

City of Phillips' Common Council Meeting

Council Room, Municipal Hall

174 S Eyder Avenue

March 11, 2025

5:30 p.m.

Mayor, Charles Peterson

Council Members: Wards 1 & 2 (District 1) –Richard Heitkemper, Ward 3 (District 2) - Mark Brzeskiewicz; 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 Meetings 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 Meetings Law

Pledge of Allegiance

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

1. Motion to open public hearing for discussion on Ordinance 25-001: Amendment of Section 7.11 Designation of State Highway Bridge: ATV/UTV designation of state Hwy 13 bridge from County Highway F intersection south to the Fayette Street Intersection. Time____

2. Motion to close public hearing. Time _____

3. Action regarding the amendment of Ordinance 25-001 Section 7.11 Designation of State Highway Bridge for an ATV/UTV Route

Public Comment:

DISCUSSION-ACTION ITEMS:

4. Motion to approve February 11th, 2025, and February 25th, 2025, Council Meeting Minutes.
5. Motion to approve the payment of vouchers in the total amount of \$685,713.81
6. Discussion/Action regarding draft Chicken Ordinance 25-002 allowing chickens within the City limits. Potential to send to public hearing
7. Motion to approve the purchase of the grinder replacement parts for the Wastewater Treatment plant from JWC in the amount of \$20,599.26 as recommended by the Committee of the Whole.

8. Motion to approve the master agreement for professional services with Ayres Associates for the looping of water service in the North Annex as recommended by the Committee of the Whole
9. Discussion/Action regarding Elk Lake Park Parking lot section owned by Price County United Limited
10. Committee Reports:
 - Ambulance:
 - Library
 - Chamber:
 - a. Discussion/Action regarding City and Chamber agreement for Chamber building and needs for repairs.
11. Phillips Industrial Development Corp (IDC) Update:
12. Adjournment

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

.....of the Common Council of the City of Phillips at a meeting held in the Council Room of Municipal Hall on March 11th, 2025.

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: Mark Brzeskiewicz

3rd Aldermanic District: Bill Elliott

Clerk/Treasurer: Shelby Kosmer

Also present: Al Jesunas, John McArthur, Brianna McArthur, Jim Brantner, Bryan Weisrock, Stacy Pomeroy, Joe Perkins Aimee Heizler, Mark Pomeroy, Jim Heizler, Michael Hauschild, Blaine Peterson, Thomas LaVenture, Shirley Smith, Cheryl Moore, Becky Puhl, Blake Pluemer, Kayla Bushman, Stacie Prochnow, Sheila Hellner, Jim Hellner, Lyn, Ludwig, Terra Gastmann, Steve Gastmann, Bill Nemec, David Lontcoski, Patty Stephan, and Waldemar Madsen.

1. Klimowski/ Elliott moved to open public hearing for discussion on Ordinance 25-001: Amendment of Section 7.11 Designation of State Highway Bridge: ATV/UTV designation of state Hwy 13 bridge from County Highway F intersection south to the Fayette Street Intersection. Time 5:31pm Roll Call: Clark – aye, Heitkemper – absent, Brzeskiewicz – aye, Stephan – aye, Elliot – aye, Klimowski – aye. Carried
2. Elliott/ Klimowski moved to close public hearing. Time 5:32pm
3. Klimowski/ Brzeskiewicz moved to approve Ordinance 25-001 Section 7.11 Designation of State Highway Bridge for an ATV/UTV Route. Motion Carried

Public Comment: David Lontcoski reported that the fire department back up engine has been red tagged; it didn't pass inspection and needs some break repair, working on getting that repair.

Ludwig questioned if we explored the EPA Water Technical assistance for the looping project being discussed later. Ludwig spoke regarding the lease with Price County United Limited (PCUL) property at the Elk Lake Parking lot, she stated that PCUL is trying to lift up the entire community as fast as possible to get this project done, this is why they are asking for the money and the lease is about investing in the community. As far as communication is concerned, she wants to get to a Phillips planning commission to discuss the lease more.

DISCUSSION-ACTION ITEMS:

4. Clark/ Klimowski moved to approve February 11th, 2025, and February 25th, 2025, Council Meeting Minutes as corrected. Carried
5. Clark/ Elliott moved to approve the payment of vouchers in the total amount of \$685,713.81. Roll Call: Clark – aye, Heitkemper – absent, Brzeskiewicz – aye, Stephan – aye, Elliott – aye, Klimowski – aye. Motion Carried

6. Discussion/Action regarding draft Chicken Ordinance 25-002 allowing chickens within the City limits. Potential to send to public hearing.
Klimowski/ Brzeskiewicz moved to send ordinance 25-002 allowing for chickens with the City limits to a public hearing. Roll Call: Clark – aye, Heitkemper – absent, Brzeskiewicz – aye, Stephan – aye, Elliott – aye, Klimowski – aye. Motioned Carried
7. Elliott/ Clark moved to approve the purchase of the grinder replacement parts for the Wastewater Treatment plant from JWC in the amount of \$20,599.26 as recommended by the Committee of the Whole. Roll Call: Clark – aye, Heitkemper – absent, Brzeskiewicz – aye, Stephan – aye, Elliott – aye, Klimowski – aye. Motioned Carried
8. Elliott/ Brzeskiewicz moved to approve the master agreement for professional services with Ayres Associates for the looping of water service in the North Annex as recommended by the Committee of the Whole. Roll Call: Clark – aye, Heitkemper – absent, Brzeskiewicz – aye, Stephan – aye, Elliott – aye, Klimowski – aye. Motioned Carried
9. Discussion/Action regarding Elk Lake Park Parking lot section owned by Price County United Limited. Mayor
Blake Pluemer asked if there was a planning commission that they can speak to about the lease, Mayor Peterson explained that they would be making a recommendation to City anyways and the Council has already made action on this matter.
PCUL stated there is a lot to be gained and a lot to be lost without this development they need to keep this conversation moving. Mayor Peterson started after 2026 there are TIF districts that may help with developments, but we don't have that at this time. PCUL explained that property and lease was a way to prompt conversation about redevelopment and they are looking for representation in a group, there are a lot of creative solutions, and we need to have an open conversation about solutions. PCUL is requesting to set up a meeting within the next 3 weeks with the planning commission so we can get a little deeper into the conversation to get this on a path. Ludwig stated the lease is for PCUL to create a developed property; in order to do that they are looking for funds as they we need to act quickly when grants come up and they really need the community to engage with them. PCUL urged to think out of the box, have to get partners together so we can spin these grants off, they need a planning commission to speak with to ask what we can bring to the game and the City can do.
Stephan/ Klimowski moved to seek eminent domain for the .08 acres at the Elk Lake Park Parking lot. Clark – aye, Heitkemper – absent, Stephan – aye, Elliott – aye, Klimowski – aye. Motion Carried
Brzeskiewicz wanted emphasize and to talk about what the City can't do, we can't pay 8.5% of our budget to pay for these lease, let's discuss what we can do to help, we can help with grants and once the TIF's are open, we can help that way.
Stephan – utilizing the parking lot is a way to get people involved is not helping but if we take that off the table then we can talk more about helping in other ways.
The City's offer of those 3 options still stands and they can do that at any point.
Purchase the lot at fair market, Swap land or enter into a long-term 99 year lease for no cost.

10. Committee Reports:

Ambulance: no update

Library: Doing good, looking towards summer, did get the grant for the automatic door, the project needs to be completed by October of 2026.

Chamber: Up to 207 members, had 1 interview today for the executive director, questioned if there is a set curfew for the pavilion, which there is not for adults but no overnight camping.

- a. Discussion/Action regarding City and Chamber agreement for Chamber building and needs for repairs. There is an agreement that the city is responsible for the exterior of the building and the approach to the building. The Chamber does have some funds set aside for some renovations. The council questioned if there has been any discussion of moving the chamber, no conversations. City should put out the bids since it is the City owned building. Chamber will need to get the projects they need bid out.

11. Phillips Industrial Development Corp (IDC) Update: Things are moving along on the website, the major industry in town have given permission to get photos for the website. The Phillips Area Development LTD in the process of starting bylaws and recruit some officers, so things are moving along with that group.

12. Elliott moved for adjournment: 6:19pm



Shelby Kosmer
Clerk/Treasurer