

City of Phillips' Common Council Meeting

Council Room, Municipal Hall

174 S Eyder Avenue

December 9th, 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 ____

Public Comment:

DISCUSSION-ACTION ITEMS:

1. Motion to approve November 11th, 2025, Council Meeting Minutes.
2. Motion to approve the payment of vouchers in the total amount of \$212,576.20.
3. Discussion/Potential Action with the Fire Ad Hoc Committee regarding billing of City of Phillips fire calls to residents.
4. Discussion/Action regarding lease proposal from Price County United Limited, parcel located in Elk Lake Park Parking Lot.
5. Motion to approve the 2026 City Fee Schedule as recommended by the Committee of the Whole.
6. Motion to approve Pay Request #3 to Pavement Consulting Services, LLC in the amount of \$118,249.95 for the downtown sidewalks project as recommended by the Committee of the Whole.
7. Motion to approve Amendment #1 to the Professional Service contract with Ayres Associates for the Avon Ave Reconstruction Project as recommended by the Committee of the Whole.
8. Motion to proceed with the North Annex Water loop project as recommended by the Committee of the Whole.

9. Motion to approve the 2026 Water/Sewer Budget as recommended by the Committee of the Whole.

10. Committee Reports:

Ambulance:

Library

Chamber:

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 December 9th, 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, John Klimowski

1st Aldermanic District:

2nd Aldermanic District: Mark Brzeskiewicz

3rd Aldermanic District: Bill Elliott

Clerk/Treasurer: Shelby Kosmer

Also present: Travis Abraham, Jody Kozak, David Lontcoski, Tom Frane, Patty Stephan, August Mayer, Thomas LaVenture. Aimee Heizler, Jim Heizler.

Public Comment: None

DISCUSSION-ACTION ITEMS:

1. Clark/Klimowski moved to approve November 11th, 2025, Council Meeting Minutes as corrected. Carried
2. Heitkemper/ Elliott moved to approve the payment of vouchers in the total amount of \$212,576.20. Carried
3. Discussion/Potential Action with the Fire Ad Hoc Committee regarding billing of City of Phillips fire calls to residents. Mayor Peterson stated they are going to send this back to the fire ad hoc committee to discuss administration fees
4. Discussion/Action regarding lease proposal from Price County United Limited, parcel located in Elk Lake Park Parking Lot. PCUL provided a new lease agreement that only had amended language about the types of claims the city can file against them. Stephan wanted to accept the original lease proposal that the City was willing to agree to. Heitkemper stated that he has not seen anything, nor has any documentation been produced to show how if there is eminent domain how it would affect PCUL's grants. Mayor Peterson discussed that PCUL can in future grants leave out the disputed piece of land when she is applying for new things. If PCUL includes it in the grant and they gets the grant but the City takes back the property, then it could void her grant that was awarded. Heitkemper mentioned that when PCUL first started this whole process they discussed breaking up the property in parcels and strategically apply for grants and the Council needs to voice the opinions of the taxpayers.

Stephan/ Klimowski moved to decline the current lease proposal presented and proceed with the eminent domain. Roll Call: Clark – aye, Heitkemper – opposed, Brzeskiewicz – opposed, Stephan – aye, Elliott – opposed, Klimowski – aye. Motion Ties 3 in favor, 3 opposed. Mayor Peterson cast a vote in the negative, defeating the motion.

Brzeskiewicz believes the city needs to have a counter proposal; questioned the council if they are willing to wait until the end of the current lease proposal, December 31st, 2029. Elliott reiterated that all PCUL has ever mentioned there not being any improvements on the parcel other than maybe paving it. Klimowski discussed the

option of putting a contingency in the counter offer that PCUL cannot include the parcel in any future grant applications. Brzeskiewicz stated that we should keep it simple. Elliott believes that if we send this and they don't agree then we have to continue with the eminent domain process.

Klimowski wants to see it be a 2-year lease proposal and at the end of the two years we purchase the property but do it sooner if it's not included in a grant.

Brzeskiewicz/ Elliott moved to decline the current December 4, lease proposal and offer a counter proposal to PCUL with the term expiring 12/31/29 contingent that we will purchase the property at end of the lease term at the value listed in the July 2025 appraisal report, \$25,000. Clark – aye, Heitkemper – aye, Brzeskiewicz – aye, Stephan – opposed, Elliott – aye, Klimowski – aye. Motion Carried 5-1.

5. Heitkemper/ Elliott moved to approve the 2026 City Fee Schedule as recommended by the Committee of the Whole. Carried
6. Brzeskiewicz/ Klimowski moved to approve Pay Request #3 to Pavement Consulting Services, LLC in the amount of \$118,249.95 for the downtown sidewalks project as recommended by the Committee of the Whole. Roll Call: Clark – aye, Heitkemper – aye, Brzeskiewicz – aye, Stephan – aye, Elliott – aye, Klimowski – aye. Motion Carried
7. Heitkemper/ Brzeskiewicz moved to approve Amendment #1 to the Professional Service contract with Ayres Associates for the Avon Ave Reconstruction Project as recommended by the Committee of the Whole. Carried
8. Klimowski/ Elliott moved to proceed with the North Annex Water loop project as recommended by the Committee of the Whole. Roll Call: Clark – aye, Heitkemper – aye, Brzeskiewicz – aye, Stephan – aye, Elliott – aye, Klimowski – aye. Motion Carried
9. Brzeskiewicz/ Clark moved to approve the 2026 Water/Sewer Budget as recommended by the Committee of the Whole. Roll Call: Clark – aye, Heitkemper – aye, Brzeskiewicz – aye, Stephan – aye, Elliott – aye, Klimowski – aye. Motion Carried

10. Committee Reports:

Ambulance: Been busy, one of the runs last week resulted in a deer crash, it did not take the ambulance out of service, but 4-6k in damage but it is operational, no patient in the vehicle. Still have 2 rigs operational. They did a fundraiser last weekend and that turned out well in, 1 afternoon they raised just shy of 2k raised, that will help some unbudgeted items and they want to thank the public for supporting them.

Library: Thanks dpw for the snow removal, Mary Mephram and Megan Hakala are their two new employees, Becky did get a grant to get the automatic door installed. The library is going to need some capital improvements here in the future.

Chamber: 7 new members, visitors guide coming up. Had 79 people at the annual banquet. Citizen of the year was Laurie Zondlo, and The Wandering Chef was business of the year, 180 people at the comedy show, that it was a good time. Christmas parade, thanks to the city dpw and police, and they are talking about going to 5pm next year.

January 7th is the tavern tour and the 25th is the Winterfest and the fishing tournament, candlelight walk along with other various events.

11. Phillips Industrial Development Corp (IDC) Update: The rainbow sign is down officially, sad but thank you to the city crew for getting that dissembled today. Did have contact from WEDC about their locate in Wisconsin website and they are going to try to make sure the parcels that the IDC owns get listed on that site. The Mayor and Darin Baratka will be having a meeting regarding the housing development owned by Four Seasons.

12. Elliott moved for Adjournment 6:15pm

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shelby Kosmer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'S' at the beginning.

Shelby Kosmer
Clerk/Treasurer