

City of Phillips' Common Council Meeting

Council Room, Municipal Hall

174 S Eyder Avenue

June 10th, 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

Potentially following the open session of the meeting the Common Council will convene into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. Section 19.85(1)(b) Considering dismissal, demotion, licensing or discipline of any public employee or officer or any person licensed by governing body or investigation of charges against such person, and taking of formal action on any such matter, provided the public employee, officer, or licensed person is given actual notice of any evidentiary hearing which may be held prior to final action taken and of any meeting at which final action may be taken. The notice must contain a statement that the person may demand that the evidentiary hearing or meeting be held in open session. This is regarding the applicant for liquor licenses at Gigi's Bootleggers LLC (Meister's Bar & Grill).

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 ____

Public Comment:

DISCUSSION-ACTION ITEMS:

1. Motion to approve May 1st, 2025, and May 13th, 2025, Council Meeting Minutes.
2. Motion to approve the payment of vouchers in the total amount of \$423,607.20.
3. Motion to approve Resolution #1240 Declaring official intent to reimburse expenditures from proceeds of borrowing for the North Annex Water Loop Project as recommended by the Committee of the Whole.
4. Motion to approve Resolution #1241 Year 2025 Compliance Maintenance Report as recommended by the Committee of the Whole.

5. Motion 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 with the exception of Gigi's Bootleggers as recommended by the Committee of the Whole.
6. Motion to approve Avon Street Closure for the Phillips Fire Department Street Dance on July 26th, 2025 from Maple Street to Chestnut from 10am to Midnight as recommended by the Committee of the Whole.
7. Discussion/ Potential Action: Downtown sidewalks update:
8. Discussion/Potential Action regarding Elk Lake Park, Parking lot update, status of section owned by Price County United Limited.
9. Committee Reports:
Ambulance:
Library
Chamber:
10. Phillips Industrial Development Corp (IDC) Update:
11. Discussion/Action Class B Retail Combination Liquor License Renewal for Gigi's Bootleggers LLC , (Meister's Bar & Grill).
12. Motion to convene into closed session. Authority: Wisconsin § Section 19.85(1)(b) Considering dismissal, demotion, licensing or discipline of any public employee or officer or any person licensed by governing body or investigation of charges against such person, and taking of formal action on any such matter, provided the public employee, officer, or licensed person is given actual notice of any evidentiary hearing which may be held prior to final action taken and of any meeting at which final action may be taken. The notice must contain a statement that the person may demand that the evidentiary hearing or meeting be held in open session. This is regarding applicants for liquor licenses reference above in item 11 and below in item 15. Jerry Clark____ Richard Heitkemper ____ Mark Brzeskiewicz ____ Marty Stephan ____ Bill Elliott ____ John Klimowski____. Time: _____
13. Motion to reconvene into open session. Authority: Wisconsin §19.85(2).
Jerry Clark____ Richard Heitkemper ____ Mark Brzeskiewicz____ Marty Stephan ____ Bill Elliott ____ John Klimowski _____. Time: _____
14. Possible action on the subject matter of the closed session.
15. Motion to approve/deny the Common Council to approve the Class B Retail Combination license for Gigi's Bootleggers
16. Adjournment

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

.....of the Common Council of the City of Phillips at a meeting held in the Council Room of Municipal Hall on June 10th, 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: Michael Hauschild, Justin Schuenemann, Jim Heizler, Jennifer Litvinoff, Becky Puhl, Mike Ball, Lauren Ball, Gayle Staroba, Terry Staroba, Paul Lauro, Natasha Lauro, Lyn Ludwig, David Lontcoski, Johnathon McArthur, Briana McArthur, Kathy Billek, Lynne Bohne, Davette Hrabak, Judy Hayton, Patty Stephan, Blake Pluemer, Kay Pluemer, Cheryl Moore, Aimee Heizler and Tom LaVenture.

Public Comment: None

DISCUSSION-ACTION ITEMS:

1. Klimowski/ Elliott moved to approve May 1st, 2025, and May 13th, 2025, Council Meeting Minutes. Carried
2. Heitkemper/ Clark moved to approve the payment of vouchers in the total amount of \$423,607.20. Carried
3. Klimowski/ Brzeskiewicz moved to approve Resolution #1240 Declaring official intent to reimburse expenditures from proceeds of borrowing for the North Annex Water Loop Project as recommended by the Committee of the Whole. Carried
4. Elliott/ Heitkemper moved to approve Resolution #1241 Year 2025 Compliance Maintenance Report as recommended by the Committee of the Whole. Carried
5. Klimowski/ Heitkemper Motion 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 with the exception of Gigi's Bootleggers as recommended by the Committee of the Whole. Roll Call: Clark – opposed, Heitkemper – aye, Brzeskiewicz – aye, Stephan – aye, Elliott – aye, Klimowski – aye. Motion Carried 5-1
6. Clark/ Elliott moved to approve Avon Street Closure for the Phillips Fire Department Street Dance on July 26th, 2025, from Maple Street to Chestnut from 10am to Midnight as recommended by the Committee of the Whole. Carried
7. Discussion/ Potential Action: Downtown sidewalks update: Justin from Ayres provided an update with the information he received back from the DOT. The DOT is going to require the City to submit plans that will need to show how we will address

the slope of the sidewalks for ADA compliance. The City has the option to keep the double curb, which would be replacing and keeping the sidewalk as is, or to do a sloped terrace, which is a different colored concrete and can be stamped to help with traction. The slope will be more gradual than the step; however, there are sections in town where this will not work as the slope would be too great and the double curb will need to remain. Klimowski mentioned he has seen this in other towns, and it flows well together. The City needs to make the decision of which option we will be pursuing and then once that is decided Ayres will be able to create a contract for providing the professional services, plans will be made up and then Ayres will be able to put the project on bids and if we move fairly quickly the project can still be done this year yet after the State is done with their project. Ludwig brought up conversations she had in the past with the DOT regarding the step and how they are aware it is an issue and had ample time to address it; Justin had asked her to forward these communications to him. Paul Lauro questioned if adding the sloped terrace would increase liability, Heitkemper addressed later in the discussion stating if what we are putting in is legal it should not add to the liability. Ayres also mentioned that the slope is a more gradual change than the step, but you wouldn't have that trip hazard. Elliott asked if anyone in attendance had any opposition to the sloped terrace and no one opposed, one audience member stated a sloped terrace would be easier for them to traverse instead of the step as they do have some physical limitations. Council agreed that the sloped terrace in places where it can be implemented would be a way to remove the step that has caused some hassle over the years. There were other questions regarding the slope issues and if the sloped terrace would weather differently/more quickly than the typical sidewalk. Justin had stated some on the sidewalks were already at an 8% slope which is the same pitch they are proposing with the terrace, which allows for the runoff so it shouldn't be any different than what is currently there. It was asked if adding the terrace would postpone the project and Justin reiterated it is still something that can move forward this year as long as we keep progressing and moving forward with plans.

Stephan/ Heitkemper moved to direct Ayres to move forward with the proposal for the design plans for the sidewalk with an included sloped terrace to remove the step where allowable. Roll call: Clark – aye, Heitkemper – aye, Brzeskiewicz – aye, Stephan – aye, Elliott – aye, Klimowski – aye. Motion Carried.

8. Discussion/Potential Action regarding Elk Lake Park, Parking lot update, status of section owned by Price County United Limited.
The council was presented with an option from Price County United Limited (PCUL) to receive a permanent easement on the parking lot section in exchange for City owned parcels to the south of 115 Depot Street where the landing area is on Duroy Lake. Heitkemper said that after the last meeting we came up with an agreement that would be written out in 30 days but now a different option was being presented to them. Ludwig discussed that this needs to be worked out with the work group and our option of trading land that was presented at the last meeting is a mismatch of value of what the City would be getting versus PCUL and that there is no harm in waiting 6 months, it doesn't need to happen in 30 days. The council stated that we were discussing a specific piece of land that Ludwig had raised interest in before and we were not interested in getting rid of the piece PCUL presented as part of the proposal. Heitkemper stated that this park has been built up to what it is without

taxpayer dollars and by our community raising money and the council needs to protect access to that park and that he feels the council is being pushed towards pursuing eminent domain as every time this matter comes up PCUL comes back with a different offer than what was originally discussed. Elliott expressed frustration that after the meeting on May 1st, they had gone out and told members of the public this matter was handled as they believed it was and now a whole new proposal is being presented.

Klimowski / Stephan moved to reject the presented proposal and continue with eminent domain process. Roll Call: Clark – aye, Heitkemper – aye, Brzeskiewicz – aye, Stephan – aye, Elliott – opposed, Klimowski – aye. Motion Carried 5-1.

9. Committee Reports:

Ambulance: Radio is supposed to be here this week for the new rig, the new replacement ambulance has been delivered, once radio is installed the rig would be stocked and then inspected and then hopefully at the end of next week it would be in service.

Library: Summer reading program started this week, they will have another gardening program, and week from today is the carnival next Tuesday for their summer kick off.

Chamber: Getting ready for the 4th of July and working on the parade route, Had meeting with Chief Hauschild to prepare for the event. They are up to 209 members, had elections of president and vp, and all positions remain the same for the year.

10. Phillips Industrial Development Corp (IDC) Update: Annual shareholders meeting will be July 23rd at noon with a location to be determined. Photographers have gone to all major businesses in town and that is moving along nicely. They do want to get some drone pictures and then get it over to Alexis Baratka to get on the website.

11. Discussion/Action Class B Retail Combination Liquor License Renewal for Gigi's Bootleggers LLC, (Meister's Bar & Grill). Mayor Peterson recused himself from this discussion. Kosmer indicated this has been requested to be handled in closed session.

12. Klimowski/ Brzeskiewicz moved to convene into closed session. Authority: Wisconsin § Section 19.85(1)(b) Considering dismissal, demotion, licensing or discipline of any public employee or officer or any person licensed by governing body or investigation of charges against such person, and taking of formal action on any such matter, provided the public employee, officer, or licensed person is given actual notice of any evidentiary hearing which may be held prior to final action taken and of any meeting at which final action may be taken. The notice must contain a statement that the person may demand that the evidentiary hearing or meeting be held in open session. This is regarding applicants for liquor licenses reference above in item 11 and below in item 15. Jerry Clark -aye, Richard Heitkemper – aye, Mark Brzeskiewicz – aye, Marty Stephan – aye, Bill Elliott – aye, John Klimowski – aye. Time: 6:27pm

13. Klimowski/ Brzeskiewicz moved to reconvene into open session. Authority: Wisconsin 19.85(2). Roll Call: Jerry Clark- aye Richard Heitkemper – aye, Mark Brzeskiewicz- aye, Marty Stephan – aye, Bill Elliott – aye. John Klimowski – aye. Time: 7:11pm
14. Possible action on the subject matter of the closed session. None, action taken in item 15.
15. Klimowski/ Heitkemper moved to approve the Class B Retail Combination license for Gigi's Bootleggers, with the conditional there will be no violations, or the license will be subject to immediate revocation. Roll Call: Clark – opposed, Heitkemper – aye, Brzeskiewicz – aye, Stephan – aye, Elliott – aye, Klimowski – aye. Motion Carried 5-1
16. Brzeskiewicz moved for adjournment. 7:15pm



Shelby Kosmer
Clerk/Treasurer