

NEW PHILADELPHIA CITY COUNCIL MET IN REGULAR SESSION IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MAY 22, 2023 WITH PRESIDENT KEMP PRESIDING. COUNCILWOMAN RAMOS OFFERED A PRAYER, AND ALL IN ATTENDANCE RECITED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

MR. DEAN HOLLAND
MR. DAN LANZER
MRS. AIMEE MAY
MR. MITCH PACE
MRS. CHERYL RAMOS
MR. STEVE RIPPETH

EXCUSED ABSENSES: MR. KELLY RICKLIC
AUDITOR BETH GUNDY

- MR. PACE MOTIONED TO ADD RESOLUTION 10-2023 TO TONIGHT’S AGENDA WITH RECOMMENDED PASSAGE UPON 1st Reading
MR. LANZER SECONDED THE MOTION
6 YEAS
RESOLUTION 10-2023 BEEN ADDED TO TONIGHT’S AGENDA

- MRS. RAMOS MOTIONED TO ACCEPT TONIGHT’S AGENDA
MRS. MAY SECONDED THE MOTION
6 YEAS
TONIGHT’S AGENDA HAS BEEN ACCEPTED

- MRS. RAMOS MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MAY 8,2023 REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL
MR. RIPPETH SECONDED THE MOTION
5 YEAS (MR. PACE ABSTAINED)
MINUTES FROM THE MAY 8, 2023 COUNCIL MEETING HAVE BEEN APPROVED

CORRESPONDENCE CLERK, JULIE COURTRIGHT

1. *To Council and Administration from Mayor Day, dated May 9, 2023. This is the Zoning Revisions Updated Work Session with Wendy Moehler with Compass Point Planning*
2. *To Mayor Day and Service Director McAbier from Erin Wright with OMEGA. This is an email titled “Natureworks”.*
3. *To Mayor Day, Police Chief Goodwin, and Fire Chief Parrish, dated May 13, 2023, from Sarah Coffey, General Manager of Towneplace Suites by Marriot. This is an email titled “Towneplace Suites Grand Opening”.*
4. *To Council and Administration from Mayor Day, dated May 22, 2023. The Mayor’s Report.*

MAYOR’S REPORT/REQUESTSMAYOR JOEL B. DAY

Mayor Day had the following report:

New Philadelphia - Dover Makes Site Selection Magazine’s Top 100 List

Late last week I received word that the New Philadelphia-Dover area has been named to Site Selection Magazine’s Top 100 Micropolitan Communities in America. A micropolitan site is defined as an area with a population under 50,000 that has shown substantial economic development. Other criteria include location to major transportation, quality of life and amenities. On Wednesday, a representative of the Ohio Department of Development will be in town to present a proclamation from Governor DeWine and Lieutenant Governor Husted recognizing this achievement. You can read more about the top micropolitan sites here: <https://siteselection.com/issues/2023/mar/findlay-on-the-move.cfm>.

VFW Hometown Heroes Banners

VFW Post 1445 is looking for your help to launch its “Hometown Heros” banners program in downtown New Philadelphia. The banners feature photos of local veterans of the armed services and are being paid for by the VFW. They will be displayed from the decorative light posts in the downtown area from Memorial Day to Veterans Day each year. If you would like to honor a “Hometown Hero” with a banner, or would like to donate to the program, contact Post Commander Steve Chenevey by calling 330-204-1388 or stop by the post at 441 Park Avenue NW.

Downtown Square Closed During the Memorial Day Ceremony

Here’s a reminder that the downtown square will be closed to traffic on Monday, May 29th at 11 am for the annual Memorial Day ceremony on the County Courthouse plaza. Detour routes will be posted. Join us to honor and remember those Tuscarawas County veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of America and our freedom.

Tuscora Park Ferris Wheel Dedication Ceremony

As part of the opening weekend festivities at Tuscora Park, RTY Inc. will dedicate the restored Ferris wheel during a ceremony at 3pm on Sunday, May 28th, and you’re invited! The ride had been shut down over the past two years while it was completely overhauled. The \$250,000 project included the installation of two gondolas with wheelchair access. The City is thankful for the businesses and individuals who made the restoration possible. The support of this community is truly amazing.

Thanks to the New Philadelphia Rotary Club

I want to thank the New Philadelphia Rotary Club members who took two evenings out of their busy schedules this month to plant flowers, brush on fresh coats of paint and power wash to get Tuscora Park ready to officially open for the summer on Saturday. The members don’t hear “thank you” enough for the jobs they do. The swimming pool, concession stands and rides will all be open.

Congratulations to Our Graduates!

Congratulations to the graduates of New Philadelphia High School, Tuscarawas Central Catholic High School, Quaker Digital Academy and Kent State-Tuscarawas. We are proud of your achievements and wish you the best as you start a new chapter in your life. New Philadelphia and T-County will always be home. We hope that you will choose to live and raise a family here. But if not, come back home as often as you can.

Another Successful Art on the Alley Celebration

It was an awesome sight to see the downtown alleys filled with vendors and people enjoying the annual spring Art on the Alley celebration this past Sunday. The Tuscarawas Arts Partnership did a great job of organizing and staging the event. The sidewalk chalk art added a new dimension to the celebration. Art on the Alley keeps getting bigger and better and has helped New Philadelphia become a destination for artists and art collectors.

Presenting Letters of Commendation to Police Officers Goble, Lambert and Boyd

I want to conclude my report by presenting letters of commendation to New Philadelphia Police Sergeant Mitchell Goble and Officers Tristen Lambert and Andrew Boyd. Their shift Captain Tessa Pohovey recommended they receive this special recognition for the actions they took to help a citizen on Sunday, April 30th. Each commendation reads, in part, as follows:

At around 2:30pm, Sergeant Mitchell Goble and officers Tristen Lambert and Andrew Boyd were called to an apartment building on Bank Lane SW for reports of a woman yelling for help. The officers arrived at the building to discover the upstairs hallway filled with thick black smoke. The Fire Department was contacted, and the officers ascended the stairs to locate the woman. They were unsuccessful in attempts to talk her out towards them, so they entered the apartment from which smoke was emerging and began to search for her. The woman was located and carried down the stairs and outside to safety by Sergeant Goble. Officers Boyd and Lambert evacuated an occupant and his dog from the neighboring apartment. The remaining apartments were cleared and confirmed vacant. The Fire Department extinguished the appliance fire upon their arrival and no serious injuries were sustained. Captain Tessa Pohovey stated, “I am very proud of these officers and the way this call was handled. Police work can be unpredictable, and these officers acted without hesitation, prioritizing the safety of others.”

SERVICE DIRECTOR..... Service Director Ron McAbier:

Mr. McAbier had the following report:

We'll start with the Parks Department. The renovations are complete there. If you remember we budgeted, the whole budget was \$35,000 then we had \$16,000 in grant and \$8,000 in the GoFundMe. That is completed. We'll fill out the paperwork now for the grant to be reimbursed for the \$16,132. Also, finally, R.J. Corman has released us to run that storm sewer line. We have to get that through before Small Cities goes through because Mill Ave. is on the paving list. Also, at the water distribution. We moved the fence on the Gradall property and we now have a fence fencing off the Water Distribution Department. That was also the last of that grant. I reported last Council Meeting on the gas lines and I reported that the closure would end last week, they ran into some unforeseen issues, but I was assured that it will be open again by Wednesday. After that it will be one-lane traffic with flaggers for the duration of that project.

President Kemp asked about Glen Drive. Mr. McAbier said they've had some issues getting one of the precasts made, but the cuts are made.

Mr. Holland asked about the alleyway on the North side of the courthouse, if they will be paved. Mr. McAbier said they are working on a grant to brick those.

AUDITORMS. BETH GUNDY.....EXCUSED ABSENSE

SAFETY DIRECTORMR. GREG POPHAM

Mr. Popham had the following report:

On Friday Officer Jen Horner worked her last day after over 20 years of service to the City. Later in the Fire Department a young man from the Bowerston area was put on as a new fireman. His name is Brett Putnam. He's 19-years-old and hopefully he'll be a long-term employee for the City. At the intersection of Ashwood and North Broadway the pedestrian crossing lights are up and all the equipment has been installed. Also, we're awaiting the results of Civil Service Exams as to who is going to be the new chief, captain, and sergeant on the police department. As soon as that certified letter has come down we'll make an announcement.

TREASURER . . . MR. TOM GERBER.....NO REPORT

LAW DIRECTOR.....MR. MARVIN FETE

Mr. Fete had the following report:

In the proposed legislation I sent out I sent the vacant property and rental registration. This is something I have worked on for a long time. It's a significant change on how we're going to be approaching things in the City. It goes along with what the Mayor and I have been continuing to try to do which is to try to clean up our City and to make it safer and a better place for all our citizens. It's also going to put them on record, and it's going to make people who abandon their property accountable. It's going to give us the opportunity to get in there and have a registry so that we know where the vacant properties are. The rental registration has come about as a result of the safety forces having to go into some really bad situations at some apartment buildings. This is really important for our community and I encourage the public to comment on it and to address it. Lastly, I am requesting an Executive Session for two reasons. One is for a legal matter that is to be kept confidential by law, the other is to brief council on an ongoing litigation matter.

MR. PACE MOTIONED FOR AN EXECUTIVE SESSION AT THE LAW
LAW MAKER'S REQUEST

MR. HOLLAND SECONDED THE MOTION
6 YEAS

AN EXECUTIVE SESSION WILL BE HELD DURING TONIGHT'S MEETING
FOLLOWING THE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

BOARD/COMMISSION REPORTS:

PLANNING COMMISSION.....MAYOR JOEL DAY

The Planning Commission's next Meeting will be on Tuesday, June 13 at 1:00 in Council Chambers.
We're still developing the Agenda for that.

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS.....MR. RON MCABIER

The Board of Zoning Appeals will meet June 13 at 5:00PM in Council Chambers.

AIRPORT COMMISSION.....MR. DAN LANZER

The Airport Commission will be meeting in Council Chambers on June 13, 2023 at 6:00 PM.

PARK BOARD.....MR. MITCH PACE

The Park Board met this past Wednesday at the Park Pavilion. A couple updates, the park opens this Weekend and we have a Ferris wheel ceremony on Sunday. We've got some work being done down At the Waterworks. The youth softball program raised \$20,000 to redo field 7 and field 8 at the Waterworks. All the softball fields except for 9 and 10 are complete. Field 7 will be done tomorrow.

CEMETERY BOARD.....MR. MITCH PACE.....NO REPORT

HEALTH BOARD MR. DEAN HOLLAND
The Health Board will meet Wednesday, June 14 at Noon in Council Chambers.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE COMMITTEEMR. KELLY RICKLIC.....EXCUSED ABSENSE

PUBLIC WORKS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE...MR. DAN LANZER...NO REPORT

SAFETY, HEALTH, AND SERVICE COMMITTEE.....MR. DEAN HOLLAND.....NO REPORT

ZONING AND ANNEXATION COMMITTEE.....MRS. CHERYL RAMOS.....NO REPORT

SALARY COMMITTEE.....NO REPORT.....MRS. AIMEE MAY.....NO REPORT

PARKS AND CEMETERY COMMITTEE.....MR. MITCH PACE

Mr. Pace had the following report:

The Parks and Cemetery Committee met this evening at 7:15 to discuss Resolution 10-2023. This is a resolution for a Natureworks grant for youth soccer fields at Southside Community Park. The Resolution passed unanimously and was added to tonight’s Agenda to pass on 1st Reading.

SPECIAL AND CONTACT COMMITTEE.....MR. STEVE RIPPETH.....NO REPORT

VISITOR’S COMMENTS

Reverend Ben Lippert of 126 22nd St. SE New Philadelphia, Oh. Had the following comment. Tonight, I speak plainly as a citizen of New Philadelphia. I want to speak about how the City holds meetings and how disappointing I find that process to be. At the Zoning Board meeting I attended the lack of inclusion of citizens in the democratic process was truly appalling. 60 to 70 citizens attended that meeting. Some for and some against the proposed homeless shelter at the old Twilight Drive-in. All of them took time out of their busy day to be there. The Committee there conducted their business like the public was not present. They used no microphones. The majority of citizens present could not hear the discussion of even hear the vote. There was no agenda made public to citizens on the city website beforehand. The only reason I know who voted for or against the decision, is someone on my Committee talked to one of the committee members afterwards. The most appalling part for me was the public comment portion. The committee let one person speak from Friends of the Homeless and one person speak for the citizens of Brightwood. Then, for a reason that none of us were given, or that we could reasonably be expected to hear, no public comment was allowed for the tax paying citizens of New Philadelphia. I’m curious about what authority the Zoning Board had to suspend public comment for a public meeting. On Tuesday, May 9, the City of New Philadelphia ignored the voice of it’s citizens on an issue that those citizens care deeply about. Additionally, the majority of the Meetings I’ve attended in the John Knisely Municipal Center hosted by the City or a Committee of the City has not featured adequate amplification of sound for myself or for other citizens. Your room is set up so there is a distance between the citizens and the legislative body. Every person that talks should have a microphone so they can be heard clearly for the people present, not just for the YouTube stream. The public has a right to be an active part of the democratic process. I’m informing you tonight that I have filed an ADA complaint with the Department of Justice on behalf of myself, Ben Lippert, a hearing impaired individual, and the citizens of New Philadelphia. As of this afternoon there is no information on the City website about who to contact to make accommodations for meetings such as these. I’m just requesting that you conduct your meetings in a more inclusive manner from this point on for the benefit of your citizens.

President Kemp told Reverend Lippert that he would take that under advisement.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

President Kemp had the following comment:

This coming weekend is Memorial Day Weekend. We should all honor those who sacrificed their lives for our country and so we have the freedoms that we have. We have the ceremonies here on the Square on Monday. I’d welcome all those to attend.

READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCES: NONE

RESOLUTIONS:

7-2023 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF UHRICHSVILLE, OHIO FOR THE PY 2023 COMMUNITY HOUSING IMPACT AND PRESERVATION (CHIP) PROGRAM.
2nd Reading

MR. RIPPETH MOTIONED TO SUSPEND THE RULES ON
RESOLUTION 7-2023
MR. LANZER SECONDED THE MOTION
6 YEAS
RULES HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED ON RESOLUTION 7-2023

MR. RIPPETH MOTIONED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION
7-2023
MR. LANZER SECONDED THE MOTION
5 YEAS (MR. HOLLAND ABSTAINED)
RESOLUTION 7-2023 HAS BEEN APPROVED

8-2023

A RESOLUTION BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW
PHILADELPHIA, TUSCARAWAS COUNTY, OHIO, AUTHORIZING
AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR OF THE SAID CITY OF NEW
PHILADELPHIA TO ACT AS THE SIGNATURE DESIGNEE AND
FILE AN APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER
TITLE 1 OF THE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
ACT OF 1974 (PL 93-383) TO THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT, DIVISION OF OHIO DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
AGENCY, OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND
ACCEPT THE SAME UPON AWARD.
2nd Reading

MR. RIPPETH MOTIONED FOR SUSPENSION OF RULES
ON RESOLUTION 8-2023
MR. PACE SECONDED THE MOTION
6 YEAS
RULES ARE SUSPENDED ON RESOLUTION 8-2023

MR. RIPPETH MOTIONED FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION
8-2023
MR. PACE SECONDED THE MOTION
6 YEAS
RESOLUTION 8-2023 HAS BEEN APPROVED

9-2023

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO
A CONTRACT WITH THE OHIO REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION FOR THE ADMINISTRATION SERVICES FOR
PY 2023 COMMUNITY HOUSING IMPACT AND PRESERVATION
(CHIP) PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZING ORDC TO SUBMIT
APPLICATION TO THE PY 2023 CHIP ON BEHALF OF THE CITY
OF NEW PHILADELPHIA
2nd Reading

MR. RIPPETH MOTIONED FOR SUSPENSION OF RULES
ON RESOLUTION 9-2023
MR. LANZER SECONDED THE MOTION
5 YEAS (MR. HOLLAND ABSTAINED)
RULES HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED ON RESOLUTION 9-2023

MR. LANZER MOTIONED FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION
9-2023
MR. RIPPETH SECONDED THE MOTION
5 YEAS (MR. HOLLAND ABSTAINED)
RESOLUTION 9-2023 HAS BEEN APPROVED

10-2023

A RESOLUTION BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
NEW PHILADELPHIA, TUSCARAWAS COUNTY, OHIO
AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR OF THE
SAID CITY OF NEW PHILADELPHIA TO ACT AS THE
SIGNATURE DESIGNEE AND TO FILE AN APPLICATION
FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER TITLE 1 OF
THE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
ACT OF 1974 (PL 93-383) TO THE OFFICE OF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, DIVISION OF THE
OHIO DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AGENCY, OFFICE
OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND TO ACCEPT THE
SAME UPON AWARD
1st Reading

MR. PACE MOTIONED FOR SUSPENSION OF RULES
ON RESOLUTION 10-2023
MR. LANZER SECONDED THE MOTION
6 YEAS
RULES HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED ON RESOLUTION
10-2023

MR. PACE MOTIONED FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION
10-2023
MR. RIPPETH SECONDED THE MOTION
6 YEAS
RESOLUTION 10-2023 HAS BEEN APPROVED

**COUNCIL ADJOUNED FOR A 5 MINUTE RECESS AT 8:08 BEFORE GOING INTO
EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:13. COUNCIL RECONVENED INTO REGULAR SESSION
OF COUNCIL AT 8:38.**

UNFINISHED OR OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

President Kemp had the following comment:

The 2nd Public Hearing for the CHIP Grant is scheduled for May 30 at 3:00pm in Council Chambers.

With no other business to discuss Mr. Holland motioned to adjourn at 8:39 PM.

CLERK OF COUNCIL _____
Julie Courtright

APPROVED _____

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL _____
Don Kemp