TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

October 27, 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 October 13, 2026
Executive Session Minutes October 13, 2026

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			

7. BILLS LIST – Checks #6162 and #6195 pulled for discussion. Motion to approve all other items on the Bills List.

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			

- Councilman Wanisko requested checks #6162 and #6195 be pulled for discussion.
  Discussion – Councilman Wanisko stated that the Department of Economic & Community Development was established to provide transparency regarding UEZ transactions and asked for an explanation of both checks. Mayor Piazza explained that check #6162 was a reimbursement check paid to him because he paid the band who performed at the 250/165 event when he found out they would have to wait to be paid. Funds had already been received from the County and appropriated. Mayor Piazza did not have any information about check #6195.
  Council President Kennedy called for a motion to accept check #6162 and #6195.

ROLL CALL **Motion Fails 3-2**

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		

8. **MAYOR'S REPORT –** Good evening. The past several weeks have been incredibly busy here in Phillipsburg, and I want to start by recognizing the tremendous number of community events that have taken place throughout our Town.

From Pork Roll Palooza and the conclusion of our Movies in the Park series to this past weekend's activities, Phillipsburg has certainly been alive with excitement. Saturday atone featured the three-on-three basketball tournament, Punt, Pass and Kick competition at the Firth Youth Center, the Pumpkin Train, our Farmers Market, and the Denim and Diamonds Shop and Savor event downtown. Sunday brought another fantastic Fall Fest organized by our Phillipsburg Police Department, followed by the 44th annual Phillipsburg-Easton Halloween Parade. The turnout and participation throughout the weekend were outstanding.

I want to thank all the organizations, businesses, volunteers, and Town employees who made these events possible. A special thank you to our Police Department, Community Development and UEZ employees, and both Phillipsburg's and Easton's DPW departments for their cooperation. It's great to see our employees actively participating in these events, including Chief McDonald Wing at the basketball tournament and Matt Noel helping judge Punt, Pass and Kick. These events don't happen without an incredible amount of work behind the scenes.

Another major accomplishment was the reopening of the Black Bridge on South Main Street last week, just in time for Sunday's Halloween Parade to follow its traditional route. After more than six months of closure, this was a tremendous victory for our residents and downtown businesses. I especially want to thank Senator Doug Steinhardt, NJDOT Commissioner Priya Jain, and the entire NJDOT team for their commitment to getting this bridge reopened. I also appreciate Congressman Tom Kean Jr., our railroad partners, contractors, and everyone who worked together to make this happen.

Our comprehensive road paving program is also in full swing, with milling and paving taking place throughout Phillipsburg. This represents a significant investment in our infrastructure and will continue into 2027, including the entirety of our downtown area and numerous additional streets throughout Town. We will continue announcing work schedules as projects progress. I appreciate everyone's patience as we make these much-needed improvements

Finally, we continue dealing with the serious sinkhole issues on Summit Avenue. This situation has had a devastating impact on several families and remains a pressing concern for this administration. Beyond the necessary remediation and restoration work, I believe we must pursue accountability, including litigation against those we believe may be responsible, based on the evidence and advice of legal counsel. Our residents and taxpayers should not be left bearing the burden of circumstances caused by others. I sincerely hope Council shares that commitment so we can work together and take the necessary action on this important issue.

There is a tremendous amount happening in Phillipsburg, and white challenges remain, we continue making real progress. Thank you to everyone helping move our Town forward.

10. **EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:09 pm –** Council VP Clark 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 and Attorney/Client Privilege.

RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE – 6:39 pm – Councilman Saultz moved to resume Public Session. Seconded by Councilman Fey. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0. Motion passed. Attorney Wenner stated the topics discussed were WIPA, Contractual, Attorney/Client Privilege, and Personnel. No action was taken.

11. **PUBLIC DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEMS –**

-Bill Benz, Phillipsburg Downtown Association – asked that businesses and the general public get a week's notice when paving will be done on South Main St. Mayor Piazza stated that the town has been posting road work schedules and notifying residents in affected areas if they signed up

for text/email alerts. The work on South Main is a bigger project so once it has started the schedule should not change as it can with smaller projects.

12. ORDINANCES – 2nd Read and Public Hearing

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

Council Discussion – Council VP Clark stated he supports the ordinance and believes it will do a lot of good. Councilman Wanisko stated that contrary to social media rumors, this ordinance does not remove the responsibility of the offending citation/behavior from the minor, it adds the parents/guardians.

Public Discussion – Joe Meyner, resident – The education plan he developed for President Bush's America 2000 strategy in 1991 moves schools into a constitutional school system for 7th through 14th grade and includes two years of free college. It introduces government and constitutional order into the community and results in better educated and better disciplined children. Copies of his plan are available in the Clerk's Office.

ROLL CALL Motion to adopt **Motion passed 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			

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.

R2026-160 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF SEWER UTILITY OVERPAYMENT

R2026-161 RESOLUTION DESIGNATING HANDICAP PARKING SPACE WITHIN THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG

R2026-162 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT AMENDMENT WITH VAN CLEEF ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES – PROFESSIONAL SERVICES- STORMWATER

R2026-163 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT AMENDMENT WITH VAN CLEEF ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES – PROFESSIONAL SERVICES – HUDSON ST PH 2 & 3

R2026-164 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT AMENDMENT WITH VAN CLEEF ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES – PROFESSIONAL SERVICES – HUDSON ST PH 4

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			

15. OLD BUSINESS – None

16. NEW BUSINESS – None

17. MOTIONS – None

18. PUBLIC PETITIONS –

-Lisa DeGerolamo, resident – it is nice to see the new sidewalks on Heckman Street. She participated in the Downtown Passport event and there were many people out and about on Main Street. She is concerned about the weeds throughout town. This has been the worst year and it will be even worse in the spring. It makes the town look run down and dirty. Another concern is the traffic at the Bates St/ Rt. 22 turn around. Traffic is very heavy and dangerous with two lanes spreading out into three lanes as they turn. She suggested that if the Rt. 22 turn around cannot be reopened, Bates be made a one way street. Ms. DeGerolamo asked when anything will be done with the Corliss Ave and Norton buildings. Mayor Piazza stated that he has meeting next week regarding them. Ms. DeGerolamo stated that the town should hold some events in other places than Main Street, such as Walter's Park, and she recommended a Restaurant Week.

-Bill Timmans, resident – asked who paid for the trolley for this past weekend's events. Mayor Piazza stated that the trolley had been scheduled when the bridge and sidewalks were closed. They both reopened just before the weekend so, given the number of events taking place, they decided to keep it as planned. The fees were paid out of UEZ funds.

- David Fiori with Florio, Perucci, Steinhardt law firm, representing residents of 21-35 Summit Ave – requested the town take the lead in suing Aqua NJ by the end of this year for their role in the sinkhole that occurred in February. Council President Kennedy stated that Council is considering taking legal action against Aqua.

-Bill Benz, Phillipsburg Downtown Association – All of the recent events and activities downtown have created a tremendous momentum. He asked that Council and the Administration declare the bridge closure a local emergency to open up access to federal services and funds. Funds are coming in from out of town to help the town including Delaware River Park, the Cal Ripken, Jr. Field, and Walter's Park. Contributions that people are making need be recognized. In addition, UEZ received over $175,000 for public safety. This must be managed properly.

-Nicole Algarer, resident – asked when Council/Administration will be suing Aqua NJ. Mayor Piazza stated there has been discussion to do this by the end of the year but the legal process may impede that timeline.

-Andrea Wilever, resident – Council decided tonight to pull a check/payment. They have had 5 days to review their agenda but don't seem to be doing their due diligence regarding it. Did anyone ask, call, or research this check before tonight? The business owner impacted is the sole earner in her household with small children. Council members who voted against paying this check cannot say they support small business.

-Terry Baker, resident – asked if there was any initiative from Council or the Administration to discuss with the tax assessor reducing property taxes on those properties affected by the sinkhole. Mayor Piazza stated he had that conversation with the assessor. Mr. Baker stated it would have been much better for Council or the Administration to notify those property taxes before that conversation so the residents would know it was going to take place and let residents know they were staying in front of the situation.

Mr. Baker stated that the Council/Administration should look into ways any budget surplus could be used to help those affected by the sinkhole.

19. COUNCIL OPEN TIME –

-Councilman Saultz – This past weekend was stupendous for the town with events at the Youth Center, the parade along Main Street, and the Fall Fest put on by the Police Department. This has been a great year and he hopes we can build up each year. The Cal Ripken, JR. field is looking great.

-Councilman Wanisko – The Halloween Parade was very nice. He is glad the Parental Responsibility Ordinance passed and stressed that the goal is not to arrest more people.

-Councilman Fey – Enjoy yourself while trick or treating but be careful.

- Council VP Clark – Reminded residents that Trick or Treating will be from 5 pm to 8 pm on Saturday, Oct 31st. He asked that people be responsible and safe and have fun. There was a great turnout for the Halloween Parade and it brought a more positive look to the town. He is happy and thankful that the Black Bridge is reopened. He thanked everyone involved, especially the union workers who worked through the summer heat.

- Council President Kennedy – The bridge reopening was a positive note. This weekend there was a ribbon cutting at Buena Vista, the 3x3 basketball tournament at Mercer Park where our own Police Chief DJ'd for 8 hours, the Youth Center hosted a Pass 150 event, the Fall Festival, and the Halloween Parade.

20. ADJOURNMENT – 7:17 PM

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

_____
Susan Turner, Acting Municipal Clerk