

City of Phillips
Committee of the Whole Meeting
Municipal Building, Municipal Hall
174 S Eyder Avenue
June 2nd, 2026
5:30 pm

Mayor: Charles Peterson

Committee Members: Jeana Clark, Richard Heitkemper, Mark Brzeskiewicz, Johnathan McArthur, 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.

Following the open session of the meeting the Common Council will convene into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. Section 19.85(1)(c) Compensation and Evaluation. Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee subject to the jurisdiction or authority of governing body. – Considering replacement of retiring Police Chief from within.

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 ___, Jeana Clark ___, Richard Heitkemper ___, Mark Brzeskiewicz ___, Johnathan McArthur ___, Bill Elliott ___, John Klimowski ___.

Public Comment:

DISCUSSION-ACTION ITEMS:

General-Mayor/Clerk

1. Set next month’s meeting date and time: Tuesday July 7th, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.
2. Motion to approve the minutes from the May 5th, 2026, meeting.
3. Mayor updates:
4. Clerk updates:
 - a) Discussion/Potential action regarding City of Phillips logo update

Board of Public Works/Recreation –Klimowski/Elliott

5. DPW and Water/Sewer Updates
6. North Annex Water Loop Project Updates:
 - a) Discussion/Action regarding Pay Request #2 from Ritola Inc for the North Annex Water Loop Project in the amount of \$155,753.07.
7. Avon Ave Reconstruction Project:
 - a) Resolution #1247: Resolution declaring official intent to reimburse expenditures from proceeds of borrowing
8. Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #1248 Year 2026 Compliance Maintenance Report.

Public Safety - Heitkemper

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

Licensing/Permits – Brzeskiewicz

11. Motion to recommend to the Common Council to approve the Class B Retail Combination and Class B Beer License applications. The Class A Retail Combination License applications and the Class “A” Retail Fermented Malt License applications. To approve the “Class A” Retail Liquor License application, the Class “B” Retail Beer and “Class C” Wine License applications

Personnel/Budget/Finance – Brzeskiewicz

Legal

City Council

12. Council Update
13. Convene into closed session. Authority: Pursuant to Wis. Stat. Section 19.85(1)(c) Compensation and Evaluation – Considering replacement of retiring Police Chief from within.
Jeana Clark___ Richard Heitkemper ___ Mark Brzeskiewicz ___ Johnathan McArthur ___ Bill Elliott ___ John Klimowski ___. Time _____
14. Reconvene into open session. Authority: Wisconsin §19.85(2). Jeana Clark___ Richard Heitkemper ___ Mark Brzeskiewicz ___ Johnathan McArthur___ Bill Elliott ___ John Klimowski ___. Time: _____
15. Motion on the subject of the closed session
16. Adjournment: Time: _____

Committee of the Whole
Meeting Minutes
June 2nd, 2026

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

Members Present: Jeana Clark, Johnathan McArthur, Bill Elliott, John Klimowski, Bryce Schoenborn and Shelby Kosmer

Also Present: Michael Hauschild, Todd Toelle, Jim Heizler, Blaine Peterson, Justin Schumenan, Travis Abraham, David Lontocoski, Thomas LaVenture, Jody Kozak, Anne Baxter, John Baxter and Karen Mueller.

Public Comment: Karen Mueller is the new owner of the Timber Inn. Just wanted to quickly check in and introduce herself and give a brief rundown of the work they have been completely on the building and their schedule this year. Also wanted to give a quick thank you to the community, as everyone has been amazing and welcoming to them and very positive.

DISCUSSION-ACTION ITEMS:

General-Mayor/Clerk

1. Set next month's meeting date and time: Tuesday July 7th, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.
2. Clark/ Elliott moved to approve the minutes from the May 5th, 2026, meeting. Carried
3. Mayor updates: None
4. Clerk updates: Working on alcohol license renewals and operator licenses and preparing for water bills to go out. We will be offering email options for sending out the water/sewer bills and hoping to soon offer direct payments for customers as well.
 - a) Discussion/Potential action regarding City of Phillips logo update. Council had some concern with AI Detection and those logos having a negative impression when going through grant applications. Suggested to look at getting it drawn up.

Board of Public Works/Recreation –Klimowski/Elliott

5. DPW and Water/Sewer Updates:

DPW: Sam's concrete came in and redid the sidewalk cracks. Pressure washed the sidewalks after construction, and they will do the other side tomorrow. Hanging baskets are up and Kosmer indicated they are not just green they do have some white, red and purple flowers in there.

Water/Sewer: Primary chains in the tank are worn out and need replacing, they are about 15k per tank so we would need two of them, but we do have funds in the SDP fund. Going through galvanized lines and verifying the lines. The survey was for customers to self-verify and now with these confirmations the department is doing they are finding some reported as galvanized to not be. We are going to be losing our last field for sludge disposal. We need to get rid of 400 thousand gallons of sludge per year and we need roughly 30 acres, and the sludge has to be incorporated, and the field be planted. Another alternative is a caking machine, but that cost ranges from 1-2 million dollars, maybe we could truck it to another facility. Septic haulers bring in and we credit because they will haul it out for us. Clark asked if we could advertise to see if there are any fields out there. If we could buy a field, we would avoid this and secure a location for the future.

6. North Annex Water Loop Project Updates: Should be wrapped up with underground this week or next week and then they will work on restoration. Did have a stubbed in sewer lateral that was unknown get hit so there will be a \$16,001 change order next week. The contractor had no way to know it was not on the maps, but it is now.

- a) Heitkemper/ Brzeskiewicz moved to recommended to the Common Council to approve Pay Request #2 from Ritola Inc for the North Annex Water Loop Project in the amount of \$155,753.07. Carried
7. Avon Ave Reconstruction Project: This is to apply for the DNR funding SDWF and CWFL and we will pay back the principal on any loan we take out of cover
- a) Clark/ Elliott moved to recommend to the Common council to approve Resolution #1247: Resolution declaring official intent to reimburse expenditures from proceeds of borrowing. Carried
8. Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #1248 Year 2026 Compliance Maintenance Report. Section on biosolids, we did run the fecal testing in 2026, but we hadn't had that tested in the past so received a poor grade on the 2025 report, but this has been corrected for future. But all things are good otherwise.
- Heitkemper/ Elliott moved to recommend to the common council to approve resolution #1248: Year 2026 Compliance Maintenance Report. Carried.

Public Safety - Heitkemper

9. Fire Department updates:
- Been very busy, 16 calls in May and we are starting this month with 2 calls. Rescue truck is out of service due to the fuel issues with the metal in the fuel tank. It is 2k for a remade tank, hoping to replace the tank. A new rescue truck 750k to replace it now or 250k to remake the chassis. Rescue carries the oxygen tank, the jaws of life and all the equipment. Getting ready for Fire Fest. Heitkemper thanked crew for their help with the 2 drownings on Soo in the last month. The department has had 3 fatal calls in the last 30 days.
10. Police Department Updates:
- | | | |
|--------------------|------|------|
| Calls for service: | 2026 | 2025 |
| May | 240 | 205 |
| YTD | 942 | 854 |
- Parttime ad is still running and we did get one application today. Revak is doing good in the recruit school, been busy doing courtesy violations. Brzeskiewicz asked if the ATV/UTVs have been behaving themselves and Chief Hauschild said they have but if there are issues, he can let the Price County Recreation Officer know for their patrols.

Licensing/Permits – Brzeskiewicz

11. Klimowski/ McArthur moved to recommend to the Common Council to approve the Class B Retail Combination and Class B Beer License applications. The Class A Retail Combination License applications and the Class “A” Retail Fermented Malt License applications. To approve the “Class A” Retail Liquor License application, the Class “B” Retail Beer License applications. Clark – abstained. Motion Carried

Personnel/Budget/Finance – Brzeskiewicz

Legal

City Council

12. Council Update: Clark – lots of people ask about the sidewalks.
- Heitkemper – received a couple calls and business asked if we were going to put the pedestrian crossing people back at the crosswalk. Heizler explained they become a targets and they are \$800 a piece, but they will be out for the 4th and Heizler is in contact with the state to put up the crosswalk signs.

Brzeskiewicz – not that we have to do it all the time and but suggested it would be nice to have someone come in and do brief presentations to explain things about how the city runs and get more information to understand their jobs as council member. Klimowski asked about the local government 101 Kosmer explained the new learning center and there aren't any in-person local government classes upcoming.

Klimowski – downtown is looking good.

13. McArthur/Elliott moved Convene into closed session. Authority: Pursuant to Wis. Stat. Section 19.85(1)(c) Compensation and Evaluation – Considering replacement of retiring Police Chief from within.

Jeana Clark- aye, Richard Heitkemper -aye, Mark Brzeskiewicz – aye, Johnathan McArthur – aye, Bill Elliott -aye, John Klimowski -aye. Time 6:19pm

14. Clark/ Klimowski moved to reconvene into open session. Authority: Wisconsin §19.85(2). Jeana Clark – aye, Richard Heitkemper – aye, Mark Brzeskiewicz – aye, Johnathan McArthur – aye, Bill Elliott – aye, John Klimowski – aye. Time: 6:37pm

15. Motion on the subject of the closed session: Klimowski/ McArthur moved to recommend to the Common Council to approve the promotion of Phillips Police Lt Blaine Peterson to Police Chief upon retirement of Chief Michael Hauschild. Roll Call: Clark – aye, Heitkemper – aye, Brzeskiewicz – aye, McArthur – aye, Elliott – aye, Klimowski – aye. Motion Carried

16. Mayor Peterson moved to adjourn: Time: 6:39pm



Shelby Kosmer
City Clerk/Treasurer