

NEW PHILADELPHIA CITY COUNCIL MET IN REGULAR SESSION IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON DECEMBER 27, 2004 AT 7:30 P.M. WITH PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL DAVE JOHNSON PRESIDING. MR. JOHNSON OFFERED A PRAYER, AND ALL IN ATTENDANCE RECITED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: MS. SANDRA COX
MR. BILL ELLWOOD
MR. SAM HITCHCOCK
MR. GEORGE HOUSTON
MR. DARRIN LAUTENSCHLEGER
MR. ROB MAURER

COUNCIL MEMBER JIM LOCKER WAS ABSENT.

THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 13, 2004 WERE APPROVED AS WRITTEN AND RECEIVED.

CORRESPONDENCE CLERK DIANE ROUDEBUSH

1. Safety, Health, and Service Committee meeting minutes of December 13, 2004.
2. Board of Zoning Appeals meeting minutes of December 7, 2004.
3. Public Works & Economic Development Committee meeting minutes of December 14, 2004.
4. Minutes of the Municipal Treasury Investment Committee meeting of December 16, 2004.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

MAYOR’S REPORT MAYOR RON BRODZINSKI

Submitted a written report of the activities of his office from December 14 through December 27, 2004. Reported that he attended a Metropolitan Housing Authority luncheon on December 14, and congratulated them on the job they do in making affordable housing for those with low income. Reported that welcomed the Empire China Buffet to the community and attended a ribbon cutting ceremony there on December 20. Reported that, on December 22, he attended a meeting with the Port Authority to discuss a master plan for future airport facilities. Requested an Executive Session to discuss personnel and salaries. Wished everyone a “Happy New Year.” Mr. Hitchcock made a motion to go into Executive Session following the reading of legislation. Mr. Lautenschleger seconded the motion. Roll call, 6 yeas, motion passed.

SERVICE DIRECTORMR. GARY ESPENSCHIED NO REPORT

SAFETY DIRECTORMR. GREG POPHAM NO REPORT

AUDITORMS. BETH GUNDY

Explained the need for Ordinance 58-2004 and requested its emergency passage tonight.

TREASURERMR. MIKE TAYLOR NO REPORT

LAW DIRECTORMR. MIKE JOHNSON

Explained Ordinance 58-2004, and recommended it be passed tonight. Also explained Resolution 44-2004, and suggested it be assigned to Committee.

BOARD/COMMISSION REPORTS:

PLANNING COMMISSIONMAYOR BRODZINSKI

Will meet January 12, 2005 at 1:00 P.M. in Council Chambers.

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALSMR. GARY ESPENSCHIED

Will meet January 4, 2005 at 5:00 P.M. in Council Chambers.

AIRPORT COMMISSIONMR. JIM LOCKER NO REPORT

PARK BOARD MR. DARRIN LAUTENSCHLEGER

Will meet January 19, 2005 at 7:00 P.M. at the park office.

HEALTH BOARD.MS. SANDRA COX

Will meet January 12, 2005 in the Health Department at noon.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE COMMITTEE. MS. SANDRA COX NO REPORT

SALARY COMMITTEE MR. JIM LOCKER ABSENT NO REPORT

SAFETY, HEALTH, AND SERVICE COMMITTEEMR. SAM HITCHCOCK NO REPORT

PUBLIC WORKS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE. . .MR. ROB MAURER . . . NO REPORT

ZONING & ANNEXATION COMMITTEE. MR. GEORGE HOUSTON NO REPORT

Will be scheduling a meeting within the next week to discuss Resolution 44-2004.

CONTACT & SPECIAL COMMITTEE MR. BILL ELLWOOD NO REPORT

PARKS & CEMETERY COMMITTEE MR. DARRIN LAUTENSCHLEGER NO REPORT

VISITOR'S COMMENTS:

Charles Demuth, 1296 3rd St. SW, New Philadelphia, said there is a significant water/ice problem on 3rd St. & Larkin. He said at times it is completely iced over and makes it difficult to drive there. He said he called and the Service Department came and chipped the ice away, but the problem still exists. He urged the issue be assigned to a Committee. He said he called and asked the mayor to drive over it and give his opinion. Mayor Brodzinski said he did go there, and he said the problem goes back several years when the developer did not install storm sewers. He said storm sewers are badly needed there.

Jim Parrish, 393 Schoenbrunn Dr., New Philadelphia, President of the local firefighters' union, announced that the firefighters will be seeking approval of a 3/8% income tax increase for the fire department only. The firefighters asked that council support them in their endeavor, and he asked that the layoff of three firefighters be delayed until after the May Primary.

Brian Graham, 1828 Hicks Ave. New Philadelphia, said he does not understand why the 3 firefighters are being laid off when the carryover balance should be enough to pay their salaries. He questioned the purchase of a pothole repair machine when there is a freeze on new equipment purchases. He said the cost is almost equal to the salaries of the three firefighters, at least through April, that are being laid off. He said the mayor said previously there would not be layoffs, and now there are, and he does not know when to believe the mayor. He said he personally doesn't think there is a money problem. Mayor Brodzinski said he doesn't feel he needs to respond to personal attacks. Service Director Gary Espenschied said the durapatch machine was paid out of the water and wastewater funds, with only 10% from the General Fund. He said it will ultimately save the city money.

Allan Sayre, 1420 Parkdale Dr. Dover, newly elected State Representative, said he will work to keep state and local funding, so that cities can maintain their revenue and not run into financial crisis such as this.

Mike Taylor, Third District Vice-President of the Ohio Assn. Of Professional Fire Fighters, said he is appalled by the lack of concern that council and the administration has for the loss of manpower in the fire department. He said the New Philadelphia Fire Department is already understaffed, and additional training has been halted. Council President Dave Johnson said he takes offense by Mr. Taylor's comments that council does not care, adding that council is working with the administration to correct the financial problems. Ms. Cox said she also takes offense, too, saying that the city initiated a 0.5% increase in November that was defeated by the voters. Mayor Brodzinski added that Council and the Administration did support the income tax increase, so if the firefighters want to indict someone, they can indict the voters who voted against the issue. Auditor Beth Gundy said the carryover balance is slightly better than last year, but reminded everyone that it is only because money has been diverted from other funds into the general fund.

Wes Halter, 1226 Lakeview Rd., New Philadelphia, Vice-President of the local fire fighters union, said, addressing Safety Director Greg Popham, that Mr. Popham did not have a report tonight and has not contacted the department in some time. Mr. Popham said he has worked with the firefighters any time they have had a problem. He said he understands their frustration because this is probably one of the worst times the city has had.

Jim Sholtz, 431 Beaver Ave., New Philadelphia, said the firefighters feel unappreciated because they are so grossly understaffed. He said they should be hiring additional manpower instead of laying off three.

Keith Devault, Broad Run Dairy Rd., asked the position of each council member concerning the layoff of the firefighters. Mayor Brodzinski said these decisions have to be made, and when the money isn't there, he has to operate the city the best he can. Council President Dave Johnson reminded everyone that council does not have to respond if they are unprepared. Mayor Brodzinski said the decision on balancing the budget solely falls on the Mayor, who reports to Council.

Kendall Bick, 518 Beaver Ave., New Philadelphia, asked the Mayor to rescind his decision to lay off the firefighters.

READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

ORDINANCES:

51-2004 An ordinance by Council for the City of New Philadelphia, Ohio to repeal existing Ordinance 767.04(B) and enacting new Section 767.04(B), and declaring an emergency. (3rd Reading)

Motion to vote on passage made by Mr. Hitchcock, seconded by Mr. Lautenschleger. Roll call, 6 yeas, ordinance passed.

57-2004 An ordinance by Council for the City of New Philadelphia, Ohio to repeal existing Chapter 971 and enacting new Section 971, and declaring an emergency. (2nd Reading)

58-2004 An ordinance repealing Ordinance 34-2004 amending and adjusting the permanent appropriations for the year 2004 and declaring an emergency. (1st Reading)

Motion to suspend the rules made by Ms. Cox, seconded by Mr. Maurer. Roll call, 6 yeas, rules suspended.

Motion to vote on passage made by Ms. Cox, seconded by Mr. Houston. Roll call, 6 yeas, ordinance passed.

RESOLUTIONS:

44-2004 A resolution by the Council of the City of New Philadelphia, Ohio to enter into an agreement with the Goshen Township Trustees to permit division of real estate taxes based on the standard compensation pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 709.19 for the annexation of an adjacent 4.628 acre tract of land located in Goshen Township, and declaring an emergency. (1st Reading)

AT 8:15 P.M. COUNCIL ADJOURNED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL AND SALARIES. COUNCIL RECONVENED INTO REGULAR SESSION AT 8:49 P.M.

OLD BUSINESS:

Council President Dave Johnson wished the firefighters well in their effort to gather signatures to have the 0.375% income tax increase on the ballot in the May primary.

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

MOTION TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. HOUSTON. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:49 P.M.

CLERK OF COUNCIL _____

APPROVED January 10, 2005

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL _____