

City of Phillips' Common Council Meeting

Council Room, Municipal Hall

174 S Eyder Avenue

January 9, 2024

5:30 p.m.

Mayor, Charles Peterson

Council Members: Wards 1 & 2 (District 1) –Richard Heitkemper, Ward 3 (District 2) -
Laura Tomaszewski; Ward 4 (District 3)– Bill Elliott

At Large – Jerry Clark, Marty Stephan, and John Klimowski

Public Works – Jim Heizler; Water-Sewer - Todd Toelle Police – Michael Hauschild;

Library – Rebecca Puhl

Clerk/Treasurer: Shelby Kosmer

This meeting is held in compliance with Wisconsin's Open Meeting Law, WI § Chapter
19, Subchapter V. As such it is open to the public.

Call to Order (presiding officer)

Greeting

Certification of compliance with Open Meeting Law

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Charles Peterson ____, Jerry Clark____, Richard Heitkemper ____, Laura
Tomaszewski, ____, Marty Stephan____, Bill Elliott ____, John Klimowski____

Public Comment:

DISCUSSION-ACTION ITEMS:

1. Motion to approve December 12th and the December 21st, 2023, Council Meeting Minutes.
2. Motion to approve the payment of vouchers in the total amount of \$614,200.77.
3. Short Presentation from Lyn Ludwig regarding EPA Community Change Grant program.
4. Discussion/Potential Action regarding proposal/quote from Bennish Auto to clean up Phillips Lionite Building – Collapsed Portion.
5. Discussion/Action regarding Fire Department Overhead Door Project
6. Discussion/Action regarding Fire Department Junior Firefighter Program.
7. Committee Reports:
Ambulance
Library
Chamber
8. Adjournment

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

.....of the Common Council of the City of Phillips at a meeting held in the Council Room of Municipal Hall on January 9, 2024.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Peterson at 5:30 p.m. Those present included:

Mayor Peterson

At Large Aldermen: Jerry Clark, Marty Stephan, and John Klimowski

1st Aldermanic District: Richard Heitkemper

2nd Aldermanic District: Laura Tomaszewski

3rd Aldermanic District: Bill Elliott

Clerk/Treasurer: Absent

Also present: Joe Perkins, Jim Heizler, Michael Hauschild, Patty Stephan, David Lontcoski, Lyn Ludwig, Thomas LaVenture, Jon Pesko (arrived 5:58pm), Attendees via phone: David Holmes, Cheryl Moore, Kristen Fish-Peterson, and Blake Pluemer.

Public Comment: None

DISCUSSION-ACTION ITEMS:

1. Clark/ Elliott moved to approve December 12th and the December 21st, 2023, Council Meeting Minutes. Carried
2. Heitkemper/ Tomaszewski moved to approve the payment of vouchers in the total amount of \$614,200.77. Roll Call: Clark – aye, Heitkemper – aye, Tomaszewski – aye, Stephan – aye, Elliott – aye, Klimowski – aye. Motion Carried
3. Short Presentation from Lyn Ludwig regarding EPA Community Change Grant program. This is a grant program that you can get planning assistance, land acquisition, clean up and construction. All projects need to be completed in 3 years and the applicant must be a non-profit but it needs to have a partner and Lyn feels since this grant involves places in the City that the City of Phillips would be the ideal partnership for this grant application. David Holmes has written 120 successful EPA grant applications, he feels there is a good opportunity for the Price County United group to receive funding. Main goal of the grant is for transformation, this is funding that will do a series of projects that will have a meaningful impact on the community. Ludwig discussed key areas in the City she is looking at in the City of Phillips such as, vacant lot next to Five Sense, Title company next to Hilgy's, Fred Mueller property. She mentioned gateways to the community like the South Gateway being a welcome center of the community, with a network of trails. She mentioned including a housing development on the backside of Main Street and diversifying the business district. North gateway – innovative center, putting up a Northwoods looking building that would have the library, childcare that people can pass on the highway. Looking for places to bring local wealth and a lot of these places are brownfields. Lyn has talked about Hilgy's being a key area of FEMA hazard due to the risk of train derailments. Stephan asked if she had a plan for the railroad that runs through her entire project because of the railroad right of way. Lyn stated that WATCO had agreed that the right of way is 30 feet from the Center. Funding passes through the non-profit.

Success of project requires the applicant to be community driven that's why the City is the ideal partner. But then you can add collaborating partners like the Tech and the School District to ensure the most community engagement.


Mayor Peterson expressed concern that Lyn has now brought up the idea multiple times about moving the Phillips Wastewater Treatment plant while talking about this project, Ludwig mentioned this grant may not be about moving the plant but having the grant pay for a study about moving the treatment plant.

Mayor Peterson asked about what projects are being added into the grant application as Ludwig has discussed including properties that are not yet owned by her and he had concerns if those items are added to the project, David Holmes

Ludwig requested if she could be on the February agenda to discuss the grant details further. Mayor Peterson informed her she will be placed on a February agenda.

Klimowski's main concern is that there are properties that are privately owned, and Klimowski has been told by a particular owner that they wouldn't allow that type of project to occur on their property. Klimowski thinks we need to have the downtown owners involved more in this grant application.

4. Discussion/Potential Action regarding proposal/quote from Bennish Auto to clean up Phillips Lionite Building – Collapsed Portion. On Site logging provided a quote for the cleanup, however, the council tabled this item for further clarification because there was not a quote from Bennish.
5. Discussion/Action regarding Fire Department Overhead Door Project. Rita from Ayres sent out the information about the overhead door bids but she had questions about the insurance amounts required, so no further discussion on this matter.
6. Discussion/Action regarding Fire Department Junior Firefighter Program. Lontcoski stated that they are waiting to hear back from Bryce and insurance about the age requirement. So no further discussion on this matter.
7. Committee Reports:
 - Ambulance: one of the EMT's is down for potentially two months. Should have 2 new EMT's coming onboard in the next month. Last period was fairly quiet but still making runs to Prentice's area. Have some positive changes coming soon just trying to finalize those.
 - Library: Puhl was not in attendance but sent an email stating they are back at business as usual and there will be a book sale the weekend of Winterfest.
 - Chamber: 206 members, visitor guide is out for printing, getting a room tax committee set up for how to designate funds within the community. Winterfest is January 26th, 27th and the Chapparals breakfast is the 28th. The tavern league tour kicks off tomorrow, skating rink is looking good. The bee made a mistake and ran an ad for an Assistant Director but Elliott just wanted to confirm they are not looking for that and they are satisfied with the person they currently have in that position.
8. Elliott/ Tomaszewski moved for adjournment. 6:16pm


Shelby Kosmer
Clerk/Treasurer