

NEW PHILADELPHIA CITY COUNCIL MET IN REGULAR SESSION IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON JANUARY 12, 2026 WITH PRESIDENT DON KEMP PRESIDING. MR. RIPPETH 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
MR. MICHAEL WALKER

EXCUSED ABSENCES: NONE

- MR. RIPPETH MOTIONED TO APPROVE TONIGHT'S AGENDA
MR. WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION
7 YEAS
TONIGHT'S AGENDA HAS BEEN APPROVED

- MR. KREINBIHL MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 22, 2025 REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL
MR. SIMMELINK SECONDED THE MOTION
6 YEAS, 1 ABSTAINED (MRS. RAMOS)
MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 22, 2025 REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL HAVE BEEN APPROVED

MR. SIMMELINK MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE 2026 COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
MRS. RAMOS SECONDED THE MOTION
7 YEAS
THE 2026 COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS HAVE BEEN APPROVED

CORRESPONDENCE CLERK, JULIE COURTRIGHT

1. *To Council and Administration from Executive Administrative Assistant to the Mayor Jami Bailey, dated December 31, 2025. This is the Mayor's Month End Report for December.*
2. *To Council and Administration from Income Tax Administrator for the City Carly Loos, dated January 5, 2026. This is the December Month-End Report*
3. *To Council and Administration from Mayor Day, dated January 9, 2026. This is an email titled "Jeff Miller Appointed to Replace Tom Farbizo on the City Parks and Recreation Board.*
4. *To Council Clerk from the Ohio Department of Commerce Division of Liquor Control, dated December 29, 2025. Responses Must be Postmarked No Later Than January 29, 2026. This is a Class D-1 Liquor License Request for Beers and Birdies LLC Located at 130 W High Ave. I forwarded the request to President Kemp to place in the proper Committee for consideration.*
5. *To Council and Administration from Danielle DeMatteo with the Auditor's Office, dated January 12, 2026. The December Month End Reports*

6. 6. To Council and Administration from Mayor Day, dated January 12, 2026. The Mayor's Report

MAYOR'S REPORT/REQUESTSMAYOR JOEL B. DAY

Mayor Day had the following report:

Welcome... and Welcome Back

Now that they've been officially sworn into office, I want to congratulate all the returning ward Council members and welcome Michelle Campbell as the new City Treasurer. I am grateful for your willingness to serve the citizens and businesses of New Philadelphia. We have much to accomplish together in the new year as we continue to move our City forward.

More Construction and Ribbon-Cuttings in 2026

2026 will be another busy year in the County Seat. City construction projects that began in 2025 will be completed this year:

- Downtown quadrant redesign
- New restrooms and pavilion at the Southside Community Park soccer fields
- The first leg of the Roswell Trail from Hillandale Road east to State Route 39 (in the City-owned railroad right-of-way to Roswell)

Other grant funded projects scheduled to begin in 2026:

- New waterline installation under US 250 to Reiser Avenue in the industrial park
- Install new curbs and sidewalks on Miller Avenue NW from Tuscarawas Avenue to 1st Drive NW
- New above-ground lift station at Mill Avenue SE and removal of the sewer line in the Tuscarawas River
- Construction of the next phase of the Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath from Miller Avenue NW to Waterworks Park
- Installation of pedestrian crossing signals on North Broadway and 2nd Street NW at Tuscora Park

Non-profit organizations are funding improvements at Tuscora Park:

- New Inclusion Playground – funded through the Tuscora Park Foundation
- Completion of phase 1 improvements of baseball Field #1 at Tuscora Park – funded through the Baseball Now and Forever non-profit organization
- Installation of three new kiddie rides at Tuscora Park – funded by RTY, Inc.

There will be ribbon-cutting ceremonies as new businesses open in New Philadelphia this year:

- Chick-fil-A and Dunkin Donuts on Bluebell Drive NW
- Hobby Lobby at New Towne Mall

The City has also partnered with the Tuscarawas County Economic Development and Finance Alliance (EDFA aka port authority) to apply to the State for brownfield grant funding to remove concrete and asphalt at the Joy/Howden property to determine if further remediation is necessary. There are business developers interested in the site, but they need to know what's under the ground where the factory buildings were located. We should learn within the next two months whether the grant application was approved.

Also, I expect there will soon be commercial development interest in the old canal land along Commercial Avenue SW and SE because the State agreed to remove the Governor's Deed restrictions on the parcels.

In addition, work will continue on the redesign of the Interstate 77/US 250/SR 30 interchange and the establishment of a truck route to minimize semi and oversized load traffic through the downtown area.

A New Appointment and Several Reappointments to Start the New Year

I have appointed New Philadelphia resident Jeff Miller to serve on the City's Park and Recreation Board. Mr. Miller is a co-founder of the annual trout derbies at Tuscora Park and has been very active in youth sports organizations in the City. He will replace Tom Farbizo, who retired from the board. Also, the New Philadelphia School Board representatives on the Park Board will be Jane Bachman and Kelly Ricklic.

Reappointments made to start the year:

Don Kennedy and Brian Marsh II to the Airport Commission

Troy Pallotto to the Cemetery Board

Erika Metzger and Noel Poirier to the Design Review Board

Dick Bible and Lucas Moreland to the Planning Commission

John Schmidt, Doug McIntire and Bruce Widder to the International Property Maintenance Code Board of Appeals

We Enter 2026 with Optimism

Encouraging news came from last week's quarterly meeting of the Tuscarawas County Economic Development Corporation (TCEDC). It was reported that business is steady for the county's major employers and most need new employees. The lack of workforce housing continues to be a concern, though new housing developments in Dover and Newcomerstown, and the New Philadelphia Housing Program are helping the situation. Dover Chemical CEO Marc Nolan was introduced as the TCEDC's new chairman of the board of directors.

Also at the meeting, construction of the new Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District headquarters on Tech Park Drive NE was used as an example of the impact major construction projects have on Tuscarawas County's economy. There are 36 vendors involved in the MWCD project: 22 of them are local vendors. 30 employees are on the job and so far, have worked 20,300 hours. Those payroll hours translate into income tax dollars for New Philadelphia. To date, the total capital investment from the MWCD project has been \$28,501,176.00. The project is slated to be completed by mid-summer this year.

NPact Is Making a Difference in New Philadelphia

Since its inception two years ago, the non-profit organization New Philadelphia Advancing our Community Together or NPAct, has made great strides in revitalizing our Central Business District and making New Philadelphia a more attractive City. But the group is just getting started. To give Council a report on what NPact has done, I want to give the remainder of my time to Jim Knisely, the chairman of NPact's executive committee.

Jim Knisely had the following report:

Some of the achievements of 2025:

- The passage of DORA every day.
- The first Multi-Cultural Festival was held in September. That festival is scheduled again this year on September 5th. We had a pretty good turn-out last year and I'm expecting a better turn-out this year.
- The Vintage Market was held next to Fresh in the parking lot. We raised money from that festival for NPact Funds. We plan to have that again in June.
- The Kid's Market was held in the parking lot also next to Fresh. We're planning to have that again on the first Saturday in August. Young entrepreneurial students each have a spot to sell their products to the public. We usually have a really good turn-out. I think we had over 30 children display their goods last year. We even had youth music.
- The first Valentine's pancake breakfast was held last year and it will be on Valentine's Day this year.
- We worked with the City and County to open parking lot usage after hours and on weekends. Specifically we worked with the county on the parking lot by the Delaware.
- We worked with building owners in our business districts to explore ways to utilize the upper floors of our buildings. We're working on that again this year.
- We started a new group, New Philadelphia Blooms, to plant and maintain all the beautiful flowers and plants in the containers downtown.
- We pulled business owners about any safety concerns they had about the downtown area.
- We work with the TAP organization on some of the projects they do such as Art on the Alley.

Goals for 2026:

- New Philadelphia Blooms intends to increase the size and scope of the flowers in the downtown. This year we intend to get the business owners involved by having them sponsor planters.
- We have a possibility of a music festival in cooperation with the Delaware. It's in development stages.
- We've decided to start a weed patrol to beautify the entrance to our city, specifically West High and South Broadway. We want to remove weeds on City property and work with business owners to clean up their businesses if they have weeds or unmowed grass.
- We'll work with the city to make contact with businesses that have available parking areas on weekends.
- We want to meet with the Code Administrator and building owners regarding renovations of some of the buildings downtown.
- We want to meet with any prospective business owners about opening businesses in our city.

Mr. Knisely continued:

I want to close by saying I appreciate the partnership with the City. Mayor Day, Ron McAbier, Kris and Jami came to the meetings. We have a great relationship and I appreciate the partnership. I want to thank the Board members and the Committee members who do a lot of the work. Everything we accomplished in 2025 required a lot of volunteer hours and a lot of planning.

Mrs. Ramos had the following question:

I was wondering, this would be a project further down the road I think. In some cities they have maps of where to go for what. Has that been brought up as a project?

Mr. Knisely:

Yes, it absolutely has. We do have a mural map that has already been developed. It shows a walking trail to all the murals around the city.

Mr. Rippeth and Mr. Lanzer thanked Mr. Knisely and the NPact Group for all they do.

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

Mr. McAbier had the following report:

- The Downtown Quadrant Project: Crews were off the week between Christmas and New Years so there wasn't a lot of stuff getting done. There was an electrical issue in that area. Wood Electric fixed it and now all the lights are back on. We've taken down almost all the snowflake decorations. We had to use Dover's Bucket truck because ours is not working. Thank you to Mayor Gunnoe and Dover's Service Director.
- The Southside Restrooms: That project is moving along. I look for them this week to maybe put the trusses on.
- Leaf Pick-up: We're behind where we usually are in past years due to winter weather. We should be done by the middle of next week.
- I'll follow up on the flashing beacons at crosswalks for the Tuscora Park area and give everybody a report.

Mr. Simmelink asked Mr. McAbier about a drain cover that got stolen from the Speedway on North Broadway.

Mr. McAbier:

They haven't said anything to us. There is something called lock lids in areas that have that problem.

Mr. Walker had the following question:

Grant and 10th, I don't know if there was a watermain break there at some point. There's a section that has sunk a lot.

Mr. McAbier said he'll look at that.

AUDITORMRS. HEATHER DENHAM

Mrs. Denham had the following report:

First, I want to start by saying I appreciate the support of the voters, and the support of my family and friends. We were able to finish the year-end late this morning. We finished each of the funds in a positive, except for the self-insurance fund, which is in a negative. I have a few doctors' appointments this week and I just want to say I appreciated your patience with me as I try to figure out what's wrong with me. Hopefully I can get my health back to normal so I can meet with you more often.

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

Mrs. Campbell had the following comment:

I would like to thank everybody for a warm welcome, and thank the residents for their vote and their support and confidence in me for being Treasurer. The position of Treasurer is not just about numbers and reports it's about trust. I hope to earn that trust in transparency and accountability and accuracy. My door is open so if there are questions or concerns please contact me.

SAFETY DIRECTORMR. KEVIN MILLIGAN

Mr. Milligan had the following report:

- I'm finalizing the Fire Department's Annual Report and looking forward to presenting that report to Council.
- We continue to work with The Goshen Twp. Trustees as that contract expires at the end of 2026. We've had four meetings now. I've got a meeting coming up with the Mayor and Fire Chiefs in the next week. I put together a proposed plan to present to Goshen Twp.
- January 9, 2026 was National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. I just want to once again reiterate that we're blessed to have a great Police Department. Chief Pohovey does a great job leading our department. Her leadership team does a phenomenal job.
- The Police Department ended the year with 1550 calls, which was about an 18% increase.
- We're working with the leadership teams of the Police and Fire Departments to create our 5-year goal and put together what a 5 year strategic plan looks like for those departments both operationally and fiscally. I look forward to presenting that to you in the future as we get that finalized.

LAW DIRECTOR.....MR. MARVIN FETE

Mr. Fete had the following report:

I spent the bulk of the day on something that I filed clear back in 2022. There was a property that we were involved in through our CHIP Grant that was foreclosed upon. Once the bank filed foreclosure I filed an answer. At the time there was a \$13,000 mortgage lien on the property, and as of today \$2600 is still owed to us. I drafted today and I'll be filing tomorrow morning a Motion for Distribution of Funds so that we can get the funds released to us. Thankfully there was a ton of money leftover after the bank was paid because they were the first lien holder.

I also wanted to talk about some personal things that I'm involved in. I help teach the Mock Trial Class at New Phila. High School. I'm their legal advisor. I've been there almost everyday this past semester. We've got our Mock Trial Competition on Monday. It will be the Regional one. If we win, we'll advance to the State level. One of the students who won Outstanding Attorney in last year's competition interned in my office and she is now a Freshmen in Prelaw at Indiana University. We have a young team. We have two groups of Juniors and two groups of Freshman.

Also, I'm on the committee for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration that we have in Dover every year. This year marks our 40th Anniversary. This year our featured speaker is going to be Dr. Bradley Bielski from Kent State Tuscarawas. He has a long history of community service. The celebration is at 7pm on Regent St. in Dover and is free and open to the public.

BOARD/COMMISSION REPORTS:

PLANNING COMMISSION.....MAYOR JOEL DAY

The Planning Commission will be meeting here in Council Chambers at 1:00 tomorrow afternoon. On the agenda we have a piece of the Railroad Right-of-Way to Roswell that we need to annex into the City in order to facilitate some annexation in that area of State Rt. 39. Also, I want to get the Planning Commission working on creating a historic district in the Central Business District for tax incentive and historic preservation.

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

The Board of Zoning Appeals will be meeting tomorrow at 5:00pm in Council Chambers. We need to elect officers because it's the first of the year.

AIRPORT COMMISSION.....MR. DAN LANZER

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

PARK BOARD.....MR. BRIAN SEARS

The Park Board will be meeting on Wednesday, January 21st at 12:00PM at the Park Pavillion.

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

HEALTH BOARD MR. TOM SIMMELINK

The Health Board is wrapping up their Annual Report for the past year, as well as their communicable disease report, which will be presented to Council. As I said in the last meeting there's an increase in communicable disease and hospitalizations are up. Flu shots are still available at the Health Department. They're also really busy right now with license renewals. Their next meeting is this coming Wednesday at noon in Council Chambers.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE COMMITTEEMR. STEVE RIPPETH.....NO REPORT

PUBLIC WORKS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE...MR. DAN LANZER

Mr. Lanzer had the following report:

The Public Works and Economics Development Committee will be meeting before the next regularly scheduled Council Meeting on January 26th at 7:00pm. We have a couple items to discuss; a material's bid for the Service Director and paving from ODOT.

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.....NO REPORT

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

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

Mr. Walker had the following comment:

We will have a meeting before the next Council meeting to discuss an item.

VISITOR'S COMMENTS NONE

COUNCIL COMMENTS

READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCES

24-2025

AN ORDINANCE BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW PHILADELPHIA, OHIO TO PERMANENTLY REZONE 153 PARCELS LOCATED ON THE NORTH SIDE OF W. HIGH AVE TO REGIONAL BUSINESS DISTRICT (RBD), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY
3rd Reading

MRS. RAMOS MOTIONED TO AMEND THE LEGISLATION TO STRIKE OUT IN THE FIRST PARAGRAPH "ON THE NORTH SIDE OF" AND IN THE FIRST PARAGRAPH TO STRIKE OUT "ON THE NORTH SIDE OF" AND IN SECTION ONE TO STRIKE OUT "ON THE NORTH SIDE OF" BECAUSE THERE ARE PARCELS ON THE NORTH AND SOUTH SIDE
MR RIPPETH SECONDED THE MOTION
7 YEAS

THE LEGISLATION HAS BEEN AMENDED

AMENDED 24-2025

AN ORDINANCE BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW PHILADELPHIA, OHIO TO PERMANENTLY REZONE 153 PARCELS LOCATED ON W. HIGH AVE TO REGIONAL BUSINESS DISTRICT (RBD), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY
3rd Reading

MRS. RAMOS MOTIONED TO APPROVE AMENDED ORDINANCE 24-2025
MR. WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION
7 YEAS
AMENDED ORDINANCE 24-2025 HAS BEEN APPROVED

UNFINISHED OR OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

Mrs. Ramos had the following comment:

Is there any way that we can have these microphones amplify instead of just record?

President Kemp said he would check with Mr. Loudermilk about that.

With no other business to discuss Mr. Lanzer motioned to adjourn at 8:12 PM.

CLERK OF COUNCIL _____
Julie Courtright

APPROVED _____

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL _____
Don Kemp