Approved Oct 27, 2026

TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

October 13, 2026— 6:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER 6:00 pm — **By CP Kennedy**

2. OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT STATEMENT — **Read by CVP Clark**

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE — **All**

4. INVOCATION — **Councilman Fey**

5. ROLL CALL – Council Members Present – Kennedy, Clark, Fey, Saultz, Wanisko
Also in attendance: Mayor Piazza, Attorney Wenner**,** Acting Municipal Clerk Turner

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Regular Meeting Minutes September 22, 2026
Executive Session Minutes September 22, 2026

ROLL CALL — **Motion Carries 4-0-1-0**

Councilmembers	First	Second	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Fey			X			
Councilman Saultz					X	
Councilman Wanisko	X		X			
Council VP Clark		X	X			
Council President Kennedy			X			

7. BILLS LIST

ROLL CALL — **Motion Carries 5-0**

Councilmembers	First	Second	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Fey			X			
Councilman Saultz			X			
Councilman Wanisko	X		X			
Council VP Clark		X	X			
Council President Kennedy			X			

8. MAYOR'S REPORT – Good evening. Over the past several weeks, we've continued making progress on several important initiatives throughout Phillipsburg, while also seeing some great community participation in our local events and activities.

This Friday, October 16, will mark the conclusion of our Movies in the Park series, with our final showing taking place at the Phillipsburg Free Public Library. These events have been a great opportunity for families to come together and enjoy something right here in our own community. I want to thank everyone who helped make this year's series possible.

We also had a great turnout this past weekend for Pork Roll Palooza. I want to recognize everyone who contributed to this event, starting with Norwescap, particularly Melia, the Phillipsburg Downtown Association, our Phillipsburg Police Department, our Community Development and UEZ employees, especially Alex lbarra, and all Of the vendors, businesses, and volunteers who participated. Events like these simply don't happen without a tremendous amount of cooperation and behind-the-scenes work. It's also important to remember that the fundraising associated with these events helps our charitable organizations support

additional programs and activities throughout the year. These partnerships are an important part of what makes Phillipsburg a strong community.

I also want to provide an update on the dog recently found abandoned in our Town, who has been affectionately nicknamed "Laddy." I'm happy to report that Laddy is receiving the care he desperately needed and is beginning to do well as he is nursed back to health. The response from our community has been overwhelming, with numerous individuals offering reward money to help bring whoever is responsible to justice. I sincerely appreciate everyone who has stepped forward. Animal abuse and neglect have absolutely no place in Phillipsburg, and these are actions we simply cannot tolerate. I encourage anyone with information to assist our Police Department with its investigation.

Another important initiative we've been working on since July is a cooperative agreement between the Town of Phillipsburg, our Urban Enterprise Zone, and the New York, Susquehanna and Western Technical and Historical Society. We are now very close to finalizing this agreement, which represents an important partnership with both recreational and environmental benefits. The agreement would allow electrical service to be extended through a temporary easement on Town property to the Society's facilities, helping replace the diesel generators that have long been used for their operations and maintenance. This is a positive environmental improvement while also supporting an important part of Phillipsburg's railroad heritage. Just as importantly, we're hopeful that building this partnership will help us work toward future easements associated with Rails-to-Trails projects and the possibility of improved access to the historic Canal Arch. While those future projects will require additional coordination and approvals, these relationships are an important step toward making them possible.

On the infrastructure side, our comprehensive 2026 road paving program is beginning to move into its next phase. Milling operations are scheduled to begin tomorrow, October 14, starting with Claremont, Grand, Lock, Lyndale, and Pearl Streets, followed by additional work on Ann, Mill, Webster, and Wilbur. This is only the beginning of a much broader paving initiative that wilt expand throughout our downtown area and include other streets across Phillipsburg that have been identified as needing improvements. We will continue announcing additional streets and schedules as the work approaches. This represents another substantial investment in our road infrastructure, and I appreciate everyone's patience as we move these projects forward.

There continues to be a tremendous amount of work underway throughout Phillipsburg. I want to thank our employees, community partners, volunteers, and residents who continue to help move these initiatives forward. We still have plenty of work ahead of us, but we are making meaningful progress and continuing to invest in the future of Phillipsburg.

Thank you. Mayor Randy Piazza

9. **REPORT –** Police Chief McDonald – Throughout his 22 years in the Police Department he has seen Phillipsburg at its best and in difficult times. Last year was difficult with 14 shootings in one year. But through outstanding investigation, the department has solved over 70% of those cases, which is well above the national solve rate of 20-40%. His goal is to prevent violent crimes from happening. When police are visible in neighborhoods, criminals leave. Chief McDonald has created a dedicated traffic unit which is doing more than traffic enforcement. They are providing that visibility and proactively policing. There have been 1,084 more traffic stops than this time last year, which is 450 more than all of last year’s stops, on top of 2,505 more service calls than last year. This year there were 2 shootings, the lowest since at least 2021. Officers are being proactive and visible, and are engaging with the community. Officers have also received 16 additional training hours over the state training requirements. The department has expanded its technological capabilities with virtual training and a vehicle for the drone program. Chief McDonald stated the Police Department continues to look for ways to improve. They will not be complacent, they will not accept violence, and they will not accept fear in our community and neighborhoods.

-Councilman Saultz noted that while speaking with two officers at Pork Roll Palooza two young men passed and greeted the officers. This is a big difference from a few years ago.

-Councilman Fey thanked Chief McDonald for the support the department provides throughout the town.

10. **EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:17 pm –** Councilman Fey moved to enter Executive Session. Seconded by Councilman Wanisko. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0. Motion passed. Attorney Wenner stated the topics to be discussed are contractual concerning the WIPA process and one other. Action may be taken after Executive Session.

RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE – 6:40 pm – Councilman Saultz moved to resume Public Session. Seconded by Councilman Wanisko. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0. Motion passed.
Attorney Wenner stated two contractual items were discussed. No action was taken. He requested a motion to approve the non-renewal of the Brothers Before Others lease for two parking spaces.

ROLL CALL **Motion Carries 5-0**

Councilmembers	First	Second	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Fey		X	X			
Councilman Saultz			X			
Councilman Wanisko			X			
Council VP Clark	X		X			
Council President Kennedy			X			

11. **PUBLIC DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEMS –** Bill Timmans – O2026-26 – This ordinance is needed. There was a report of two teens, brother and sister, who assaulted two police officers at the school.

12. **ORDINANCES – 2nd Read and Public Hearing**
Tabled at the September 22, 2026 meeting
O2026-26 ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, CREATING CHAPTER 380 ENTITLED "MINORS AND PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY" TO IMPOSE CERTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS AND/OR GUARDIANS OF MINORS ENGAGING IN CERTAIN OFFENDING BEHAVIOR

ROLL CALL Motion to untable **Motion Carries 5-0**

Councilmembers	First	Second	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Fey			X			
Councilman Saultz			X			
Councilman Wanisko		X	X			
Council VP Clark	X		X			
Council President Kennedy			X			

ROLL CALL Motion to adopt **No vote**

Councilmembers	First	Second	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Fey	X					
Councilman Saultz						
Councilman Wanisko		X				
Council VP Clark						

Council President Kennedy						

Public Discussion – Jennifer, resident, asked if the original version or the proposed amended version was to be adopted. Attorney Wenner stated that after discussion, Council could move to amend the ordinance as proposed. Jennifer stated the amended version is much better than the original.
-Stuart Ridley, resident – The proposed amended version is far superior and it can be added to as needed.
Council Discussion – Councilman Saultz stated the State has a parental responsibility statute that covers everything within this ordinance. For us to repeat that and cite two statutes is redundant. The curfew ordinance on our books is not included in the proposed amended version, and it has parental responsibilities attached to it. This repeats State statutes. Attorney Wenner stated that the curfew wasn't included because it has a parental responsibilities portion which can stand on its own and may trigger the application of this ordinance which clarifies who is responsible. There are some crossovers, but this ordinance is more narrowly tailored without affecting more people than intended. Councilman Saultz stated our ordinance didn't offer more or less than the State's. While "it takes a village" is true, it is not the community's responsibility to teach the child.
Council VP Clark supports the ordinance. There is a need for this legislation as it provides discipline, correction, and accountability. The town is aware of the problem and is being proactive and holding parents accountable.
Councilman Wanisko stated that Council had tabled the original version and has worked with the Police Department, Administration, and the Attorney to improve it.
Council President Kennedy stated this is a proactive move. He understands Councilman Saultz's comments but we have to clean up our own house regarding kids behavior. There may be changes needed in the future.

ROLL CALL Motion to amend to the proposed amended Ordinance Motion Carries 5-0

Councilmembers	First	Second	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Fey			X			
Councilman Saultz			X			
Councilman Wanisko		X	X			
Council VP Clark	X		X			
Council President Kennedy			X			

ROLL CALL Motion to adopt Ordinance 2026-26 as amended Motion Carries 5-0

Councilmembers	First	Second	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Fey			X			
Councilman Saultz			X			
Councilman Wanisko	X		X			
Council VP Clark		X	X			
Council President Kennedy			X			

Attorney Wenner stated that the second reading and public hearing is to be placed on the October 27, 2026 Council meeting agenda.

O2026-27 ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE PHILLIPSBURG TOWN CODE BY INCREASING CERTAIN FEES PROVIDED THEREIN
Public Discussion – None
Council Discussion - None

ROLL CALL **Motion Carries 5-0**

Councilmembers	First	Second	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Fey		X	X			
Councilman Saultz			X			
Councilman Wanisko	X		X			
Council VP Clark			X			
Council President Kennedy			X			

O2026-28 ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING THE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE PROPERTIES REFERRED TO AS THE RIVERFRONT REDEVELOPMENT AREA, DISTRICTS 1 THROUGH 6

Public Discussion – None
Council Discussion - None
ROLL CALL **Motion Carries 5-0**

Councilmembers	First	Second	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Fey	X		X			
Councilman Saultz			X			
Councilman Wanisko		X	X			
Council VP Clark			X			
Council President Kennedy			X			

14. RESOLUTIONS ** CONSENT AGENDA **

Matters listed on the Consent Agenda Resolutions are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion of the Council and one roll call vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council member requests an item to be removed for consideration.

R2026-146 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND PAYMENT OF RENTAL REGISTRATION FEES

R2026-147 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE PRICING AGREEMENT

R2026-148 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT AMENDMENT WITH NORTH END ELECTRIC, INC. – PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

R2026-149 RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE BUDGET OF THE MUNICIPALITY PURSUANT TO THE RELEVANT PROVISIONS OF N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (CHAPTER 159, P.L. 1948) – WARREN COUNTY DIVISION OF CULTURAL & HERITAGE AFFAIRS GRANT

R2026-150 RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE BUDGET OF THE MUNICIPALITY PURSUANT TO THE RELEVANT

PROVISIONS OF N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (CHAPTER 159, P.L. 1948) – NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILROAD SAFETY GRANT

R2026-151 RESOLUTION APPOINTING EB EMPLOYEE SOLUTIONS, LLC, DBA AS THE DIFFERENCE CARD TO PROVIDE HRA SERVICES FOR THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG

R2026-152 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH VAN CLEEF ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES – HUDSON STREET PHASE 5 DESIGN

R2026-153 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH VAN CLEEF ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES – STORM SEWER SYSTEM REHABILITATION PROJECT

R2026-154 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH VAN CLEEF ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES – ROSEBERRY PEDESTRIAN SIGNAL IMPROVEMENTS

R2026-155 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT AMENDMENT WITH VAN CLEEF ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES – PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

R2026-156 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH VAN CLEEF ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES – DOWNTOWN PAVING PROJECT

R2026-157 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH VAN CLEEF ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES – CO-OP PAVING & STRIPING PROJECT

R2026-158 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT AMENDMENT WITH VAN CLEEF ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES – PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

ROLL CALL - Consent Agenda **Motion Carries 5-0**

Councilmembers	First	Second	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Fey		X	X			
Councilman Saultz	X		X			
Councilman Wanisko			X			
Council VP Clark			X			
Council President Kennedy			X			

R2026-159 pulled from the Consent Agenda by Councilman Saultz

R2026-159 RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY EXTENDING BRANDYWINE ACQUISITION & DEVELOPMENT, LLC'S REDEVELOPER DESIGNATION OF THE "BLOCK 1105, LOT 2 441 HECKMAN STREET REDEVELOPMENT ZONE," CONSISTING OF BLOCK 1105, LOT 2 AS IDENTIFIED ON THE TAX MAP OF THE TOWN

Discussion – Councilman Saultz asked if this was any closer to completion. Business Administrator Brotons (audience) stated it is moving forward. They have been coordinating with Brandywine and the financial advisors, going back and forth with questions and answers.

ROLL CALL - R2026-159 **Motion Carries 5-0**

Councilmembers	First	Second	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Fey		X	X			
Councilman Saultz	X		X			
Councilman Wanisko			X			
Council VP Clark			X			
Council President Kennedy			X			

15. OLD BUSINESS – None

16. NEW BUSINESS – None

17. MOTIONS – Firefighter applications – Rosario, Bracco

ROLL CALL **Motion Carries 5-0**

Councilmembers	First	Second	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Fey			X			
Councilman Saultz	X		X			
Councilman Wanisko			X			
Council VP Clark		X	X			
Council President Kennedy			X			

MOTIONS – Street opening waiver 281 Chambers St. – An Elizabethtown Gas representative addressed Council stating that an amended permit was submitted and they need permission to do the additional work. Engineer Tim O'Brien (audience) stated that there are several other properties with applications pending. None of them are on roads that are being paved. Mr. O'Brien suggested that Council pass a blanket waiver for all street openings through the end of 2026. As per the town code a blanket waiver is acceptable if all openings will be treated with an infrared seal. Mr. O'Brien added that if 50% of a block is opened, the utility company must repave the street from curb to curb.

-

ROLL CALL Blanket waiver for street opening for the remainder of 2026
Motion Carries 5-0

Councilmembers	First	Second	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Fey			X			
Councilman Saultz	X		X			
Councilman Wanisko		X	X			
Council VP Clark			X			
Council President Kennedy			X			

18. PUBLIC PETITIONS – Bill Timmans, resident – stated that police patrols and ticketing for parking violations and e-scooters have to be increased on Main Street. Chief McDonald stated that e-bikes have been towed, motorcycles moved, and cars ticketed as the police are made aware of them. Traffic units are directed to enforce these violations. He and Mayor Piazza stressed that residents should call the Police Department about these issues. A post on social media is not enough**.**

-Stuart Ridley, resident – asked that residents be informed of what roads are to be paved and when.

19. COUNCIL OPEN TIME –

-Councilman Saultz – Pork Roll Palooza was so busy with hundreds of people there. He is proud of everyone who worked so hard, especially NORWESCAP and Malia, the business sponsors, UEZ, DPW and the Police Department. The day reminded him of neighborhood picnics growing up. More events like this make the community stronger and less divided.

-Councilman Wanisko – enjoyed a nice time at the Pork Roll Palooza. His wife, who is vegetarian, and he enjoyed the delicious food. Councilman Wanisko stated he served as the point person on amending Ordinance 2026-26. It was a big effort by all and he thanked Attorney Wenner for his tireless work on it.

-Councilman Fey – The Over 65 baseball team beat the Lehigh Valley Baseball League team and will compete in the Annual World Series to be held in Arizona.

- Council VP Clark – Pork Roll Palooza was great and the food delicious. This was heard of well beyond the Phillipsburg area. He thanked all for coming out. Council VP Clark thanked the Police Department for their proactive and community policing efforts which are showing results. He sees a difference in the local youth. And a 77% investigative rate is something to celebrate. The Halloween Parade will be held Sunday, October 25 at 3 pm.

- Council President Kennedy – commended and thanked all the volunteers and sponsors who helped make Pork Roll Palooza a success. Trick or Treat will be held between 5 and 8 pm on Saturday, October 31st. October is Breast Cancer Awareness month and Council President Kennedy urged everyone to get regular cancer screenings, do not put them off. They can save your life.

20. ADJOURNMENT – 7:25 PM

Councilman Saultz moved to adjourn. Seconded by Councilman Wanisko.
Ayes:5, Nays: 0, Absent: 0 Motion carries.

_____
Susan Turner, Acting Municipal Clerk