

NEW PHILADELPHIA CITY COUNCIL MET IN REGULAR SESSION IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON DECEMBER 29, 2022 WITH PRESIDENT KEMP PRESIDING. PRESIDENT KEMP 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

EXCUSED ABSENCES

MRS. CHERYL RAMOS
MR. KELLY RICKLIC
MR. JIM SELDENRIGHT
MAYOR JOEL DAY
MR. RON MCABIER
AUDITOR BETH GUNDY

- MR. LANZER MOTIONED TO ADD RESOLUTION 41-2022 TO TONIGHT’S AGENDA
MR. PACE SECONDED THE MOTION
4 YEAS
RESOLUTION 41-2022 HAS BEEN ADDED TO TONIGHT’S AGENDA

- MRS. MAY MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED
MR. PACE SECONDED THE MOTION
4 YEAS
TONIGHTS AGENDA HAS BEEN APPROVED

- MR. LANZER MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 12, 2022 REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL
MRS. MAY SECONDED THE MOTION
4 YEAS
MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 12, 2022 COUNCIL MEETING HAVE BEEN APPROVED

CORRESPONDENCE..... CLERK, JULIE COURTRIGHT

1. *To Councilman Holland from Noah Porter, Deputy Director of the Tuscarawas County Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency, dated December 15, 2022. This is an email titled “New Philadelphia Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution”.*
2. *To President Kemp and Council Clerk from Jonalee Fernatt, Assistant to the Service Director, dated December 27, 2022. This is an email titled “Excusal for Ron from Council Meeting”.*
3. *To Council and Administration from Mayor Day, dated December 28, 2022. The Mayor’s Report*

MAYOR’S REPORT/REQUESTSMAYOR JOEL B. DAY.....EXCUSED ABSENSE

- *2022 Was a Very Productive Year for the City of New Philadelphia*

The approaching New Year gives us an opportunity to look back at what was accomplished in our City in 2022. Some of those accomplishments enhanced City services and our quality of life, and positioned New Philadelphia for future economic growth:

- New three-year contracts were approved with the City’s four collective bargaining units.
- New regulations were adopted that address the expansion of 5G and other emerging wireless telecommunication systems.
- Free wireless Internet service was established in the downtown area and at Tuscora Park.
- Four pickleball courts were constructed at Tuscora Park to meet a growing demand.
- New crushed brick field surfaces were installed at ballfields at Tuscora Park and Waterworks Park.
- More public art was added to the downtown area with Artagain Alley, four new murals, and traffic box wraps designed by high school art students in Tuscarawas County.

- A new garbage truck was purchased for the Sanitation Department and a new ambulance and ladder truck for the Fire Department.
- A new airport beacon light was constructed for Harry Clever Field.
- The Gradall fence line was relocated along the Tuscarawas River to make way for construction of New Philadelphia’s portion of the Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath Trail.
- A pedestrian mid-block crosswalk with signal flashers and lights was installed on South Broadway at Allen Lane.
- Several waterline replacement projects were completed, including at Parklane Drive NW.
- The work of the Property Review Committee resulted in a number of dilapidated structures being torn down, sold, or renovated by property owners.

This list came off the top of my head. More details about 2022’s accomplishments will be included in my annual State of the City Report, which should be issued by the end of February.

➤ Industrial Expansion Projects Powered the City’s Economic Growth in 2022

This past year, our City was blessed with major expansion projects at Battle Motors and Freeport Press, which led to payroll city income tax receipts exceeding the amount collected in 2021. New Philadelphia emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic with positive economic growth, which would have been stronger had many of our employers been able to meet their hiring goals.

➤ *The Challenges We Faced in 2022*

This year had its share of challenges to our City, in particular for our safety forces. Many of the calls to New Philadelphia’s Fire and Police Departments involved persons suffering from mental illness and drug abuse, and in some cases domestic violence. The final year-end figures are not in, but it’s likely that the Fire Department ran at least 300 more EMS calls than in 2021. While the City Health Department saw a decline in the number of reported cases, the coronavirus was still active in our community. Several drive-up clinics were held at Tuscora Park to administer COVID vaccines and boosters.

➤ Best Wishes to Outgoing Councilman Jimmy Seldenright

On behalf of the City administration, I want to thank 4th Ward Councilman Jimmy Seldenright for his service to New Philadelphia. In his resignation letter to Council President Kemp and the Board of Elections, Mr. Seldenright said “I have received increased responsibilities with my full-time employer that will not allow me to dedicate the time necessary to fulfill my duties as the Ward 4 representative.” His resignation is effective on January 1st, 2023. The New Philadelphia members of the Tuscarawas County Republican Party Central Committee will choose his successor later in January.

HAPPY NEW YEAR! MAY 2023 BRING YOU GOOD HEALTH AND PROSPERITY .

Go Buckeyes! Beat those Bulldogs!

O-H....

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

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AUDITORMS. BETH GUNDY.....EXCUSED ABSENSE

SAFETY DIRECTORMR. GREG POPHAM.....NO REPORT

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

Mr. Pace had the following question for Mr. Gerber:
Did you happen to get the City banking moved from Chase to First Federal?

Mr. Gerber said he will do that after the first of the year.

LAW DIRECTOR.....MR. MARVIN FETE.....NO REPORT

BOARD/COMMISSION REPORTS:

PLANNING COMMISSION.....MAYOR JOEL DAY.....EXCUSED ABSENSE

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

AIRPORT COMMISSION.....MR. JIM SELDENRIGHT.....EXCUSED ABSENSE

PARK BOARD.....MR. MITCH PACE.....NO REPORT

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

HEALTH BOARD MR. DEAN HOLLAND.....NO REPORT

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

PUBLIC WORKS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE...MR. DAN LANZER

Mr. Lanzer had the following report:

The Public Works and Economic Development Committee met at 7:15 PM. We had a short discussion on Resolution 41-2022. It was voted on 2-0 to add it to tonight’s Agenda and be held for 3 Readings.

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

ZONING AND ANNEXATION COMMITTEE.....MRS. CHERYL RAMOS.....EXCUSED ABSENSE

SALARY COMMITTEE.....MR. JIM SELDENRIGHT.....EXCUSED ABSENSE

PARKS AND CEMETERY COMMITTEE.....MR. MITCH PACE.....NO REPORT

SPECIAL AND CONTACT COMMITTEE.....MRS. AIMEE MAY.....NO REPORT

VISITOR’S COMMENTS

Terri Robinson of 548 Ray Ave NE Rear New Philadelphia had the following comment:

I just moved to this City three months ago. I am here because I’m just getting word that there’s a possible homeless shelter being built in my neighborhood. When I bought my home I was told that there would be no possibility of anything like this being built in my area. I have a lot of worry because there’s only one little road that goes to my house. I read your article from the last Council Meeting saying that that’s the road that would be used as the traffic flow.

President Kemp had the following reply:

It’s in the early stages. I know I’ve assigned it to a Committee to look at. I know we’ve had concerns.

Mitch Pace:

I’ve received two petitions with a total of 60 signatures against the changing of our zoning, because we would have to spot zone that from residential, so we are getting some feedback against it.

Mr. Robinson continued:

I have a 4-year-old non-verbal autistic child, and I bought my home because it’s out of the way of traffic flow and dangerous scenarios. I’m trying to protect my child and protect my surroundings.

Law Director Fete had the following comment:

Currently you’re in a residential zone. The Homeless Shelter is not legally permitted in a residential zone at this time. The Friends of the Homeless have come and asked Council to Spot Zone. That has been assigned to Ward I, Cheryl Ramos’ Committee. Part of that process is getting input from all the people that live there.

*Richard Gibbs of 233 Forbes St. NE, New Philadelphia was in the audience as well and said he agreed with Mr. Robinson's statement concerning the homeless shelter. Mr. Gibbs signed the petition.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

President Kemp had the following comment:

Councilman Jim Seldenright is resigning effective January 1, 2023. We wish him well. He's had a change in jobs and it's not feasible for him to stay on Council anymore. We thank him for his service.

READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCES:

RESOLUTIONS:

39-2022 A RESOLUTION BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW PHILADELPHIA, OHIO AUTHORIZING THE ANNEXATION OF REAL PROPERTIES LOCATED IN GOSHEN TOWNSHIP, PARCEL NUMBERS 25-01887-000 AND 25-01989-000 OWNED BY LAWVER PROPERTIES
2nd Reading

41-2022 A RESOLUTION BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW PHILADELPHIA, TUSCARAWAS COUNTY, OHIO TO AUTHORIZE THE SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A LPA FEDERAL ODOT LET PROJECT AGREEMENT AND ANY OTHER NECESSARY AGREEMENTS FOR THE MILLING AND FILLING OF PORTIONS OF CR 21 / 16TH STREET SW, MILL AVE SW/ 7TH STREET SW, RAY AVENUE NE, AND WABASH AVENUE SW (PID 114061) (CRS: TUS NEW PHILA PAVING PHASE 1) (AGREEMENT NO: 37316), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY
1st Reading

UNFINISHED OR OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

President Kemp said Happy New Year and we're looking forward to a good 2023!

With no other business to discuss Mr. Holland motioned to adjourn at 7:45 PM.

CLERK OF COUNCIL _____
Julie Courtright

APPROVED _____

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL _____
Don Kemp