THE VILLAGE OF PHILLIPSBURG
REGULAR COUNCIUL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 15, 2026

Mayor Simpson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment: Special Guest, Eric Hughes, Northmont Superintendent was present and spoke about Northmont's need for new schools. There will be a Community Conversation about the District's Future on Wednesday, September 23, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at the Northmont Middle School gymnasium. Topics to be discussed are as follows:

Plans for a new Middle School
How this could impact elementary grade levels
Building safe schools and supporting student learning
The OFCC process and why it's important to act now

Old Business

Mayor Simpson relayed that a grant was received from the State of Ohio for the park in the amount of $188,000.00, and it was discussed how that grant can be used. Re-surfacing tennis courts for Pickle Ball came in at about $99,000 - $132,000, leaving little for the park. We want to know from the community what they would like to see happen with the grant money, such as, do we use all money for the park or split the money between the pickle ball courts and the park? Further discussions were had about re-surfacing the tennis courts or replacing the surface and getting quotes to do the same. A community forum will be held on Thursday, October 15, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers to discuss what items the Community would like to see the grant used for.

Discussions were had regarding Baseball Teams and contracts; Cost vs. work sessions for use of the fields. Miami County Blaze is currently taking care of the fields in leu of payment and are currently scheduled for use on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings. Other teams are calling and wanting to use the fields as well. Monday and Friday evenings are available for use. There will need to be a contract signed for each team along with a copy of their insurance with the Village of Phillipsburg listed as an additional insured; however, it was ultimately decided not to charge for use of the fields this year, but once the safety fences and bleachers are re-installed, council will discuss what TO charge for use.

Roll Call: (Heather Craft is absent) Hope Hoard – yes, Chrystal Beavers – yes, Jacob – yes, Zach - Yes.

Approval of Minutes

a. Regular Meeting - 08/18/2026

b. Regular Meeting – 09/01/2026

Hope motioned to approve the minutes from the August 18, 2026 meeting. Chrystal seconded. Approved by unanimous vote.

Hope motioned to approve the minutes from the September 1, 2026 meeting. Jake seconded. Approved by unanimous vote.

Hope motioned to approve Heather's absence from this meeting. Chrystal seconded. Approved by unanimous vote.

New Business

Government Accounting Solutions, Inc. (GASI) Water Billing Software Upgrade. The current version is 3 versions behind and there will be no support for it after the end of this year. There is a proposal for an upgrade. This upgrade will allow the residents to look up and view their water account and pay online. A hyperlink will be provided on the website. The current subscription is $1,650.00 per year and the new contract will increase by $1,000.00. This will eliminate the need to send post cards out to residents (still sending a post card to those residents who wish to continue to receive the post card). $3,200 to upgrade from GASI XP, which is what we currently have, to GASI 2.0. We will get a discount for being current customers and utilizing their online billing options. This was put into the budget previously. It was asked if Mayor Simpson could go ahead and sign for the approval of this upgrade.

Hope motioned to approve entering into the agreement for GASI 2.0, Chrystal seconded. Approved by unanimous vote. Mayor Simpson signed the agreement.

Fire Chief, Pat Aldrich
Discussed the upkeep and/or purchase of supplies. Currently, Stryker is the company that takes care of the maintenance of the supplies. The current contract is up and the cost for the new contract for 3 years, to cover all equipment, takes liability from the Village. The new contract will cost $18,000.00 over three years. Batteries, maintenance, etc. all will be covered. Chief doesn't think this contact is a good option at this time. We need to take advantage of the maintenance services out there. The final total for the service ala carte for this year is $1,338.00. Chief added that cot batteries are needed. All 3 batteries are at the end of their life. We need to purchase at least 2 batteries. The cost for each battery is $686.00. Batteries will last 3 to 4 years. Once parts for the cart runs out, it will no longer be supported.

Hope asked if we can afford the cot batteries.

Hope motioned to approve the purchase of 2 cot batteries. Chrystal seconded. Approved by unanimous vote.

Chief reported that Cowboy John came and worked on the computers at the fire house and that they have 1 working computer at this time.

Planning Commission/BZA updates.

Mayor Simpson reported that a Planning Commission/BZA had a meeting prior to this meeting. Members received binders with all Ordinances, Codes, and Zoning, then voted for a Chairs of the Planning Commission and the BZA (Board of Zoning Appeals.

Water/Street Department update. The streets and water departments are in need of a new vehicle. The box truck is not much use. This purchase would need to be made prior to winter weather setting in, because the current truck used for plowing will not make it through another year like last year. Mayor asked Council to vote to authorize the Fiscal Officer to research funding for a new truck. The new car lot would love to work with us and has access to various auctions.

Hope motioned to authorize the Fiscal Officer to research funding for an all-purpose vehicle to be used between water and street. Chrystal seconded. Approved by unanimous vote.

Council Reports
Hope discussed the Harvest Party to be held at the Community Center from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. on October 24, 2026. She will be making fliers for that and discussed the items needed for the party.

Mayor reports that the ditch workers would be back to finish up.

Hope motioned to adjourn the meeting. Chrystal seconded. Approved by unanimous vote.

Joshua V. Simpson, Mayor

Lori L. Hartman, Fiscal Officer