

NEW PHILADELPHIA CITY COUNCIL MET IN REGULAR SESSION IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON FEBRUARY 9, 2026 WITH PRESIDENT DON KEMP PRESIDING. MR. WALKER OFFERED A PRAYER, AND ALL IN ATTENDANCE RECITED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

MR. KRIS KREINBIHL  
MR. DAN LANZER  
MRS. CHERYL RAMOS  
MR. STEVE RIPPETH  
MR. BRIAN SEARS  
MR. TOM SIMMELINK (LATE ARRIVAL)  
MR. MICHAEL WALKER

EXCUSED ABSENCES: NONE

- MR. RIPPETH MOTIONED TO APPROVE TONIGHT'S AGENDA  
MR. KREINBIHL SECONDED THE MOTION  
6 YEAS (MR. SIMMELINK WAS NOT PRESENT)  
TONIGHT'S AGENDA HAS BEEN APPROVED
- MR. LANZER MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 29, 2026 REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL  
MR. RIPPETH SECONDED THE MOTION  
5 YEAS (MR. WALKER ABSTAINED, MR. SIMMELINK WAS NOT PRESENT)  
MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 12, 2026 REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL HAVE BEEN APPROVED

**CORRESPONDENCE** ..... CLERK, JULIE COURTRIGHT

1. To Council and Administration from Income Tax Administrator for the City Carly Loos, dated February 2, 2026. This is the January Month End Report.
2. To Council and Administration from Executive Administrative Assistant to the Mayor Jami Bailey, dated February 2, 2026. This is the Month-End Report for January.
3. To Council and Administration from Treasurer Campbell, dated February 9, 2026. This is the January Investment and Savings Report
4. To Council and Administration from Mayor Day, dated February 9, 2026. This is an email titled "Impact of Property Tax Elimination.
5. To President Kemp from Law Director Fete, dated February 9, 2026. This is an email titled "Please Assign to Mrs. Ramos' Committee with Resolution 3-2026 as the Attachment. President Kemp asked Mrs. Ramos to take the legislation into her Committee.
6. To Council and Administration from Danielle DeMattio with the Auditor's Office. This is the January Month-end reports.
7. To Council and Administration from Mayor Day, dated February 9, 2026. The Mayor's Report.

MAYOR'S REPORT/REQUESTS ....MAYOR JOEL B. DAY

Mayor Day had the following report:

• **Please Clear Your Sidewalks of Snow**

If you've already cleared the snow from your sidewalks, thank you. If you haven't, please do, so there is a clear walking path for your neighbors, postal workers and delivery workers. Clear snow around fire hydrants too. It's going to be better. I heard a weather forecaster say that today should be the last day for zero or below temperatures. We may see high temperatures in the 50's next week!

- **A New Japanese Restaurant Opens in New Philadelphia**

The City has gained another locally owned restaurant. The “Fuji Ramen” Japanese restaurant has opened at 415 East High Avenue. It’s in the building that was occupied by Pim’s Thai food restaurant. Pim’s has moved into The Venue building on Front Avenue SW. The diversity of our restaurant choices is a reason why New Philadelphia has become a popular destination for dining and entertainment.

- **Update on Construction Projects Around Town**

Chick-fil-A and Dunkin’ Donuts are still on schedule for grand openings within the next two months. A big construction project you may have overlooked is the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District headquarters building being constructed on Tech Park Drive NE near Buckeye Career Center and the KSU-Tusc campus. Late summer is when it’s expected to be completed. MWCD will consolidate its departments and staff in the building, which will be an eco-friendly design that will blend into the hillside’s natural setting. The construction includes a walking trail around the property, which will tie into the existing walking trail around the KSU-Tusc campus.

- **Celebrate Valentine’s Day with Us**

Bring your sweetheart to Tuscora Park this Saturday to celebrate Valentine’s Day with us. Service Director McAbier and I will be behind the griddles serving pancakes at the annual NPact pancake breakfast fundraiser. It’s from 8am to 11am at the Tuscora Park dining hall. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the door. The money raised helps fund NPact’s community projects. NPact stands for “New Philadelphia Advancing our Community Together.” It’s a non-profit organization that focuses on improving downtown New Philadelphia and our community in general. NPact is always looking for new members and project volunteers. It meets the first Wednesday of the month at 8am in the City Council Chamber on the lower level of City Hall.

- **My Take on Governor DeWine’s Warning about Eliminating Property Tax**

Governor Mike DeWine’s recent warning about the elimination of property taxes is true. If that funding source is eliminated, it would cripple local governments and organizations who depend upon property tax to operate and provide services. The funding would have to be replaced by higher sales or income taxes. The Ohio Legislature has taken steps to lower property tax bills. Let’s let those measures take effect. Then we can see where more changes are necessary. Educate yourself on this issue and let State Representative Salvo and State Senator Landis know where you stand

SERVICE DIRECTOR..... Service Director Ron McAbier:

Mr. McAbier had the following report:

- General Services is back to doing their normal thing after the plowing has been done, but there have been a few leaks, it’s that time of year with freezing and thawing.
- On Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup> we’ll have a pre-bid meeting for the low-head dam. I’ll let everybody know how that went at the next Council meeting.
- The Downtown Quadrant Project: The workers dug a test hole at the first two quadrants and got the electric on the other one. What the issue is there is it’s basically right underneath the concrete. They’re having the same issue with the House of Stones Quadrant but they’re working through it.
- An update on the Ohio Erie Canal Towpath: I had a meeting with ODOT regarding this. I know it’s a long way away, it’s scheduled to go out to bid in March of 2028, and be finished by October of 2028. We’re probably about a month or two away to put out an RFP for the engineering on that. There’s some grant money out there prior to all this, and the GPD group has already gone to a 30%.

AUDITOR .....MRS. HEATHER DENHAM

Mrs. Denham had the following report:

- An update on what we’ve been working on this past month. We closed the year on January 12, 2026, so we had a lot of catching up to do since then. We imported our 2026 Temporary Revenue and Expense Budgets to get the year started. We have prepared and filed our Vendor 1099s for the year, and those were sent out. We filed the Annual OPERS Contributing Report. We created and issued and distributed

out the Employee's W2s. We completed our yearly BWC True up. That's where we pay a monthly premium to BWC. What we paid in 2025 was still based on 2024 wages. So, when we did the True up we owed \$21,375.00. I have since asked them to reassess what our monthly premium is for 2026 because it's going to be way too low. That was already calculated in October or November last year. I have completed our annual updated on the Sam.Gov website. That is the system for awards management and we're required to update that yearly to receive Federal contracts and grants. We have filed our Federal and State 541s and 542s. We have filed the quarterly unemployment reports. We've done the 2026 Salary updates. We've recalculated all the insurance changes. We have updated the pension pick-ups. We've paid the yearly auxiliary police stipends and uniform allowances. We paid the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2025 Sick Incentives to the Bargaining Units. We paid the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2026 Employer HSA contributions. We completed the 2025 reconciliations on time each month.

- What we have in progress this month that we have not yet completed is we are still currently working on our ACA 1095 forms, and we started working on the Financial Statement with Rey and Associates. We're working on the "Then and Now Policy" that was part of our finding in last year's audit. There was also a finding in our 2024 Audit for not reporting the FAA Grant properly, so Michelle has started helping me with the grant reporting for that. We're working on paying our full year property tax. Jonalee in the Service Director's Office, last year I asked her to look at the bills and she's filed several exemptions. We have received quite a bit of money back, at least \$11,000 from last year. We have a meeting tomorrow to discuss budgets with the Administration and a refresher on how to read Monthly Reports.

TREASURER.....MRS. MICHELLE CAMPBELL.....NO REPORT

Mrs. Campbell had the following comment:

Our ending cash balance as of January 31<sup>st</sup> was \$12,312,000.00. That consisted of General and Payroll Fund combined of \$5,213,000.00, Investment Fund of \$7,099,000.00, and our total Interest Income Earned for January for investments was \$402.00. It was significantly less over the month. I sent an email to ask why it was \$402 instead of \$20,000 and he said it was the timing of the coupon payments from the security posting interest in January. Several holdings in the portfolio had coupons due January 31<sup>st</sup>, which fall on a weekend for those interest payments which fall on a weekend, so the February Projected Interest Income is \$19,600. We had a total receipt of \$2.6 million, total disbursements of \$2.5 million 552 thousand. There were no significant variances to report. I need the audit trail then I can start on the reconciliation. Some miscellaneous things I've been working on; I feel like we have to get our fiscal offices aligned. Mrs. Denham mentioned that we're working through the procedure for the grant spending. With Rey's reconciliation and our bank reconciliation there are some variances that I'm questioning, and it leads to unclaimed fund process, so we're working through that. I did reach out to Derek to make sure that I'm accurate in my emails. We are going to be switching our collateralization from First Fed HLB to Pledged Securities, easier reporting, better liquidity position for the bank. I have the letters if anybody wants to look at those. I'm trying to understand our process in which we report and communicate our fund deficiencies, and the timing of what the expected revenue is. I'm doing whatever I can to help Mrs. Denham in her office with the full transparency that everybody's looking for.

SAFETY DIRECTOR .....MR. KEVIN MILLIGAN.....NO REPORT

LAW DIRECTOR.....MR. MARVIN FETE

Mr. Fete had the following report:

I had planned on briefing Council in an Executive Session about potential litigation, but since I responded to the other side a week ago I haven't heard anything back from them, so it's up in the air until I have more to report.

**BOARD/COMMISSION REPORTS:**

PLANNING COMMISSION.....MAYOR JOEL DAY

The Planning Commission will be meeting here in Council Chambers tomorrow at 1:00 PM. One of the things we'll discuss is the annexation of the Railroad properties that has been assigned to Councilwoman Ramos' Zoning and Annexation Committee.

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS.....MR. RON MCABIER

The Board of Zoning Appeals will be meeting on February 10, 2026 at 5:00 PM here in Council Chambers. We'll be picking officers for the year.

AIRPORT COMMISSION.....MR. DAN LANZER

The Airport Commission will be meeting tomorrow evening at 6:00 PM at the Harry Clever Field Meeting Room.

PARK BOARD.....MR. BRIAN SEARS

The next Meeting will be on February 18, 2026 at the Tuscora Park Pavillion.

CEMETERY BOARD.....MR. BRIAN SEARS.....NO REPORT

HEALTH BOARD ..... MR. TOM SIMMELINK

The Health Board will be meeting in Council Chambers on Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at noon.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

FINANCE COMMITTEE .....MR. STEVE RIPPETH

Mr. Rippeth had the following report:

The Finance Committee will be holding a work session in here tomorrow at 2:30.

PUBLIC WORKS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE...MR. DAN LANZER.....NO REPORT

SAFETY, HEALTH, AND SERVICE COMMITTEE.....MR. TOM SIMMELINK.....NO REPORT

ZONING AND ANNEXATION COMMITTEE.....MRS. CHERYL RAMOS.....NO REPORT

SALARY COMMITTEE.....MR. KRIS KREINBIHL.....NO REPORT

PARKS AND CEMETERY COMMITTEE.....MR. BRIAN SEARS.....NO REPORT

SPECIAL AND CONTACT COMMITTEE.....MR. MIKE WALKER.....NO REPORT

**VISITOR'S COMMENTS .....NONE**

**COUNCIL COMMENTS .....NONE**

**READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

ORDINANCES

30-2025 The following Ordinance is enacted by the city of New Philadelphia, Tuscarawas County, Ohio, hereinafter referred to as the Local Public Agency (LPA), in the matter of the stated described project.  
SECTION I - Project Description  
WHEREAS, the STATE has identified the need for the described project: Being the removal of an average two and one fourth (2.25) inches and the resurfacing with an average two and one fourth (2.25) inches of asphaltic concrete on State Route 39 from Tuscarawas Avenue (SLM 13.89) to the East Corp. Limit (SLM 15.42), State Route 259 from Reiser Ave. (SLM 1.21) to 21st Street (SLM 2.22) and State Route 800 from West High Ave. (SLM 19.16) to the North Corp. Limit and Anola St. (SLM 20.54).  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

MR. LANZER MOTIONED FOR SUSPENSION OF RULES ON ORDINANCE 30-2025  
MR. RIPPETH SECONDED THE MOTION  
7 YEAS  
RULES HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED ON ORDINANCE 30-2025

MR. LANZER MOTIONED FOR APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE 30-2025  
MR. RIPPETH SECONDED THE MOTION  
7 YEAS  
ORDINANCE 30-2025 HAS BEEN APPROVED

1-2026 AN ORDINANCE BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW PHILADELPHIA DIRECTING THE SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH THE LOWEST AND BEST BIDDER FOR THE CITY'S REQUIREMENTS OF VARIOUS MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES FOR 2026, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

MR. LANZER MOTIONED FOR SUSPENSION OF RULES ON ORDINANCE 1-2026  
MR. RIPPETH SECONDED THE MOTION  
7 YEAS  
RULES HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED ON ORDINANCE 1-2026

MR. LANZER MOTIONED FOR APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE 1-2026  
MR. RIPPETH SECONDED THE MOTION  
7 YEAS  
ORDINANCE 1-2026 HAS BEEN APPROVED

RESOLUTIONS:

1-2026 A RESOLUTION BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW PHILADELPHIA, OHIO, AUTHORIZING THE FIRE CHIEF TO ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS FROM THE REEVES FOUNDATION ON BEHALF OF THE CITY IN THE AMOUNT \$68,539.30 TO BE DEPOSITED TO FUND NO 420-4200-5-5200 FOR PURPOSES OF RESCUE TOOLS AND ACCESSORIES FOR THE NEW PHILADELPHIA FIRE DEPARTMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

MR. RIPPETH MOTIONED FOR SUSPENSION OF RULES ON RESOLUTION 1-2026  
MR. KREINBIHL SECONDED THE MOTION  
7 YEAS  
RULES HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED ON RESOLUTION 1-2026

MR. RIPPETH MOTIONED FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 1-2026  
MR. KREINBIHL SECONDED THE MOTION  
7 YEAS  
RESOLUTION 1-2026 HAS BEEN APPROVED

2-2026 A RESOLUTION BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW PHILADELPHIA, OHIO, AUTHORIZING THE FIRE CHIEF TO ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS FROM THE UNITED WAY ON BEHALF OF THE CITY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$13,237.64 TO BE DEPOSITED TO FUND NO. 715-5100-5-1106 FOR PURPOSES OF HELPING TO FUND THE WORK OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS COMMUNITY CARE COORDINATOR AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

MR. RIPPETH MOTIONED FOR SUSPENSION OF RULES ON RESOLUTION 2-2026  
MR. KREINBIHL SECONDED THE MOTION  
7 YEAS  
RULES HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED ON RESOLUTION 2-2026

MR. RIPPETH MOTIONED FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2-2026  
MR. KREINBIHL SECONDED THE MOTION

Mrs. Denham had the following comment:

I just noticed that it's an expense account and not a revenue account.

Can we change that?

MR. RIPPETH WITHDREW HIS MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2026

Mrs. Denham had the following comment:

The correct fund is 715-5100-4-8504

MR. RIPPETH MOTIONED TO AMEND THE RESOLUTION TO REFLECT  
THE CORRECT REVENUE CODE AND EXPENSE CODES  
MR. KREINBIHL SECONDED THE MOTION  
7 YEAS  
RESOLUTION 2-2026 HAS BEEN AMENDED

MR. RIPPETH MOTIONED TO SUSPEND THE RULES ON AMENDED  
RESOLUTION 2-2026  
MR. KREINBIHL SECONDED THE MOTION  
7 YEAS  
RULES HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED ON RESOLUTION 2-2026

MR. RIPPETH MOTIONED FOR APPROVAL OF AMENDED RESOLUTION  
2-2026  
MR. KREINBIHL SECONDED THE MOTION  
7 YEAS  
AMENDED RESOLUTION 2-2026 HAS BEEN APPROVED

**UNFINISHED OR OLD BUSINESS: NONE**

**NEW BUSINESS: NONE**

With no other business to discuss Mr. Lanzer motioned to adjourn at 8:02 PM.

CLERK OF COUNCIL \_\_\_\_\_  
Julie Courtright

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL \_\_\_\_\_  
Don Kemp