

NEW PHILADELPHIA CITY COUNCIL MET IN A SPECIAL MEETING MEETING IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON JULY 20TH, 2015 AT 7:30 PM WITH PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL SAM HITCHCOCK PRESIDING.

MR. HITCHCOCK OFFERED A PRAYER, AND ALL IN ATTENDANCE RECITED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

THIS SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL WAS CALLED BY MAYOR JOHNSON
THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS RESOLUTION 20-2015.

COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: MS. SANDY COX
MR. DAN LANZER
MR. DARRIN LAUTENSCHLEGER
MR. ROB MAURER
MRS. CHERYL RAMOS
MS. WINNIE WALKER
MR. JOHN ZUCAL

ABSENT FOR TONIGHT'S MEETING WERE THE SAFETY DIRECTOR, GREG POPHAM,
AUDITOR BETH GUNDY AND TREASURER TOM GERBER.

MR. ZUCAL MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE JULY 20TH, 2015 AGENDA
MS. COX SECONDED THE MOTION

ROLL CALL
7 YEAS
MOTION PASSED.

THE PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL MR. SAM HITCHCOCK ASKED FOR A MOTION
TO FORGO THE SECTION MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS SESSION, CORRESPONDENCE,
ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS, BOARD/COMMISSION REPORTS AND STANDING COMMITTEE
REPORTS AS THIS IS NOT A REGULAR MEETING.

THE MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. LANZER AND WAS SECONDED BY MR. LAUTENSCHLEGER
ROLL CALL
7 YEAS MOTION PASSED.

VISITORS COMMENT:

DAVID CARRICK
801 TUSCARAWAS AVE. NW
NEW PHILADELPHIA, OHIO 44663

I live in New Philadelphia and work in Canton
I like it here.
I have always participated in the voting process I have always considered it not just a privilege by my
civic duty.
I also participated when you all were elected and thought that was important as I'm sure you did.
I hope you give us the opportunity to vote on this.

READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCES:
NONE

Request from Ms. Ramos:

For Resolution 20-2015 be read in its Entirety
The Clerk of Council read Resolution 20-2015 as was requested.

RESOLUTIONS:

20-2015

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NECESSITY OF SUBMITTING THE QUESTION OF THE ISSUANCE OF FIRE STATION CONSTRUCTION BONDS, IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$5,000,000, TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY PURSUANT TO SECTION 133.18 OF THE REVISED CODE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of New Philadelphia, County of Tuscarawas, Ohio, that:

SECTION 1. Declaration of Necessity of Fire Station Construction Bonds. This Council finds, determines and declares that it is necessary to issue general obligation bonds of the City in the aggregate principal amount of \$5,000,000 for the purpose of constructing, furnishing, equipping and otherwise improving a new fire station and clearing, improving and equipping the site thereof, and to levy a tax outside of the ten-mill limitation imposed by Section 2 of Article XII of the Ohio Constitution to pay the debt charges on those bonds and any anticipatory securities. Pursuant to Section 133.18 of the Revised Code, the question of the issuance of those bonds and the levy of that tax shall be submitted to the electors of the City at an election to be held in the City on November 3, 2015. The approximate date of the bonds will be February 1, 2016, and the first collection of the tax is expected to occur in calendar year 2016 (tax year 2015). The maximum number of years over which the principal of the bonds may be paid is 25, and the bonds will bear an estimated net average rate of interest of 4.50% per year, payable semiannually.

SECTION 2. Certification and Delivery of Resolution to County Auditor. The Clerk of Council is directed to certify a copy of this Resolution to the Tuscarawas County Auditor, and, in accordance with Sections 133.18(C) and 5705.03(B) of the Revised Code, this Council hereby requests the County Auditor to certify to it (i) the total current tax valuation of the City and (ii) the estimated average annual property tax levy, expressed in cents or dollars and cents for each one hundred dollars of tax valuation and in mills for each one dollar of tax valuation, that the County Auditor estimates to be required throughout the stated maturity of the bonds to pay debt charges on the bonds, assuming that the bonds are issued in one series bearing interest and maturing in substantially equal principal amounts in each year over the maximum number of years over which the principal of the bonds may be paid, both as stated in Section 1, and that the amount of the tax valuation of the City for the current year (or, if that amount is not determined, the estimated amount of that tax valuation submitted by the County Auditor to the County Budget Commission) remains the same throughout the maturity of the bonds (except as otherwise provided in Section 133.18(C)(2) of the Revised Code).

SECTION 3. Compliance with Open Meeting Requirements. This Council finds and determines that all formal actions of this Council and of any of its committees concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were taken in open meetings of this Council or committees, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in those formal actions were in meetings open to the public, all in compliance with the law.

SECTION 4. Captions and Headings. The captions and headings in this Resolution are solely for convenience of reference and in no way define, limit or describe the scope or intent of any Sections, subsections, paragraphs, subparagraphs or clauses hereof. Reference to a Section means a section of this Resolution unless otherwise indicated.

SECTION 5. Declaration of Emergency; Effective Date. This Resolution is declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety of the City, and for the further reason that this Resolution is required to be immediately effective so that it can be filed with the Tuscarawas County Auditor and thereby enable the City to proceed timely with the filing of the materials necessary for the submission of the question of the bond issue to the electors at an election to be held on November 3, 2015; wherefore, this Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Mayor. (1ST READING)

Motion to suspend the rules made by Mr. Dan Lanzer,

Seconded by Mr. Zucal

Matthew Graham , President of Local 1501
6211 Gowins Rd SW
New Philadelphia, Ohio

Comment from Matthew Graham:

He was present to support the Fire Chief and to request the rules be suspended on Resolution 20-2015 and for it to be passed as an emergency measure. So we can move forward with the process.

Jim Sholtz, Captian
612 Kaderly
Strasburg, Ohio

Comment from Jim Sholtz:

He has been a firefighter for 19 years I have watched while the station is under a constant state of repair I know everyone here is trying their best to do what they feel is the right thing to do. Our station is falling apart I'm hoping you consider something long term He mentioned a bad smell that was in the station today.

Kelly Ricklic
819 N. Boadway
New Philadelphia, Ohio

Comment from Kelly Ricklic

Council needs to allow the citizens to vote yes or no and not be dictated to by Council. To voice their opinion on this important topic.

Nick McCoy
2006 Kevin Court
New Philadelphia, Ohio

Comment from Nick McCoy

He is a new hire at the fire department. I love the city I want everyone in the city to Have a chance to vote and have their voices heard.

Brian Marsh
2301 East High Avenue
New Philadelphia, Ohio

Comment from Brian Marsh:

I love the Fire Department and what they do and they deserve the best. I agree with Mr. Ricklic it needs to be put to the voters. They need a new fire Station.

Mark Yarnell
353 Schoenbrunn Drive
New Philadelphia, Ohio

Comment from Mark Yarnell

A resident of New Philadelphia all his life He agrees with Mr. Marsh and Mr. Ricklic that we need to bring this issue to the voters in regard to a new Fire Station.

Comment from Marvin Fete:

Absence of legislation being voted on an emergency bases.

It is my estimate it is going to take seven meetings counting tonight

In order to get this on the ballot by August 5th, 2015.

One of those meetings can be held on the same day.

One of those will have to be the Committee Meeting to place the secondary portion

Which will be Resolution 21-2015 which will include the ballot language.

Mr. Fete just wanted to let everyone know that is the deadline we are under.

Keep in mind it takes 2 pieces of legislation Resolution 20- 2015

After Resolution 20-2015 is passed.

It goes to the Auditor for Certification

Than legislation (Resolution 21-2015) is proposed for putting it on the ballot with the ballot language.

Mr. Fete stated his family loves and appreciates the New Philadelphia Fire Department. He also said he appreciated the comment in regard that they know everyone here is trying their best to do what they feel is the right.

Comment from Mrs. Cheryl Ramos:

I am voting against suspending the rules on Resolution 20-2015. This is such a critical issue and should not be rushed. In a salary committee meeting on April 13th, we heard that planning for a new fire station was going to be slow and well thought through as the chief wanted to do it right. A request for architect qualifications had been issued and we were told that the number of applicants would be narrowed to four. I agreed with that well planned approach. At that meeting I asked if private money, grant money, or other donations had been pursued. According to those on-line minutes, Chairman Zucal said "I don't want to go the down that road to fast we don't want to put the cart before the horse." On July 6, an unplanned Salary Committee was called. I was surprised that the well planned approach had been abandoned with an urgent push to ask the taxpayers for 5 million dollars in increased property tax, not including interest. Truly, the cart before the horse.

Sadly, there is no plan except to ask the taxpayers for an exorbitant credit card limit of 5 million dollars plus interest to be paid back over 25 years ... 25 years! This is a massive project and the whole community should be involved. An architect won't be chosen until August 12th. Then plans can be drawn. With a plan in place, private money should be pursued for a more reasonably priced station. Then, if there is a need, the taxpayers can be asked if they want to be taxed more. There must be a plan and questions answered, not just a request for more taxes.

Some questions to be answered:

1. What are the specific NFPA requirements the Chief references as needing to be met?
2. What material can be used to lessen the cost? Steel buildings?
3. Should a limit be set so the architect can aim for the functional fire station within reason?
4. What is the plan? Where are the drawings?
5. How many city employees, including fire department employees, do not own property in New Philadelphia and therefore would not be affected by the tax increase?
6. For at least 18 months, I have asked for private money to be pursued. Has a foundation been established for donations? Has private money been explored? The need has been since 2011, what has happened with requests for private funding? There is none. This would be impossible to do without plans, yet some of Council and the Administration is fine with asking the taxpayers the same question with no plan.
7. The total bill for the home owner will not be determined until they get the bill as told me by the County Auditor. So a specific cost to the homeowner cannot be stated. Additionally, if more businesses fail, the tax will go up.
8. What does furnishing mean? What is the list?
9. What does equipping mean? What is the list?
10. What are possible insurance costs for a \$5 million building? We have been given utility estimates only.
11. We want business to come to our wonderful city, increased property taxes deter business. I talked to a business owner who said they don't have to have their business in New Phila, they can locate elsewhere.

12. According to the City Auditor, the general fund has a deficit projected in the amount of~ million by end of 2016, 1.5 million by the end of 2017, and over 2.5 million at the end of 2018. How will that be managed? More taxes driving more businesses and residents away?

These are some critical questions that must be answered by a diligent Administration and Council. More questions and solutions will surface as the community is involved and private funding sources pursued. Together, we can develop a plan that will answer this community need.

Cheryl L. Ramos
Ward One

Comment from Mr. John Zucal:

The New Philadelphia City Council has been afforded an amazing opportunity; to take on an initiative that has not been addressed in over 100 years-the construction of a new fire department.

We as a council entrusted our administration and department heads to secure property for a new fire station. That leadership acted judiciously. Ultimately, we were able to acquire property at a cost savings of \$800,000. over other offers.

Now, this leadership has taken the next steps to gain financial support for the construction of a new facility. Research, community input, and study have led our leadership to propose a 1 mill ballot issue. The approximate cost of this new building was based on data and information from a number of experts in the field. Yes, we could build a fire station for \$3 million dollars. This facility would not meet our current needs let alone the needs of a highly functioning department fifty years from now. We could also attempt to construct a \$10 million station. This would be excessive and unfair to the citizens. Truly, neither of these options would be wise, prudent, or responsible. Just as we trusted our administration to be financially considerate in securing property, I ask that you place your trust in these individuals to present a plan that will allow us to build a fire station that meets our needs not only for today, but well into the future.

Let's not forget how we arrived at this moment. For well over five years, we have been told and provided evidence of a deteriorating facility that has become a financial burden, but more importantly, a safety issue for those who work and live in that building on a daily basis. If we do nothing more, please remember these are people with spouses, children, and family who deserve the right to work in a safe and secure facility.

Lastly, I encourage this body to allow the citizens of New Philadelphia to determine the fate of a ballot initiative. Leadership requires action. We have discussed this matter for years. Let's now act as a body, put aside party politics and personal agendas, and allow our constituents' voices be heard. I respectfully request your support of the democratic process.

Councilperson Mr. John Zuca thanked everyone.

Roll call, 4 yeas and 3 nays (Ms. Cox, Ms. Walker, and Mrs. Ramos)
Suspension of the rules has failed for Resolution 20-2015

UNFINISHED OR OLD BUSINESS:

The Mayor requested a Special Council Meeting for Tuesday, July 21, 2015, at 7:00 PM
And also for Thursday, July 23, 2015 at 7:00 PM in Council Meeting to take care of this matter.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Mayor requested a Special Council Meeting for Tuesday, July 21, 2015, at 7:00 PM
And also for Thursday, July 23, 2015 at 7:00 PM in Council Meeting to take care of this matter.

The Law Director will not be present for the Thursday meeting.

MOTION BY MS. COX TO ADJOURN AT 8:05 PM

CLERK OF COUNCIL _____

APPROVED _____

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL _____