. Council Member Chris Steiner seconded the motion to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of July15, 2025. Mayor: All in favor – Hope, Steiner, Josh all yesses.
Motion to approve Special Council Meeting Minutes of July 15, 2025, passed.

Mayor Simpson stated there are two open council seats. The Council has received two letters of intent. Mayor asked if there were any residents in attendance who would like to speak. No one responded.

The first interested candidate to speak was John Ritter. Mr. Ritter spoke of his qualifications and ideas for helping the Village. He has been a resident for 14 years. His letter of intent is attached to these Minutes.

The second interested candidate to speak was Jacob Groh. Mr. Groh spoke of his military service and his desire to serve the Village. He was born and raised in Phillipsburg. His letter of intent is attached to these Minutes.

Mayor has received no other letters of intent. He wants to give everyone who is interested a chance to be considered for Council.

Council Member Hope Hoard motioned to appoint Jacob Groh to the Village of Phillipsburg Council to fill the open seat for the remainder of the term ending in 12/31/2025. Council Member Chris Steiner seconded the motion. Mayor Roll Call. Hope – yes, Jill – yes, Steiner – yes. Motion passed. Jacob Groh sworn in by Mayor as Council Member.

Council Member Hope Hoard motioned to appoint John Ritter to the Village of Phillipsburg Council to fill an open seat for the remainder of the term ending in 12/31/2025. Council Member Chris Steiner seconded. Mayor Roll Call Vote: Hope – yes, Jill – abstain, Steiner- yes, Jacob – yes. John Ritter sworn in by Mayor as Council Member.

Resolution to Adopt a Village of Phillipsburg, Ohio, Social Media Policy.
Resolution 25-0063 Village of Phillipsburg Social Media Policy. (attached to these minutes)

Mayor Simpson: The Village Council wants to be as transparent as possible, by live streaming the Council meetings and posting the agenda and minutes.

Lori Hartman (F.O.) explained how the resolution was drafted.
Since this is considered an emergency, Council Member Hope motioned to waive the three-reading rule for the Resolution to adopt the social media policy. Council Member Steiner seconded the motion.
Mayor did roll call: Hope – yes, Jill – yes, Chris – yes, Jacob – yes, John – yes. Motion passed.

Council Member Hope also made a motion to approve the resolution to adopt the social media policy as an emergency resolution. Council Member Steiner seconded the motion. Mayor did roll call: Hope – yes, Jill, yes, Steiner – yes, Jacob – yes, John – yes. Motion passed.

Mayor Simpson stated that this will get posted so everyone is aware of it. Lori has been looking into the website, and it might be something that John Ritter can help with. Moving forward, the Council is looking into a way that residents can get onto the website to view the agenda, meeting minutes, attachments, resolutions, etc.

Mayor Simpson discussed the basketball court that is on Village property. Professional sealcoating wouldn't be available for two years. Mayor Simpson stated that he has friends who have volunteered to do the work and we can get the sealant from a wholesaler. Total cost of materials could be about $500. Mayor Simpson asked Council to allow $1,000 to make sure we cover the cost. The Mayor also got quotes for some basketball hoops. (copies attached) Discussion about the prices and styles. The Mayor spoke with some kids who use the basketball equipment that is on Village property, and asked what they would like in a new backboard, hoop, etc. Money is available from the park fund. Mayor Simpson asked Council for their opinions on which one to purchase.

Council Member Steiner mentioned there is a chance of vandalism, but Mayor Simpson is confident that there is a small chance of vandalism. If that happens, it will be shut down for a year. No guarantees, but the risk is worth it. Discussion about surveillance cameras. Council Member Hope suggested the Village purchase a high quality product. The funds are available to pay for this equipment, and more equipment will be purchased for the playground. Council Member Hope motioned to spend $3,800 to approve the purchase of the Mega Slam 72 basketball hoop, etc. and sealcoating materials for the basketball half court. Jill seconded the motion. Mayor did roll call: Hope – yes, Jill – yes, Steiner – yes, Jacob – yes, John – yes. Motion passed.

Mayor Simpson opened a discussion regarding the water department update.

Derek Shell, Water Engineer, spoke first and explained his views for the PFAS remediation. He feels that the current project that is on the table is too expensive and not worth what the Village would have to borrow to pay for what the EPA doesn't cover. He discussed ongoing costs associated with the current plan once it is completed. It will be difficult for the Village to borrow the necessary funds. Derek stated that Brown's Nursery is inside the water protection area, and they have been applying nitrates to the plants. The nitrates have to be monitored quarterly. Derek cant' say whether that's good or bad for the Village. Nitrates are still below MCL. Derek spoke about potential growth of the Village and a deed swap with Brown's. He mentioned House Bill 331 (regarding village dissolution). Mayor mentioned concerns with linking into Union water. Fiscal Officer Lori Hartman spoke to the financial impact of the water project that links Phillipsburg to Union.

There was a brief discussion regarding raising water rates.

Ryan from Wessler discussed that there are other remediation methods. Fiscal Officer Lori Hartman mentioned a company that does free remediation.

Ryan discussed the methods offered by Wessler for remediation. Many changes in technology in the past three years. Wessler project is 90% complete. Need to review 90% plans. Ryan discussed reapplying for funding, if the project doesn't go forward. EPA requires remediation by 2029. Mayor asked Wessler if they would consider different remediation projects. Wessler confirmed that they would. F.O. Lori Hartman discussed where Union wells are located. She mentioned that their location is a concern for contaminants in the future.

Re-establishment of the Water Board and Board of Public Affairs was discussed.

Question was asked if the Village will have to pay back grant if we don't go forward with Wessler. Fiscal Officer Lori Hartman stated that her understanding is that we do not, because the Village used the money to pay for the work that Wessler has done so far.

Council Member Hope motioned to adjourn. Council Member Steiner seconded. All in favor. All yesses. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned.

Mayor: _____

Mayor Pro Tempore: _____

Fiscal Officer: _____

(July 29, 2025, Special Council Meeting)