City Council Meeting Minutes, September 28, 2026 – City of New Philadelphia, Ohio

NEW PHILADELPHIA CITY COUNCIL MET IN REGULAR SESSION IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON SEPTEMBER 28, 2026 WITH PRESIDENT PRO TEM DAN LANZER PRESIDING. MR. WALKER OFFERED A PRAYER, AND ALL IN ATTENDANCE RECITED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDENCE

- MR. KRIS KREINBIHL
- MR. DAN LANZER
- MRS. CHERYL RAMOS
- MR. STEVE RIPPETH
- MR. TOM SIMMELINK
- MR. MICHAEL WALKER

EXCUSED ABSENSES:

- PRESIDENT DON KEMP
- MR. BRIAN SEARS

➢ MRS. RAMOS MOTIONED TO ADD AMENDED ORDINANCE 18-2026-2026 TO TONIGHT'S AGENDA

- MR. SIMMELINK SECONDED THE MOTION
- 6 YEAS
- AMENDED ORDINANCE 18-2026 HAS BEEN ADDED TO TONIGHT'S AGENDA

➢ MR. WALKER MOTIONED TO ADD ORDINANCE 28-2026 TO TONIGHT'S AGENDA

- MR. SIMMELINK SECONDED THE MOTION
- 6 YEAS
- ORDINANCE 28-2026 HAS BEEN ADDED TO TONIGHT'S AGENDA

➢ MR. RIPPETH MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE ADDITIONS

- MR. KREINBIHL SECONDED THE MOTION
- 6 YEAS
- TONIGHT'S AGENDA WITH THE ADDITIONS HAS BEEN APPROVED

➢ MR. WALKER MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 14, 2026 REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL

- MR. SIMMELINK SECONDED THE MOTION
- 6 YEAS
- MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 14, 2026 REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL HAVE BEEN APPROVED

CORRESPONDENCE . . . . . CLERK, JULIE KEITH

1. To Clerk of Council from Treasurer Campbell, dated September 26, 2026. This is an email titled August 26 Treasurer's Report with the report as the attachment. I forwarded to Council and Administration.

2. To Council and Administration from Mayor Day dated September 26, 2026. The Mayor's Report

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

Mayor Day had the following report:

• The Downtown Quadrant's Redesign Is Finished. Now Let's Enjoy Them.

Now that the project's been completed, it's time to put the redesigned downtown quadrants to use. As I said in my speech at last Wednesday's ribbon-cutting ceremony:

"This project represents exactly the kind of investment that can change the way a community experiences its downtown.

It creates new places to gather.

It creates new opportunities to celebrate.

It creates new spaces for music, theater, festivals, community events and, perhaps most importantly, simply spending time together."

If your business, group or organization would like to use the quadrants for a downtown event, contact my executive assistant Jami Bailey at jbailey@newphilaoh.com or call 330-364-4491 extension 1242. She can help with scheduling and planning. Organizers of the October 11th Art on the Alley celebration are planning to use them. Many of the vendors that were located on Front Avenue will be moving to the quadrants. The new quadrants also create more opportunities for you to spend more time downtown with family and friends.

• Issue #9 Is All About Maintaining and Improving the Quality of Our City Parks

Issue #9 is on the November 3rd general election ballot. It's a five-year levy that would only fund the Parks Department so it can continue to do regular maintenance on our parks and make improvements. I've attached a flyer that details some of the improvements that the levy would pay for. The cost: $7 a month for every $100,000 of your appraised property value. The added benefit: Giving the Parks Department its own funding will free up $1.2 million a year in the City's General Fund to do more street paving and to meet needs in our police and fire departments. If our parks are important to you and your family, if they've given you and your children great memories, please vote FOR Issue #9. Early voting starts on October 6th

• AEP Ohio Is Changing Its Name

According to an email I received from company president Marc Reitter, beginning in October, AEP Ohio will begin operating under its legal name: Ohio Power Company. That was the name the company used for many years. Mr. Reitter stated in his email that they decided to use it again, to underscore the company's commitment to Ohio. His email also informed customers of a newly redesigned – and easier to understand - electric bill. That also will start in October.

• The Tuscora Park Foundation's Annual Chicken BBQ Is Right Around the Corner

Mark your calendars. Tickets are on sale now. The Tuscora Park Foundation's annual Chicken BBQ fundraiser is on Sunday, October 4th from 11 am to 1 pm. Tickets are available at McInturf Realty, at the Mayor's office, and from any Foundation board trustee. The money raised by the event helps the Foundation fund improvements at our City parks. The most recent example is the Inclusive Playground at Tuscora Park.

• An Example of Why Our Safety Forces Training Is So Important

Tonight, I have the honor of presenting Certificates of Commendation to eight members of the New Philadelphia Fire Department for their lifesaving efforts that earned the department the 2026 EMS Star of Life Award from the Ohio Department of Public Safety and distinguished recognition from the Cleveland Clinic. The certificates will be given to Fire Chief Jim Parrish, Assistant Fire Chief Matt Tharp, Captain Wes Tucke, Lieutenant Ryan Murphy, and Firefighter/Paramedics Kyle Rowland, Zachary Adams, Timothy Hawkins and Lucas Hagan. The text of the certificates tells the story, and I will use Chief Parrish's certificate as an example:

Mayor Day presented Certificates of Commendation to the eight members of the Fire Department, who were in attendance at the evening's Council Meeting. The man they had saved and his sister and mother were also in attendance at the meeting.

Fire Chief Parrish had the following comment:

The best part about this evening is that Mr. Brown is sitting over here in the corner. I actually had the opportunity to meet him. It was a situation that was nothing less than miraculous. To have an open head injury like that, and those traumatic injuries, and to be able to survive it. It's strictly an example of teamwork. I know we spend a lot of time training and with equipment. This is an example of all that, and you are a part of that team. The guys beside me are the best, and if you ask them, they'll just say they did their job. Well, they did just do their job, but they did it in an excellent way. None of that would have happened without the partnerships that we have, without a mayor who supports the fire department. From us on scene, to the Highway Patrol, to the med-flight crew, to the trauma system, to get that person directly to the trauma center. The surgeons, the specialists, the caregivers, the rehab, I could just go on and on about the line of people and their expertise that all worked together to get Travis to where he is today, and he's not done, he still has a way to go. When I look back into my career, 10, 15, or 20 years ago, the outcome would probably not have been the same, because now we have a trauma system, and we have well trained, dedicated people to do these kinds of things. Travis' sister would like to say a few words.

Travis' sister had the following comment:

I just wanted to give thanks to all the first responders and all the training that you have to help keep my brother here. Yes, it's still a long road, but without the lifesaving measures that they took, he got the best outcome out of it. Thank you.

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SERVICE DIRECTOR…….. Service Director Ron McAbier:

Mr. McAbier had the following report:

• CDBG Project: We did the final numbers and we're going to be able to add right around 310 more feet on 10th St. NW. That work will probably be done within the next three weeks.

• The Quadrant Project: The mayor mentioned during the Ribbon Cutting last week that we still have some things to go through down there, the handrail on the Northwest Quadrant coming down the stairs, at the Southwest Quadrant the new fencing needs to go around Gavins. I'm hoping to report at the next meeting that the punch list is complete because we do have some cracked bricks, we have a cracked curb. I don't know if they'll get to that curb this year, I hope so. We're waiting for instructions on how to set the irrigation system. I asked that they don't do anything until midnight.

• We got the bucket truck. It's in and working well.

AUDITOR ……MRS. HEATHER DENHAM…….NO REPORT

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TREASURER……..MRS. MICHELLE CAMPBELL

Mrs. Campbell had the following report:

I sent out the Treasurer's Report and I'll just briefly talk about the interest income, because there's a lot of information there. The interest income for the year is $267,000, that's about $131,000 higher year-to-date than last year. It should continue to grow because the fed did increase the fed rate, and the money market by that rate. The first page of the report talks about the fund balances in the checking and savings accounts. The second page is the debt schedule, and the last page is new to Counsel to review. It is the project list, so as the Auditor's Office and the Service Director's Assistant update the list this will give visibility as to the status of the projects. As we propose new projects we can add them to here so there's no surprises along the way.

SAFETY DIRECTOR …….MR. KEVIN MILLIGAN

Mr. Milligan had the following report:

• I just want to echo Mayor Day and Chief Parrish when I say this about the professionalism and dedication of our men and women at our Fire Department. I was privileged to be a part of that unit years ago, and I know what it takes to do something like that. The split-second decisions that have to be made to get an outcome like that. Often, in Council Meetings and other public meetings we view safety forces from an expense line item, and we don't always get the opportunity to present the outcomes that they provide. The service that they provide to our community, we can't attach a dollar figure to it. That's just not the fire department. We had a homicide in the City of New Philadelphia and the response of the police department, how that call came in, when that call came in, how our officers responded. They contained the situation very quickly and they investigated that very promptly and thoroughly and secured the scene in the neighborhood. Once again, we often talk about our Safety Forces. It's an expensive line item, I agree, but I've been around other communities, and I think we've got one of the best on both sides of the aisle. I will continue to advocate for them and I appreciate the support that Council gives for that.

• One of the updates I want to give tonight is in reference to the Goshen Township negotiations. You heard me talk about being in communication with them and meeting personally since October of

2025. We've had good meetings, the conversations have gone well. Ultimately, we met with them a couple of weeks ago and they came back with their counter. I'm just going to walk you through really quick where we went. I met with them in October of 2025 to prepare them for the renewal. Goshen Township makes up about 12.6% of our calls. When you look at the current contract at about $180,000 they're paying about 4% of the costs. If you add what we bill to the Goshen Township residents that brings it up to 5.6% of the cost. When you look at the $575,000 that's about 12.6%. We broke that down for them by call, that's what they asked us to do, in early 2026. We presented to them a counter-proposal and came up with a new format. Ultimately, in the five years getting us to cover costs was always the goal. We restructured the original request that Council had approved. I made them aware that was not approved, it was something we were working with internally and required Council approval. They came back, they weren't necessarily happy with that, so I made one more swing at it, talked to the Mayor, put another offer in front of them. They got that in early July. They do not want to come to terms on what we proposed there. They had made us aware that they moved forward with putting their renewal levy on at the normal renewal rate. So, they made the decision, although they've had that information that we provided them, the counter-proposals that we provided them, they chose to put the renewal on at it's current rate, which brings in $221,000 a year. So currently, when you look at the $221,000 that's brought in, they do have a fund currently reserved in the fire fund that we have been getting over the years based on the $180,000 contract. It's enough according to the trustees to basically pay for about a year. To compare, we've showed them local townships, their cost of fire and ems, they're getting about $300,000 a year and they're running about 300 calls, so we're running about 150 more calls a year than they are in that township. When you average it out it's about $1000 per call. What we put on the table was around $1000 per call, we're well within standards of what it costs for those services. The proposals I put forward were still within the plan to get us to recover costs. I wanted to give them a pathway to go to the voters. The plans I put in place would give them two years, pulling from what they had in place to supplement when needed. I did go back and presented them a fire and ems package as well as a fire only package. They have concerns about that because the price of the fire only package went up. They did move forward in talking to another ems provider to look at what coverage would look like. They do want to continue to work with us, but they are bound by their current fire and ems levy. They can use their General Fund dollars to support the ems and fire levy. I spoke with Mr. Rippeth and the Mayor the other day. I think Mr. Rippeth has a Committee meeting assigned this week to dive into the dollars a little more. I need to make a decision moving forward on what our strategy is going to be with Goshen Township. The contract is up on December 31st, so coverage for that community becomes jeopardy at that point.

LAW DIRECTOR……MR. MARVIN FETE

Mr. Fete had the following report:

There are two things that I have tonight. Two things that we have to act on that I would ask that you assign. I just received the jail contract this morning. As you know we have to contract with the County Jail for our inmates. We need to do legislation to approve the jail contract. I would ask that you assign that to Mr. Walker's Committee.

President Pro Tem Lanzer assigned the legislation to Mr. Walker's Special and Contact Committee.

Law Director Fete continued:

We also have to look at leasing real estate that we have in the Bank Lane area. I would ask that be assigned to Mrs. Ramos.

Mrs. Ramos:

Could you repeat what it was again?

Law Director Fete:

We currently have real estate on Bank Lane that was donated to the City. There was a prior lease holder there, and when that's donated it stays with the land. They had indicated they intend to not renew the lease, so the City would like to lease it to someone else. In order to do that we have to do a bid process. We need to do legislation to accomplish that.

President Pro Tem Lanzer assigned this matter to Mrs. Ramos' Zoning and Annexation Committee.

Law Director Fete continued:

I would also like to request an Executive Session to discuss a legal matter that needs to be kept confidential.

- MR. WALKER MOTIONED FOR AN EXECUTIVE SESSION AT THE LAW DIRECTOR'S REQUEST
- MR. RIPPETH SECONDED THE MOTION
- ROLL CALL VOTE
- 6 YEAS
- COUNCIL WILL GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOLLOWING THE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

BOARD/COMMISSION REPORTS:

PLANNING COMMISSION…….MAYOR JOEL DAY

There was no Planning Commission Meeting planned this month. We'll reconvene October 13th at 1:00pm in Council Chambers.

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS…….MR. RON MCABIER

The Board of Zoning Appeals will be meeting on October 13th at 5:00pm in Council Chambers

AIRPORT COMMISSION…….MR. DAN LANZER

We are meeting on October 13th at 6:00pm at the Harry Clever Field Airport Meeting Room.

PARK BOARD…….MR. BRIAN SEARS……..EXCUSED ABSENSE

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CEMETERY BOARD……MR. BRIAN SEARS…….EXCUSED ABSENS

HEALTH BOARD …… MR. TOM SIMMELINK

We have the Health Commissioner with us tonight. She's been attending a number of our meetings this year to make sure we have a constant flow of accurate information about what's going on in her

department.

Health Commissioner Nicole Bache:

Our next Health Board meeting is on October 14th at Noon if anyone is interested. Since we last meeting we have been rewarded another grant for $64,200 to promote smoking cessation and education in our community. I'm continuously looking for more funding opportunities for our department. I will tell you as I continue to do that. There will become a tipping point where I have so many staff members that I can assign to grant projects. At this point in time we're very thankful and happy to have this new funding.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE COMMITTEE ……MR. STEVE RIPPETH……..NO REPORT

Mr. Rippeth noted that the Committee will be meeting on Wednesday in Council Chambers at 4:00pm.

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

Mrs. Ramos had the following report:

We did meet tonight to talk about the Amended Ordinance 18-2026 for the historic district downtown. Mr. Hipp from the Design Review Board was here and explained to everyone again about that legislation and changes made. We will be scheduling a Public Hearing for October 26th at 7:00pm. We have to have that before any legislation is passed.

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

PARKS AND CEMETERY COMMITTEE……MR. BRIAN SEARS……EXCUSED ABSENSE

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SPECIAL AND CONTACT COMMITTEE……MR. MIKE WALKER

Mr. Walker had the following report:

The Committee met this evening at 6:45 with all members in attendance. We had one item on the Agenda, Ordinance 28-2026. It's to authorize the Mayor and the City of New Philadelphia to enter into a contract with the Public Defender's Office for representation of indigents. We have the legislation on the Agenda this evening and we adjourned at 6:47pm.

VISITOR'S COMMENTS_ …… NONE

COUNCIL COMMENTS ……NONE

READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCES

- AMENDED 18-2026 AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT, TO PROVIDE FOR GUIDELINES TO PRESERVE BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE IN THE DISTRICT, TO PROVIDE FOR THE DESIGN OF NEW BUILDINGS AND STUCTURES WITHIN THE DISTRICT, AND TO ENACT SUBSECTION 1102.04(d)(4) OF THE NEW PHILADELPHIA PLANNING AND ZONING CODE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY 1st Reading
- 21-2026 AN ORDINANCE BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW PHILADELPHIA, OHIO TO AMEND ORDINANCES 543.04 AND 543.05 OF THE NEW PHILADELPHIA CODIFIED ORDINANCES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. 2nd Reading
- 23-2026 AN ORDINANCE BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW PHILADELPHIA, OHIO TO AMEND CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 371.14 TO FOR THE PURPOSES OF REGULATING LOW-SPEED MICROMOBILITY DEVICES OPERATING WITHIN THE CITY OF NEW PHILADELPHIA, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. 2nd Reading
- 24-2026 AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL CODIFIED ORDINANCE 373.12 REGISTRATION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. 3rd Reading
    - MR. WALKER MOTIONED TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 24-2026
    - MR. KREINBIHL SECONDED THE MOTION
    - 6 YEAS
    - ORDINANCE 24-2026 HAS BEEN APPROVED
- 25-2026 AN ORDINANCE BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW PHILADELPHIA, OHIO TO AMEND CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 973.01, SECTION (c) OF THE CITY PARK REGULATIONS TO PROHIBIT LOW-SPEED MICROMOBILITY DEVICES AND ELECTRIC BICYCLES IN THE PARK, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. 2nd Reading
- 26-2026 AN ORDINANCE BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW PHILADELPHIA, OHIO TO AMEND CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 373.15 ELECTRIC BICYCLES TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF THE SAME ON PUBLIC SIDEWALKS, TO ADDRESS SAFETY CONCERNS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. 2nd Reading
- 28-2026 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEW PHILADELPHIA, OHIO, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE TUSCARAWAS COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE FOR THE PROVISION OF LEGAL REPRESENTATION FOR INDIGENTS CHARGED WITH VIOLATIONS OF NEW PHILADELPHIA CITY ORDINANCES IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT WHERE SUCH OFFENSES CARRY A POSSIBLE LOSS OF LIBERTY, ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION AND TERMS THEREOF, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. 1st Reading

RESOLUTIONS: NONE

COUNCIL ADJOURED INTO A 5 MINUTE RECESS AT 8:07 PM BEFORE GOING INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:12 PM

- MR. RIPPETH MOTIONED TO GO OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:31 PM
- MR. WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION
- 6 YEAS
- COUNCIL RECONVENED INTO REGULAR SESSION AT 8:31 PM

UNFINISHED OR OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

With no other business to discuss Mrs. Ramos motioned to adjourn at 8:32 PM.

CLERK OF COUNCIL_____

Julie Keith

APPROVED _____

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL _____

Don Kemp