

City of Phillips
Committee of the Whole Meeting
Municipal Building, Municipal Hall
174 S Eyder Avenue
February 4th, 2025
5:30 pm

Mayor: Charles Peterson

Committee Members: Jerry Clark, Richard Heitkemper, Mark Brzeskiewicz, Marty Stephan, Bill Elliott, John Klimowski.

City Attorney: Bryce Schoenborn

Department Heads: Public Works Director–Jim Heizler; Water/Wastewater Supervisor-Todd Toelle;
Police Chief-Michael Hauschild; Fire Chief-David Lontcoski; Library Director–Rebecca Puhl;
Clerk/Treasurer- Shelby Kosmer.

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

City Council members present may also represent a quorum of any Committee or Board of the City Council listed below and, as such, may proceed to meet and conduct business as listed under that Committee or Board portion of the agenda below, if the full City Council doesn’t have sufficient members present to satisfy quorum requirements to enable it to meet as the Committee of the Whole.

Following the open session of the meeting the Common Council will convene into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. Section 19.85(1)(b) Discipline & Licensing: Considering dismissal, demotion, licensing or discipline of any public employee or person licensed by a board or commission or the investigation of charges against– Council Consideration and Evaluation of Citizen Complaint Against Police Chief and pursuant to Wis. Stat. Section 19.85(1)(g) Conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved: Conferring with Legal Counsel Regarding Possible Action to Address Employee Harassment Issue.

Call to Order (presiding officer) Time: _____

- a. Greeting
- b. Certification of Compliance with Open Meetings Law
- c. Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Chuck Peterson ____, Jerry Clark ____, Richard Heitkemper ____, Mark Brzeskiewicz ____, Marty Stephan ____, Bill Elliott ____, John Klimowski ____.

Public Comment:

DISCUSSION-ACTION ITEMS:

General-Mayor/Clerk

1. Set next month’s meeting date and time: Tuesday March 4th, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.
2. Motion to approve the minutes from the January 7th, 2025, meeting.
3. Mayor updates:
4. Clerk updates:

Board of Public Works/Recreation –Klimowski/Elliott

5. DPW and Water/Sewer Updates
6. Fifield/Ash Street Reconstruction Updates:
7. Discussion/Action regarding ATV/UTV Highway Bridge Designation ordinance 24-003. Request for additional amendment.

Public Safety - Heitkemper

8. Fire Department updates:
9. Police Department Updates:

Licensing/Permits – Brzeskiewicz

Personnel/Budget/Finance – Clark

10. Discussion/ Action regarding Resolution #1236: 2024 Budget Amendments

Legal
City Council

11. Council Update
12. Convene into closed session. Authority: Pursuant to Wis. Stat. Section 19.85(1)(b) Discipline & Licensing – Council Consideration and Evaluation of Citizen Complaint Against Police Chief and Pursuant to Wis. Stat. Section 19.85(1)(g) Conferring with Legal Counsel Regarding Possible Action to Address Employee Harassment Issue.
Jerry Clark___ Richard Heitkemper ___ Mark Brzeskiewicz ___ Marty Stephan ___ Bill Elliott ___
John Klimowski ___. Time_____
13. Reconvene into open session. Authority: Wisconsin 19.85(2). Jerry Clark___ Richard Heitkemper ___ Mark Brzeskiewicz ___ Marty Stephan ___ Bill Elliott ___ John Klimowski ___. Time: ___
14. Motion on the subject of the closed session.
15. Adjournment: Time: _____

Committee of the Whole
Meeting Minutes
February 4th, 2025

Mayor Charles Peterson called the meeting of the Committee of the Whole to order at 5:30 p.m.

Members Present: Jerry Clark, Richard Heitkemper, Mark Brzeskiewicz, Marty Stephan, Bill Elliott, John Klimowski, Bryce Schoenborn and Shelby Kosmer

Also Present: Blaine Peterson, Michael Hauschild, Jim Heizler, Todd Toelle, Travis Abraham, David Lontcoski, Jody Kozak, Walt Madsen, Jacob Rode, Hollie Rode and Son, Thomas LaVenture, Joe Perkins, Justin Schuenemann, John Baxter, Anne Baxter, Maria Roach, Dennis Roach.

Public Comment: Walt Madsen would like the City to take a look at the dog attack ordinance. Couple years ago he had an issue with the landlord next to him when their tenants dog attacked his son and others. He would like the City to strengthen the language to what the definition of an attack is, he believes it would help resolve any future neighborly disputes. Mayor Peterson advised they would review the information.

DISCUSSION-ACTION ITEMS:

General-Mayor/Clerk

1. Set next month's meeting date and time: Tuesday March 4th, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.
2. Clark/Elliott moved to approve the minutes from the January 7th, 2025, meeting. Carried
3. Mayor updates: None
4. Clerk updates: Kosmer updated she is back in office after being off for maternity leave and now working on preparing for the audit and wrapping up the January Water/Sewer bill collections.

Board of Public Works/Recreation –Klimowski/Elliott

5. DPW and Water/Sewer Updates
DPW: No big updates just trimming trees and plowing snow.
WS: Nothing broke with that cold snap and had no freeze ups, still getting quotes on a new grinder. They had to put in a bar screen, which they need to clean out manually and they have a lot of miscellaneous items coming through to the treatment plant, such as women's underwear, large wipes and a lot of needles. They did a band aid fix on the grinder right now due to the items coming in.
6. Fifield/Ash Street Reconstruction Updates: No updates
7. Discussion/Action regarding ATV/UTV Highway Bridge Designation ordinance 24-003. Request for additional amendment. This additional amendment would remove section b but then Clerk Kosmer questioned what would happen to subsection 1 from section b. City Attorney advised Kosmer to reach out to the county and ask them to be confirm if the section 1 under B would a new section b or if it would be section 6 under A, or a subsection under C. Table until further clarification.

Public Safety - Heitkemper

8. Fire Department updates: Been pretty busy, 16 calls for January, had a house fire on Ash Street, 5 of the 16 calls were back to the house fire on Ash. Thanks to DPW for sanding the streets afterwards. A lot of manhours into that fire. Utilizing some PPE (personal protection equipment) money, they bought ice rescue suits and ropes and should have those this week and then they will be doing some training once they arrive. They do still have a few truck repairs to work through. Had a prebuild meeting last week with Custom for the new fire truck, so hopefully it can go to build soon, looking at completion and delivery June-Aug of 2025.

9. Police Department Updates:
Calls for Service 2025 2024
 Jan 160 149

Winterfest went well, no issues. The new squad car is just waiting for some more equipment. Did have an applicant for the full-time position, the gentleman is from Rib Lake so Lt Peterson is working on a background check currently.

Licensing/Permits – Brzeskiewicz

Personnel/Budget/Finance – Clark

10. Discussion/ Action regarding Resolution #1236: 2024 Budget Amendments. Kosmer explained the needs of the budget amendments listed in the resolution.
Klimowski/ Heitkemper moved to recommended to the Common Council approve Resolution #1236 for the 2024 Budget Amendments. Roll Call: Clark – aye, Heitkemper – aye, Brzeskiewicz – aye, Stephan – aye, Elliott – aye, Klimowski – aye. Motion Carried

Legal
City Council

11. Council Update: Brzeskiewicz put some information in the council members' mailboxes regarding some housing improvements made in Ladysmith and a concrete skate park. Projects were done in collaboration with other organizations as well as their Cities TIF district, grant programs utilizing Covid funding and a developer, Impact7. Mayor Peterson indicated we may have some options to help out developers with similar housing items when our TIF district is extended for the 1-year extension for housing projects.

Mayor Peterson announced we would be moving into closed session so if there was anyone that was in attendance, other than the parties involved, to speak on behalf of the closed session topic that this would be the time to do it, otherwise they would have to leave for our closed session. At that time citizen Walt Madsen stated that no law enforcement officer should ever be threatened by a citizen, they should be protected.

12. Elliott/ Brzeskiewicz moved to convene into closed session. Authority: Pursuant to Wis. Stat. Section 19.85(1)(b) Discipline & Licensing – Council Consideration and Evaluation of Citizen Complaint Against Police Chief and Pursuant to Wis. Stat. Section 19.85(1)(g) Conferring with Legal Counsel Regarding Possible Action to Address Employee Harassment Issue.
Jerry Clark- aye, Richard Heitkemper – aye, Mark Brzeskiewicz – aye, Marty Stephan -aye, Bill Elliott -aye, John Klimowski – aye. Carried. Time 5:51pm
13. Heitkemper/ Elliott moved to reconvene into open session. Authority: Wisconsin 19.85(2). Jerry Clark – aye, Richard Heitkemper – aye, Mark Brzeskiewicz – aye, Marty Stephan – aye, Bill Elliott – aye, John Klimowski – aye. Carried. Time: 6:59pm

14. Motion on the subject of the closed session.

Heitkemper/ Brzeskiewicz moved to direct City Attorney Bryce Schoenborn to begin the process of filing a harassment/restraining order on behalf of the police chief Michael Hauschild. Roll Call: Clark – aye, Heitkemper – aye, Brzeskiewicz – aye, Stephan – aye, Elliott – aye, Klimowski – aye. Motion Carried

15. Elliott moved for adjournment: Time: 7:01pm


Shelby Kosmer
Clerk/Treasurer