

NEW FREEDOM BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

December 10, 2018

Meeting called to order by President Sarpen at 1830 hours. Present were:

- A. Shemo – Council member
- L. O'Brien – Council member
- B. Merrill – Vice President
- B. Terrell – Council member
- K. Earll – Council member
- E. Paules - Mayor
- S. Hovis – Solicitor
- T.L. Crawford – Administrator

EDUCATIONAL SESSION

Solicitor S. Hovis reviewed the Right-to-Know (RTK) laws and Municipal collection remedies for delinquent utilities. He noted Pennsylvania went from a very non-transparent state, to an extremely transparent state. He also explained there are 30 exemptions to the RTK, majority are personnel, legal or litigation topics. He explained the RTK is for a document only, not for information to be compiled for the requestor. The fee is established at \$.25 per page by the state. He noted elected officials must be careful when commenting or discussing municipal issues using personnel computers for e-mails, they are subject to the RTK and their personnel e-mails must be produced. He also explained the collection remedies for delinquent utilities, noting termination of water service is the most effective for non-payment of water or sewer bills. He reviewed the procedure for delinquent refuse is a lien on the property, and the final stage a sheriff sale of the property. He noted the Borough has a property owner that his been taken to sheriff sale twice and the day before pays, which ultimately costs thousands more in fees. He also advised Council NF does an excellent job of keeping on top of delinquent accounts, unlike some municipalities.

TREASURER'S REPORT

November 2018- \$648,373.68. Motion by K. Earll, seconded by A. Shemo to approve disbursements as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS:

President Sarpen reviewed the letter from GHI Engineers (Franklin Square plan) requesting a 6-month extension, due to E&S plans and necessary permits still not received. Motion by L. O'Brien, seconded by K. Earll to grant the 6-month extension as requested. Motion carried.

Rec. Council Appointments- Motion by K. Earll, seconded by L. O'Brien to appoint Elin McNally and Bob McNally to the Rec. Council. Motion carried.

Refuse Bid – Solicitor Hovis opened and read the bids as follows:

Republic Services - did not submit a bid, they objected to the fact that the bid was not amended to allow them to adjust the cost to pick up recyclables monthly, meaning the only fixed cost was the trash pickup cost.

Penn Waste – submitted 2 bids

Bid #1 (2 year bid) \$ 491,460. In 2019 \$ 511,080. In 2020

Bid #2 (3 year bid) \$ 491,460. In 2019 \$ 511,080. In 2020 \$ 531,600. In 2021

Motion by K. Earll, seconded by L. O'Brien to award the bid to Penn Waste for a 3-year contract, contingent upon Solicitor approval. Motion carried.

Koller Point – Solicitor Hovis noted a list of items incomplete has been submitted by the Borough engineer, and the amount of surety to be withheld for the items. He noted most of the items are smaller repairs, except the pond conversion will wait until spring. President Sarpen advised the roads will be adopted in Jan. 2019, however in the event of a storm, the Borough will provide winter maintenance as of today. T.L. Crawford advised the engineer will provide the amount of the required maintenance bond to Solicitor Hovis within the next few days.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

REPORTS:

SRPC – B. Merrill advised Council Glen Rock had previously sent a letter requesting to “freeze” the 2019 budget. Now a letter has been received advising they will pay for 7.5 PPU’s, not the 8.25 they were assigned based on the factors used to calculate a PPU. He explained that is a reduction of .75 PPU, which has a ripple effect. He noted the SRPC finance committee will review the issue at an upcoming committee meeting, and report their recommendation to the SRPC. He also noted a letter was received from Shrewsbury Township advising they are not interested in purchasing services, but if a designated area would approach them, they would possibly consider it. He noted there were 4 drug overdoses since Thanksgiving. The SRPC IGA committee will advertise their meetings in the newspaper, and their second monthly meeting will be the 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 pm in the NF Council room.

REC – K. Earll reported the Farmers Market is done for 2018 and will return in April 2019.

EDUCATIONAL – A. Shemo inquired if Council wants to continue the educational sessions in 2019, to contact her so topics can be prepared.

SEWER – President Sarpen advised a tour and advisory meeting was held for the municipal users of the wwtp to explain the SCADA project and the dewatering equipment project. He noted a “*Thank You*” letter was received from Shrewsbury Township for the tour and opportunity to learn about the equipment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council convened to executive session for a legal matter at 1920 hrs. Council reconvened to the regular meeting at 2007 hours.

OTHER:

COUNCIL POSITION – T.L. Crawford advised Greg Lutter submitted his resignation, effective on Dec. 31, 2018. His shift was changed at his place of employment and will not be able to attend evening meetings. Council will have the vacancy notice placed on the web page with Jan. 4, 2019 as the deadline for resume submittal.

Zoning Ordinance Amendment Consideration – T.L. Crawford explained the problem with the “fence” section of the Zoning Ordinance, noting it is not reflective of the styles of homes built today. She explained the rear wall problems with “bump outs” on newer style homes. The staff would like the Ordinance to be amended by working with D. Jones of Stock & Leader and brought back to Council prior to going to the P.C. and YCPC. Council authorized the amendment to be drafted.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by L. O’Brien, seconded by A. Shemo at 1938 hours, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried