

**City of Phillips**  
**Committee of the Whole Meeting**  
Municipal Building, Municipal Hall  
174 S Eyder Avenue  
**February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026**  
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.*

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 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.
2. Motion to approve the minutes from the January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026, meeting.
3. Mayor updates:
4. Clerk updates:

**Board of Public Works/Recreation –Klimowski/Elliott**

5. DPW and Water/Sewer Updates
  - a) Water/Sewer: New Lead and Copper Rule Improvements
6. North Annex Water Loop Project: Bids received and award of bid

**Public Safety - Heitkemper**

7. Fire Department updates:
8. Police Department Updates:
9. Discussion regarding billing fire/ambulance lift assists.

**Licensing/Permits – Brzeskiewicz**

**Personnel/Budget/Finance – Clark**

**Legal**

10. Resolution #1246 – Resolution to Halt Eminent Domain Process – Elk Lake Park Parking Lot

**City Council**

11. Council Update

12. Adjournment: Time: \_\_\_\_\_

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: Michael Hauschild, Jim Heizler, Todd Toelle, Justin Schuneman, Travis Abraham, Jody Kozak, David Lontocoski, Lyn Ludwig, August Mayer, Jeanna Clark, Samantha Anderson, Thomas LaVenture.

Public Comment: Samantha Anderson would like to propose a workout class at the armory, 3 tiers of work out classes, has a Wi-Fi capable tv that she would donate to the armory, and she looked with Clerk Kosmer at a location of where a tv can be placed.

Lyn Ludwig: Gave a brief overview of last month of happenings at Lionite. KSU did come and have a community meeting. PCUL partnered with UW Platteville, and they are doing studies on the site and they will be coming this weekend to look at structural and engineering capabilities of the buildings. Will have more demoing going on for the next 2 and a half months. Stephan questioned if the current lawsuit affects PCUL removing items off the property, Ludwig explained it has no effect on them removing equipment nor does it affect their grants.

#### **DISCUSSION-ACTION ITEMS:**

##### **General-Mayor/Clerk**

1. Set next month's meeting date and time: Tuesday March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.
2. Heitkemper/ Clark moved to approve the minutes from the January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026, meeting. Carried
3. Mayor updates: None
4. Clerk updates: Auditor will be on site next week, Kosmer did inform the council to watch their mail for a new questionnaire they will be sending out. Kosmer also provided an update from Waste Management, Kosmer did reach out to WM regarding returning to alley pickup and she received information back that in the next couple weeks we will try to set up a meeting where WM will come on site and we will review the city and see if there are places we can revert back to alley pick up; WM did not think the whole city could revert back though.

##### **Board of Public Works/Recreation –Klimowski/Elliott**

5. DPW and Water/Sewer Updates  
DPW: another light pole came down, hit by a vehicle replacement is 18-22 weeks, 2 decorative poles hit during construction those lights have come in.  
WS: Been a fun couple weeks, out replacing 6 water meters 4 freeze plates, frozen basement pipes, flight tanks froze up, 2 heaters went out, heater at well 6 is being limped by; otherwise last night Toelle was called in with an under-house water leak.
  - a) Water/Sewer: New Lead and Copper Rule Improvements: Toelle provided the council with information on the new EPA Regulations. We have 110 galvanized lines that need to be replaced in the next 10 years as required by these new regulations. We need to develop a plan for how we are going to get all these replaced. Another issue is that we have water mains that are old and don't know if they are galvanized lines or just goosenecks, we are going to need to find out what is in the ground and we do still have some unknowns, like Shaw Street, Darrell, and Fayette. City engineer, Justin stated DNR program is having funding to replace it in one project, that may be something to look into. Jacobs engineering firm is helping municipalities are helping free of charge and they have been very helpful. City Attorney discussed fire step is we need to start

with the creation of an ordinance. Most have enacted an ordinance along the lines of, that the city is committing itself to replace our stuff and if yours is galvanized or lead we will send you a certified letter and tell you we can do it for this amount of money and if we don't then you have x amount of days to comply if they don't do with at the same time as the municipality.

6. North Annex Water Loop Project: Bids received and award of bid  
The following bids were received:

<b>Bidder</b>	<b>Contract 1 Bid</b>	<b>Rank</b>
Ritola, Inc.	\$340,080.52	1
Pember Companies, Inc.	\$359,186.50	2
Howard Bros. Inc.	\$392,427.00	3
A-1 Excavating LLC	\$393,587.00	4
Haas Sons, Inc.	\$399,194.00	5
Tri-City Contractors, Inc.	\$399,640.00	6

Came in about 50K under the estimated project cost and Ritola ayres has not worked with but they are using A-1 as their subcontractor doing all the drilling and we feel comfortable moving forward. They are out of Mason, and they seem to be expanding and bidding on more projects that Ayres is putting out. After contractor is awarded, they could get a pre-construction meeting and get a preliminary schedule.

Brzeskiewicz / Elliott moved to recommend to the Common Council to award the bid for the North Annex Water Loop Project to Ritola, in the amount of \$340,080.52. Motion Carried

**Public Safety - Heitkemper**

7. Fire Department updates:

Had a very busy start to 2026, 2 structure fires in the last 2 weeks, one in City of Phillips when it was -38 and then one yesterday in the Town of Worcester. Thanks to DPW, water, police, ambulance for the help and they had a bunch of other agencies assist as well on those calls.

8. Police Department Updates:

Calls for Service: 2026 2025  
Jan 188 163

Update on Counterfeiting case: they had identified a male that was passing over the counterfeit bills; and this case had 295 incidents from October to November of 2025 for these bills being passed around, PD reached out to the secret service and now they are assisting, the flock camera system is what identified this subject and that will lead to the arrest of this individual.

County wanted to store 7 pieces of equipment in the impound lot so we will charge \$25 per equipment per day for about 2-3 months and the county will be paying for that.

Heitkemper just gave a heads up that there are some \$5 counterfeit bills being passed around in Ladysmith so just FYI, may see that in this area.

Brzeskiewicz questioned if the increase in calls had to do with ordinance enforcement with the officer Breydan Revak, that is doing the compliance checks. Hauschild stated that it is part of it as Revak is doing a lot more compliance enforcement but also the PD is at full staff so more traffic stops are being made.

9. Discussion regarding billing fire/ambulance lift assists.

Heitkemper gave a brief presentation that stemmed from recent discussions regarding billing for residential lift assists. Heitkemper argued against the charging of residents for lift assists; but not against charging for-profit care facilities that are calling in and requesting these services. The ambulance is already charging for-profit facilities for responding to lift assists and the Fire Ad Hoc committee has already discussed implementing that line of charging on the fire department level as well. Heitkemper emphasized the importance of maintaining community support and questioned the necessity of introducing fees when we have never needed to bill in any past circumstances.

The council discussed various aspects, including the responsibilities of for-profit businesses, the adequacy of staffing, and the implications for private citizens. Suggestions were made about

potentially drafting an ordinance that might account for habitual users of lift assists and nuisance cases.

**Licensing/Permits – Brzeskiewicz**

**Personnel/Budget/Finance – Clark**

**Legal**

10. Resolution #1246 – Resolution to Halt Eminent Domain Process – Elk Lake Park Parking Lot  
Peterson stated that he believes that lease agreement needs to be signed before this resolution is signed. City attorney Bryce updated that we have agreed upon language for the lease agreement. Elliott/ Heitkemper moved to pass Resolution #1246 to Halt the Eminent Domain Process contingent upon the lease agreement for the parking lot being signed by both parties. Stephan – opposed.  
Motion Carried

**City Council**

11. Council Update  
Brzeskiewicz – wanted to acknowledge the fire department and thank them as they did have that fire the night before Winterfest when it was cold and then the next night, they did the Winterfest fireworks.
12. Klimowski moved for adjournment: Time: 6:27pm



Shelby Kosmer  
City Clerk/Treasurer